

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

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1. Consider the following statements.

1. MCA-21 is an e-Governance initiative of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
2. Recently, MCA-21 has been replaced by the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) for estimating the GDP.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** MCA21 is an e-Governance initiative of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), Government of India.
- It enables an easy and secure access of the MCA services to the corporate entities, professionals and citizens of India.
- In 2015, the government adopted a new method for the calculation of the GDP of the country.

Changes made:

- Shift to the **new base year** 2011-12 from 2004-05
- As per the new methodology, Central Statistics Office (CSO) calculates GDP by adding product taxes to GVA at basic prices and removing product subsidies
- In addition to data from Index of Industrial Production (IIP) and Annual Survey of Industries (ASI), CSO started using data from MCA-21
- The new series opted for the MCA-21 database, replacing the earlier sources like the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) for manufacturing and RBI data on company finances. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1648579>

2. Consider the following statements about the geographical indication (GI) tag.

1. India enacted its GI legislation to comply with India's obligations to the International Monetary Fund.

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2. The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 is administered by the Competition Commission of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: **D**

Explanation:

- A geographical indication (GI) is a sign used on products that have a **specific geographical origin** and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin. In order to function as a GI, a sign must identify a product as originating in a given place.
- It is used for **agricultural, natural and manufactured goods**. Darjeeling tea became the first GI tagged product in India.
- The registration of GI is valid for **10 years** after which it needs to be renewed.
- In India, GI is given under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Act is administered by the **Controller General of Patents, Designs & TradeMarks, GI (CGPDTM-India)** under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** India enacted its GI legislation to comply with India's obligations under the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (**TRIPS**) agreement.
- GI registration gives to the registered proprietor and its authorized users, the legal right to the exclusive use of the GI and also the right to obtain relief in case of its infringement.
- GI is a **collective intellectual property right** and is thus owned by all the producers within the defined GI territory unlike intellectual properties like patent and trademark which are owned by an individual or a business entity.

Benefits of registration of geographical indications

- It confers legal protection to Geographical Indications in India
- Prevents unauthorised use of a Registered Geographical Indication by others
- It provides legal protection to Indian Geographical Indications which in turn boost exports.
- It promotes economic prosperity of producers of goods produced in a geographical territory.

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=E-auction-portal-launched-to-promote-trading-of-GI-tagged-%e2%80%98Kashmir-Saffron%e2%80%99&id=398234>

3. 'Tricyclazole', 'Buprofezin', 'Carbofuron', sometimes seen in the news, are related to?

- A. Pesticides in agriculture
B. First line drugs to treat tuberculosis
C. Preservatives in processed foods

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D. Moisturising agents in cosmetics

Answer: A

Explanation:

- Recently, the Punjab government has banned the usage of nine pesticides, generally used for Basmati and non Basmati crops, for 60 days — August 14 to October 14.
- The nine pesticide that have been banned temporarily include Acephate, Carbendazim, Thiamethoxam, Triazofos, Tricyclazole, Buprofezin, Carbofuron, Propiconazole, and Thiophanate Methyl.
- Experts say that farmers use these pesticides even after the grain formation stage in the rice crop. It leads to the presence of pesticides beyond the permissible maximum residue limit (MRL) on the grains after harvesting of the crop.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/punjab-pesticide-ban-farmers-6568309/>

4. Consider the following statements about the poliovirus.

1. Two of the three wild poliovirus strains are now eradicated globally.
2. Inactivated Poliovirus Vaccine does not cause Vaccine Associated Paralytic Poliomyelitis (VAPP) or circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus (cVDPV).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation:

What is Polio?

- Poliomyelitis (polio) is a highly infectious viral disease caused by the Polio virus which mainly affects young children.
- The virus is transmitted by person-to-person spread mainly through the faecal-oral route or, less frequently, by a common vehicle (e.g. contaminated water or food) and multiplies in the intestine, from where it can invade the nervous system.
- There is no cure for polio, it can only be prevented by immunization.

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About Polio vaccine:

- There are three wild types of poliovirus (WPV) – type 1, type 2, and type 3.
- There are two vaccines used to protect against polio disease, oral polio vaccine (OPV) and inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV).
- After wild poliovirus type 2 was declared eradicated in 2015, the world switched from trivalent to bivalent OPV. Trivalent OPV contains all three types of poliovirus, while bivalent OPV only contains poliovirus type 1 and 3.

Vaccine derived Polio:

- Oral polio vaccine contains attenuated (weakened) vaccine-virus, activating an immune response in the body.
- When a child is immunized with OPV, the weakened vaccine-virus replicates in the intestine for a limited period, thereby developing immunity by building up antibodies.
- During this time, the vaccine-virus is also excreted. In areas of inadequate sanitation, this excreted vaccine-virus can spread in the immediate community, before eventually dying out.
- OPV is very effective against the wild poliovirus, but in very rare cases the vaccine can lead to paralysis. One type of polio caused by OPV is called Vaccine Associated Paralytic Poliomyelitis (VAPP).
- Another form of vaccine associated polio is the Circulating Vaccine Derived Poliovirus (cVDPV). These are mutated versions of OPV which can cause paralysis and spread from person-to-person.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Inactivated Poliovirus Vaccine does not cause Vaccine Associated Paralytic Poliomyelitis (VAPP) or circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus (cVDPV) as it doesn't contain live viruses.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** In 2019, the Global Commission for the Certification of Poliomyelitis Eradication officially declared that wild poliovirus type 3 has been eradicated globally.
- With two of the three wild polioviruses eliminated, only type 1 wild poliovirus is still in circulation and is restricted to just two countries — Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- It opens up the possibility of switching from the currently used bivalent oral polio vaccine containing type 1 and type 3 to a monovalent vaccine containing only type 1.

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=World-Health-Organization-declares-Africa-free-of-polio&id=398227>

5. Consider the following statements about the National Anti-Profitteering Authority.

1. It was constituted under the Companies Act, 2013.
2. The core function of the body is to curb Base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: **D**

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The National Anti-Profitteering Authority (NAA) has been constituted under the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 to check the unfair profit-making activities by the trading community.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Authority's core function is to ensure that the benefits of the reduction in GST rates on goods or services made by the GST Council is passed on to the ultimate consumers by way of a reduction in prices by traders.

Base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS)

- Typically, a company needs to pay tax for the income or profits they earn.
- Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) is a tax avoidance strategy by which firms make profits in one country, and shift them across borders by exploiting gaps and mismatches in tax rules, to take advantage of lower tax rates.
- It results in not paying taxes in the country where the profit is made (*known as Base erosion*).

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/top-indian-companies-take-on-indirect-tax-department-over-gst-anti-profitteering/articleshow/77733460.cms>