

1.The term 'Auto trigger mechanism' often seen in news is related to

- a) mechanism that actuates the firing sequence of a firearm
- b) mechanism to check import surges
- c) mechanism that prevent goods being routed through nations with lower duties
- d) self defence mechanism of the human body to control anxiety

Answer: B

Explanation:

India's trade deficit with the 16-member trade grouping is \$105.2 billion, of which \$53.6 billion is with China alone.

India batted for a special mechanism in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) trade agreement, negotiated among 16 Asia-Pacific countries, which will help it protect itself from sudden surges in imports from China.

In order to safeguard its domestic industry from cheap imports, India wanted 'transitional safeguards measures auto-trigger and snapback' to counter a sudden surge in imports for a period of six months when imports from an RCEP partner exceed a particular threshold.

This threshold would be mutually decided by the members and would be applied only on mutually identified select lines.

The snapback provision would allow India to revert to the original higher tariffs to counter a sudden surge in imports.

2. 'Gadgil Committee Report' and 'Kasturirangan Committee Report', sometimes seen in the news are related to

- a) Interlinking of rivers
- b) Conservation of Western Ghats
- c) Ganga action plan

d) Framework for Wetland conservation

4.) Ans: B

Explanation

Gadgil Committee

- It defined the **boundaries of the Western Ghats for the purposes of ecological management**. It proposed that this **entire area be designated as ecologically sensitive area (ESA)**.
- Within this area, smaller regions were to be identified as ecologically sensitive zones (ESZ) I, II or III based on their existing condition and nature of threat.

Kasturirangan Committee

- None of the six concerned states **agreed with the recommendations of the Gadgil Committee**, which submitted its report in August 2011
- In August 2012, then Environment Minister constituted a High-Level **Working Group on Western Ghats under Kasturirangan to “examine” the Gadgil Committee report** in a “holistic and multidisciplinary fashion in the light of responses received” from states, central ministries and others.
- The Kasturirangan report seeks to **bring just 37% of the Western Ghats under the Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA) zones** — down from the 64% suggested by the Gadgil report.

Recommendations of Kasturirangan Committee

- A **ban on mining, quarrying and sand mining**. No new thermal power projects, but hydro power projects allowed with restrictions.
- A ban on **new polluting industries**. Building and construction projects up to 20,000 sq m was to be allowed but townships were to be banned.
- **Forest diversion could be allowed** with extra safeguards.

3. Consider the following pairs:

Terms Definition

1. Recession - fall in growth rate
2. Slow down - fall in GDP
3. Deflation - fall in the rate of inflation over a period of time
4. Disinflation - persistent fall in the general price level of goods and services

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 3 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2, 3 and 4
- D. None of the above

Answer:

D

Explanation:

- Recession- Drop in the gross domestic product (GDP)
- Slow down- Decline in the growth rate of the GDP
- An economic recession signifies a shrinkage in the GDP for two or more consecutive quarters, while an economic slowdown is when the GDP continues to grow but in a slower rate than the previous period in question. A slowdown is a pointer towards recession and usually precedes one but does not necessarily lead to recession.
- Recession means that the country is producing and earning less than what it did before. Consumers tend to spend less as people lose confidence in the growth of the economy. Less spending means that there's decrease in demand, which, in turn leads to a dip in production. Such events also lead to lay-offs and job loss and mark a spike in unemployment.

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- Slowdown, on the other hand, means that production and earnings of the economy is not growing at the same pace as before.
- Deflation- It is a persistent fall in the general price level of goods and services
- Disinflation- It is a fall in the rate of inflation over a period of time

4. Which of the following countries share their borders with the Aral Sea?

1. Turkmenistan
2. Uzbekistan
3. Kazakhstan
4. Kyrgyzstan

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3 only

Ans:(b)

Explanation:



5. Which among the following countries are separated by the Strait of Gibraltar:

- (a) Portugal and Morocco
- (b) Spain and Algeria
- (c) Portugal and Algeria
- (d) Spain and Morocco

Ans: (d)



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Explanation: The Strait of Gibraltar is a narrow strait that connects the Atlantic Ocean to the Mediterranean Sea and separates Gibraltar (belongs to UK) and Peninsular Spain in Europe from Morocco in Africa.

