

1. Which among the following measures help in containing inflation?

1. Demonetisation
2. Increasing both direct & indirect taxes
3. Surplus budgeting

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. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: **B**

Explanation:

- Demonetisation of currency means declaring that hereafter currencies of particular denominations are invalid. It reduced the circulation of money in the economy and helps in containing inflation.
- Surplus budgeting occurs when government spending is less than tax revenue. It reduces the money supply and government demand for goods and services. Thus it helps in containing inflation.
- Increasing direct taxes will reduce disposable income available with people and therefore spending; this will cause a fall in aggregate demand and lead to a lower rate of inflation.
- However, increasing indirect taxes increases the price of goods and causes a rise in the rate of inflation.

2. Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana is related to

- a) providing unemployment allowance to workers rendered jobless due to the “changing employment pattern”
- b) income disclosure scheme (IDS) to allow tax evaders to come clean with unaccounted wealth.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- c) aid, assist and advice farmers on how to improve their farming techniques and raise their incomes
- d) India's endeavour to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship

Answer: A

Explanation

Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana

- The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has approved a scheme for **providing unemployment allowance to workers rendered jobless due to the "changing employment pattern"**, acknowledging the fact that permanent jobs are on a decline in the country
- Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana, will be **applicable for employees covered under the Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Act, 1948.**
- It will benefit over **1 million workers** across the country.
- It offers **cash compensation to insured persons** when they are rendered unemployed.

Eligibility:

- Employees covered under Section 2(9) of the ESI Act 1948.
- The **Insured Person (IP)** should have been rendered unemployed during the period the relief is claimed
- The Insured Person should have been in insurable employment for a **minimum period of two years**
- The Insured Person should have contributed not less than 78 days during each of the preceding four contribution periods
- The contribution in respect of him should have been paid or payable by the employer
- The contingency of unemployment should **not have been as a result of any punishment** for misconduct or superannuation or voluntary retirement.
- Aadhar and Bank Account of the Insured Person should be linked with insured person database.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- The scheme provides **relief to the extent of 25% of the average per day earning** during the previous four contribution periods (total earning during the four contribution period/730) to be **paid up to a maximum of 90 days of unemployment once in lifetime of the Insured Person.**
- The Relief under ABVKY shall be paid/ payable by Branch Office to IPs directly in their bank account electronically only. In the event of death of IP, the amount of Relief under ABVKY shall be paid/ payable to his/her nominee/legal heir.

Employees' State Insurance Act(ESI Act),1948

- The promulgation of Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948(ESI Act), by the Parliament was the **first major legislation on social Security** for workers in independent India
- The ESI Act 1948, encompasses **certain health related eventualities** that the workers are generally exposed to; such as sickness, maternity, temporary or permanent disablement
- **Occupational disease or death** due to employment injury, resulting in loss of wages or earning capacity-total or partial
- **Option B refers to Income Disclosure scheme**
- **Option C refers to Krishi Kalyan Abhiyaan**
- **Option D refers to Atal Innovation Mission.**

3. Consider the following statements regarding Green Crackers

1. Green crackers have chemical formulation that produces water molecules.
2. They are environment friendly and can potentially reduce particulate matter by 90%.

Which of the above statements 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:

What are green crackers?

- They are less harmful and less dangerous than the conventional ones. They are the crackers with reduced emission and decibel level. They are known as 'green' firecrackers because they have a chemical formulation that produces water molecules, which substantially reduces emission levels and absorbs dust.

Statement 2 is incorrect:

- It promises a **reduction in particulate matters and harmful gases, like nitrous oxide and sulfur oxide, by 30- 35 per cent.**
- The green crackers will be 25-30 per cent cheaper to manufacture and manufacturers would not have to make any changes in their facilities.
- Green crackers don't contain banned chemicals such as lithium, arsenic, barium and lead. They are called **Safe Water Releaser (SWAS), Safe Thermite Cracker (STAR) and Safe Minimal Aluminium (SAFAL) crackers.**

WHAT ARE 'GREEN CRACKERS'?

