

1. The terms 'neutral', 'calibrated tightening', 'accommodative' sometimes seen in the news are related to

- A. Inflation
- B. External trade
- C. Fiscal policy
- D. Monetary policy

Answer: **D**

Explanation:

- These terms indicate the central bank's monetary policy stance on deciding policy rates like repo rate.
- "Accommodative" indicates that the central bank is telling the market to expect a rate cut anytime, "neutral" means that RBI could either increase or reduce repo rates as per liquidity conditions, "calibrated tightening" means that a cut in the repo rate is unlikely in the current rate cycle.

<https://www.timesnownews.com/business-economy/economy/article/rbi-mpc-outcome-after-whatever-it-takes-vow-in-march-guv-das-maintains-accommodative-stance-ahead/632758>

2. The Global Hunger Index is released by

- A. United Nations World Food Programme
- B. Doctors Without Borders
- C. Action Against Hunger
- D. Welthungerhilfe and Concern Worldwide

Answer: **D**

Explanation:

- The Global Hunger Index is an annual score ranking countries of the world on hunger levels.
- It is prepared by NGO **Welthungerhilfe and Concern Worldwide**.
- It is based on 4 indicators:
 - **Undernourishment**
 - **Child wasting** - the share of children under the age of five who have low weight for their height, reflecting acute undernutrition
 - **Child stunting** - children under the age of five who have low height for their age, reflecting chronic undernutrition
 - **Child mortality** - the mortality rate of children under the age of five.

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/an-invisible-humanitarian-crisis-in-india/article32288036.ece>

3. 'Sir Creek dispute' sometimes mentioned in the news in the context of the affairs of

- A. India and Nepal
- B. India and Pakistan
- C. India and China
- D. Israel and Palestine

Answer: B

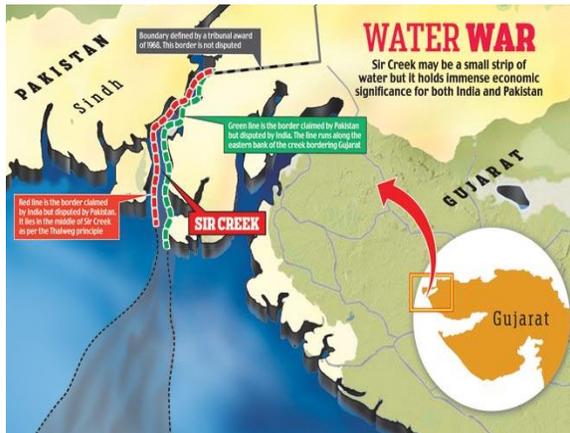
Explanation:

What is Sir Creek?

- Sir Creek is a 96-km strip of water **disputed between India and Pakistan** in the **Rann of Kutch marshlands**.
- The Creek opens up in the Arabian Sea and roughly divides the Kutch region of Gujarat from the Sindh Province of Pakistan.

What's the dispute?

- The dispute lies in the interpretation of the maritime boundary line between Kutch and Sindh.
- The dispute goes back to 1908 between the ruler of Kutch and the British authorities in Sindh.
- In 1914, the government of Bombay province took up the resolution of the dispute and gave an award where on the map attached they indicated that the boundary lay along the eastern bank of the creek, called the **Green Line**, now claimed by Pakistan.
- But the actual text of the decision seemed to suggest that the boundary was through the middle of the creek, as per the international law's '**Thalweg principle**'.
- *The Thalweg principle defines the border between two states separated by a watercourse or flowing body of water as lying along the thalweg, which is the line of greatest depth of the channel or watercourse.*



War in 1965 and tribunal

- After Pakistan's and India's independence in 1947, the creek was physically noted as the border between India and Pakistan but no formal resolution of the 1914 map's ambiguity was determined.
- The war of 1965 between India and Pakistan over various territorial differences also involved the Kutch region. Subsequently, both countries agreed to take the matter to the **International Court of Justice**, which issued a ruling in 1968 favoring 90 percent of India's

claim to the salt marsh (i.e., the Rann of Kutch) but excluded a mention of Sir Creek itself, thus leading to an uncertain outcome regarding its status.

- Since 1969, 12 rounds of talks have been held over the issue of Sir Creek, but both sides have denied reaching any solution.

What's the importance of Sir Creek?

- Apart from strategic location, Sir Creek's core importance is **fishing resources**. Sir Creek is considered to be among the largest fishing grounds in Asia.
- It is also significant for the possible presence of **oil and gas concentration** under the sea.

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/straying-into-troubled-waters/article32287870.ece?homepage=true>

4. Which of the following countries share a border with Lebanon?

1. Iraq
2. Syria
3. Israel
4. Turkey

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 2 and 4 only

Answer: C

Explanation:



- Lebanon is located in the Middle East. It is bordered by the Mediterranean Sea to the west, **Israel** to the south, and **Syria** to the east and north. The country also shares maritime borders with Cyprus.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/beirut-explosion-what-are-its-possible-causes-what-we-know-so-far-6541185/>

5. Consider the following statements about the Mega Food Park scheme.

1. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare to provide modern infrastructure facilities to link agricultural production to the market.
2. Projects under the scheme are implemented by Special Purpose Vehicles.

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: **B**

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Scheme of Mega Food Park is an initiative of the **Ministry of Food Processing** which aims at providing a mechanism to link agricultural production to the market by bringing together farmers, processors and retailers so as to ensure maximizing value addition, minimizing wastage, increasing farmers income and creating employment opportunities particularly in the rural sector.
- The Mega Food Park Scheme is based on the **“Cluster” approach** and envisages creation of state of art support infrastructure in a well-defined agri / horticultural zone for setting up of modern food processing units in the industrial plots provided in the park with a well-established supply chain.
- Mega food parks typically consist of supply chain infrastructure including collection centers, primary processing centers, central processing centers, cold chains and around 25-30 fully developed plots for entrepreneurs to set up food processing units.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Mega Food Park project is implemented by a **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)** which is a Body Corporate registered under the Companies Act. State Government, State Government entities and Cooperatives are not required to form a separate SPV for implementation of Mega Food Park project. Subject to fulfillment of the conditions of the Scheme Guidelines, the funds are released to the SPVs.

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=10-acre-food-park-to-be-set-up-at-Vedasanthoor-in-Dindigul-district%2c-says-Tamil-Nadu-Chief-Minister&id=396620>