Firecrackers that have “less dangerous” and “less harmful” chemicals than conventional ones

GREEN BECAUSE...

- they have a chemical formulation that produces water molecules
- this substantially reduces emission levels and absorbs dust
- is basically a light and sound show that produces lower emissions
- promise **30-35% reduction** in particulate matter, nitrous oxide and sulphur oxide

OTHER INITIATIVES

- Crackers with lower aluminium to reduce emissions substantially
- 'Anar' or flower pots made using “eco-friendly material” that can reduce particulate matter by 40%
- Bijli crackers that eliminate use of ash as desiccants
- Firecrackers without antimony, lithium, mercury, arsenic and lead as directed by PESO last year

Being developed by CSIR's National Environmental Engineering Research Insitute

Production after it's approved by Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO)

Expected to hit the market in 4-5 years

ALSO IN THE WORKS... E-CRACKERS BEING DEVELOPED BY CSIR'S CENTRAL ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING RESEARCH INSTITUTE

CSIR - Council of Scientific and Industrial Research **Infographic Courtesy : TOI**

4. Consider the following countries:

1. Vietnam
2. Laos
3. Cambodia
4. Thailand
5. Myanmar

River Mekong runs through which of the above countries?

- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (b) 1, 3 and 5 only
- (c) 4 and 5 only
- (d) All of the above

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

Originating from the Tibetan plateau at an altitude of 5,000 metres in China, the Mekong river traverses 4,800 km through six countries — China, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam — before emptying itself into the South China Sea.



5. Which of the following is/are the sub-indices of the World Bank's 'Ease of Doing Business Index'?

- 1) Maintenance of law and order

- 2) Paying taxes
- 3) Registering property
- 4) Dealing with construction permits

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- The **Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) index** is a ranking system established by the **World Bank Group**. Doing Business presents **quantitative indicators on business regulations** and the protection of property rights that can be compared across **190 economies**.
- Doing Business Index covers 10 **sub-indices/parameters** which includes starting a business, **dealing with construction permits**, getting electricity, **registering property**, getting credit, protecting minority investors, **paying taxes**, trading across borders, enforcing contracts, and resolving insolvency. These are included in the ease of doing business score and ease of doing business ranking.
- Doing Business analyzes regulation that **encourages efficiency and supports freedom to do business**.

Main findings

- Doing Business 2020 continues to show a **steady convergence** between **developing and developed economies**, especially in the area of business incorporation.
- **New Zealand** retained its **1st position** whereas **Somalia** was ranked at **190th spot**.
- Those economies that score well on Doing Business tend to **benefit from higher levels of entrepreneurial activity** and lower levels of corruption
- While economic reasons are the main drivers of reform, **the advancement of neighboring economies** provides an additional impetus for regulatory change

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

<https://www.doingbusiness.org/en/reports/global-reports/doing-business-2020>

India and the Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) index

- **India has recorded a jump of 14 positions** against its rank of 77 in 2019 **to be placed now at 63rd rank among 190 countries**. India's leap of 14 ranks in the Ease of Doing Business ranking is significant considering that there has been **continuous improvement since 2015** and for the third consecutive year India is amongst the top 10 improvers
- India has **improved its rank in 7 out of 10 indicators** and has moved closer to international best practices

6. Consider the following pairs regarding the INTERPOL Notices

1. Blue Notice - To provide warning about a person's criminal activities
2. Red Notice - To seek the location and arrest of wanted persons
3. Green Notice - To help locate missing persons, often minors

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

- a) 3 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 only
- d) 2 and 3 only

Ans: C

Explanation

- INTERPOL Notices are **international requests for cooperation** or alerts allowing police in member countries to **share critical crime-related information**.
- Notices are published by the General Secretariat at the **request of a National Central Bureau** and are made available to all member countries.
- Notices can also be used by the United Nations, International Criminal Tribunals and the **International Criminal Court to seek persons wanted** for committing crimes within their jurisdiction, **notably genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity**.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- Ø **Red Notice:** To seek the location and **arrest of wanted persons** wanted for prosecution or to serve a sentence
- Ø **Yellow Notice:** To help **locate missing persons, often minors** or to help identify persons who are unable to identify themselves
- Ø **Blue Notice:** To **collect additional information about a person's identity**, location or activities in relation to a crime
- Ø **Black Notice:** To seek information on **unidentified bodies**
- Ø **Green Notice:** To provide **warning about a person's criminal activities**, where the person is considered to be a possible threat to public safety
- Ø **Orange Notice:** To warn of an event, a person, an object or a process representing a serious and imminent threat to public safety
- Ø **Purple Notice:** To seek or **provide information on modus operandi**, objects, devices and concealment methods used by criminals

7. Which of the following statements is incorrect regarding the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT)?

- a) ITAT is a quasi judicial institution and specializes in dealing with appeals under the Direct Taxes Act
- b) The orders passed by the ITAT are final, an appeal lies to the High Court only if a substantial question of law arises for determination.
- c) ITAT works under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance
- d) ITAT is often referred to as 'Mother Tribunal' for being the oldest Tribunal in the country

Ans: C

Explanation

- ITAT is a **quasi judicial institution** set up in January, 1941 and **specializes in dealing with appeals under the Direct Taxes Acts.**
- The **orders passed by the ITAT are final**, an **appeal lies to the High Court** only if a substantial question of law arises for determination.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- Starting in 1941 **with six Members constituting three Benches** - one each at Delhi, Kolkata (Calcutta) and Mumbai (Bombay), the numbers of Benches have progressively increased and presently ITAT has 63 Benches at 27 different stations covering almost all the cities having a seat of the High Court
- **ITAT works under the Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice.**
- ITAT stands out for its **uniqueness of imparting justice to the litigants**, by an inexpensive, easily accessible forum free from technicalities, regarded for its expert knowledge on the subject of Direct Taxes, besides rendering expeditious justice.
- ITAT is often referred to as '**Mother Tribunal**' for being the **oldest Tribunal in the country**.
- More importantly, it is the success of the ITAT, which has prompted the Government of India to constitute **similar Appellate Tribunals for indirect taxes** i.e. Customs, Excise, Service Tax Appellate Tribunal (CESTAT), Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) etc

8. Under 'Operation Sanjeevani', India has recently supplied 6.2 tonnes of essential medicines and hospital consumables to tackle COVID -19 crisis to which of the following countries?

- a) Myanmar
- b) USA
- c) Maldives
- d) United kingdom

Ans: C

Explanation

Operation Sanjeevani

- Recently, India supplied 6.2 tonnes of essential medicines and **hospital consumables to Maldives**, under Operation Sanjeevani as **assistance in the fight against COVID 19**.
- The medicines were **delivered by the Hercules C-130J-30 aircraft** of Indian Air Force.

- The medicines include **influenza vaccines, antiviral drugs such as lopinavir and ritonavir** among others as well as consumables such as catheters, nebulisers, urine bags and infant feeding tubes
- In March, India also dispatched a 14-member **Army medical team to Maldives** to set up a viral testing lab there and gifted 5.5 tonnes of essential medicines.
- 1988: **Under Operation Cactus**, the Indian Armed Forces have helped the government of Maldives in the **neutralization of the coup attempt**
- 2014: Under '**Operation Neer**' India supplied drinking water to Maldives **to deal with the drinking water crisis.**

Recently India and Maldives signed four MOUs to boost ties.

9. Which of the following are not included in National Action Plan on Climate Change(NAPCC) ?

- National Water Mission
- National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency
- National Mission for a Green India
- National Soil Mission

Answer (d)

Explanation:

The National Action Plan on Climate change identifies measures that promote development objectives while also yielding co-benefits for addressing **climate change** effectively.

The Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change is in charge of the overall implementation of the plan. There are **eight "National Missions"** which form the core of the National action plan. They focus on promoting understanding of climate change, adaptation and mitigation, energy efficiency and natural resource conservation."

The eight missions are:

- National Solar Mission
- **National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency**

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- National Mission on Sustainable Habitat
 - **National Water Mission**
 - National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem
 - **National Mission for a Green India**
 - National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture
 - National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change
- The NAPCC also describes other ongoing initiatives, including:
- **Power Generation:** The government is mandating the retirement of inefficient coal-fired power plants and supporting the research and development of IGCC and supercritical technologies.
 - **Renewable Energy:** Under the Electricity Act 2003 and the National Tariff Policy 2006, the central and the state electricity regulatory commissions must purchase a certain percentage of grid-based power from renewable sources.
 - **Energy Efficiency:** Under the Energy Conservation Act 2001, large energy consuming industries are required to undertake energy audits and an energy labeling program for appliances has been introduced.

10. What is the correct sequence of occurrence of the following cities in South-East Asia as one proceeds from south to north?

1. Manila
2. Hanoi
3. Jakarta
4. Phnom Penh

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- a) 4-2-1-3
- b) 3-2-4-1
- c) 3-4-1-2
- d) 4-3-2-1

Answer: C



11. The 'Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS)' is related to

- (a) Shanghai Cooperation Organisation
- (b) Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe
- (c) Heart of Asia
- (d) NATO

Answer: (a)

- SCO was established as 'Shanghai-5' in 1996 with China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia & Tajikistan as founding members. In 2001, Uzbekistan joined the grouping & it was renamed as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). Hence **statement 1 is incorrect** since **Uzbekistan is not a founding member of SCO**.
- The organisation has expanded its membership to eight countries when India and Pakistan joined SCO as full members on 9 June 2017 at the 17th summit in Astana, Kazakhstan.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- Apart from 8 member states, there are **4 Observer States** - Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran and Mongolia and **6 Dialogue Partners** - Azerbaijan, Armenia, Cambodia, Nepal, Turkey and Sri Lanka.
- The Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) **based in Tashkent is one of the two permanent bodies of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)**. The other one is the SCO Secretariat based in Beijing.
Why in the news?
- 20th Summit of SCO Council of Heads of State was held on November 10, 2020 (in Video Conference Format).
- The Meeting was chaired by the President of the Russian Federation Mr. Vladimir Putin and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi led the Indian delegation.
- This was the first SCO Summit held in Virtual Format and third meeting that India participated after becoming a full member in 2017.

12. 'Hunar haat' initiative is related to which of the following?

- a) Encourage and promote traditional master artisans and craftsmen
- b) Provide incubation and handholding to startups in their first five years.
- c) Encourage learning through creative activities in primary schools.
- d) Promote linkage of handlooms-based textile industry with the global market.

Answer: A

Explanation

- **National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC)**, on behalf of the Ministry of Minority Affairs organises **HUNAR HAAT exhibitions** under the **USTTAD (Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts / Crafts for Development)** scheme of Ministry.
- HUNAR HAAT provides a platform **to the artisans / crafts-persons from the Minority communities** for marketing their products. **NMDFC is intending to create a data-bank of crafts**, artisans / crafts-persons belonging to the notified Minority communities

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- “Hunar Haat” has become a **“Mega Mission” of indigenous Craft, Cuisine & Culture** and economic empowerment of master artisans, craftsmen
- The success of “Hunar Haat” can be gauged from the fact that about **3 lakh needy master artisans**, craftsmen & culinary experts have **been provided employment** through “Hunar Haat” in the last about 3 years. These beneficiaries include a **large number of women artisans**.

USTTAD

- USTTAD scheme aims **to preserve heritage of traditional arts and crafts of minority communities** and build capacity of traditional crafts persons and artisans and **establish linkages of traditional skills** with the global market
- It aims to **provide training and upgrade skills of craft persons** belonging to the minority communities thereby preserving traditional ancestral arts/crafts being practiced by them.

Why in the news?

Union Minister for Minority Affairs Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi will inaugurate the Hunar Haat at Delhi Haat at Pitampura on November 11 with the theme of “Vocal for Local” where indigenous exquisite products made from “Maati (clay), Metal and Machiya (wooden & jute products)” will be the major attraction.

- **Option B is related to Startup India:** It is a flagship initiative of the Government of India, intended to **build a strong eco-system for nurturing innovation** and Startups in the country that will drive sustainable economic growth and generate large scale employment opportunities.

13. Consider the following statements about INSPIRE programme

- 1) "Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE)" is an innovative programme sponsored and managed by the Niti Aayog for attraction of talent to Science.
- 2) A striking feature of the programme is that it believes in and relies on the efficacy of the existing educational structure for identification of talent.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

Explanation

- "Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE)" is an innovative programme sponsored and managed by the **Department of Science & Technology** for attraction of talent to Science. Hence **statement 1 is incorrect**.
- The basic objective of INSPIRE is to communicate to the youth of the country the excitements of creative pursuit of science, attract talent to the study of science at an early age and thus build the required critical human resource pool for strengthening and expanding the Science & Technology system and R & D base.
- A striking feature of the programme is that it does not believe in conducting competitive exams for identification of talent at any level. It believes in and **relies on the efficacy of the existing educational structure** for identification of talent. Hence **statement 2 is correct**.

14. With which of the following countries does Thailand share its borders

1. Myanmar
2. Laos
3. Cambodia
4. Vietnam
5. Malaysia

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- c) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
- d) All of the above

Ans: C

Explanation:



15. Jaivik Kheti Portal sometimes seen in the news is related to

- Facilitating organic farmers to sell their organic produce
- Facilitate reporting of labour inspections and submission of Returns.
- Aviation Jobs Portal for Aspirants and prospective Employers
- Platform for farmers to seek any information related to agriculture.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Jaivikkheti portal is a unique initiative of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Department of Agriculture (DAC) along with MSTC to promote organic farming globally.

Key Features of the portal:

- Promotion of organic farming:** It is a one-stop solution for facilitating organic farmers to sell their organic produce and promoting organic farming and its benefits.
- E-Commerce & knowledge platform:** The portal is an E-commerce as well as a knowledge platform. Knowledge repository section of the portal includes case studies, videos, and best

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

farming practices, success stories and other material related to organic farming to facilitate and promote organic farming. The e-commerce section of the portal provides the whole bouquet of organic products ranging from grains, pulses, fruits and vegetables.

- **Products available at door-step:** Through this portal buyers can now avail organic products at their doorstep through the portal at much lower prices.
- **Linking the stakeholders:** This portal links various stakeholders like regional councils, local groups, individual farmers, buyers, government agencies and input suppliers for the all-inclusive development and promotion of organic farming.
- **Price discovery Mechanism to Farmers:** The portal provides various price discovery mechanisms to help farmers get the best prices for their products through forward auction, price-quantity bidding, book building and reverse auction mechanisms.

Benefits from the point of view of farmers

- The fertile capacity of the land increases.
- Irrigation intervals increase.
- Reducing dependence on chemical fertilizer reduces costs.
- Increase in productivity of crops.

Benefits of soil

- The use of organic manure improves the quality of the land.
- The water holding capacity of the land increases.
- Evaporation of water from the land will be less.

Environmental benefits

- The water level of the land increases.
- There is a reduction in pollution through soil, food and water in the ground.
- The use of waste, in composting, reduces diseases.
- Reduction in cost of crop production and increase in income.
- Quality of organic product in the international market competition.

Statement b refers to Shram Suvidha Portal

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

Shram Suvidha Portal facilitates businessmen to get all kinds of registrations and submit returns that are required under labour laws at a single online window. It also makes available to them the inspection reports prepared by the enforcement agency inspectors online. The procedures have been simplified; returns and registration forms have been unified to provide a business environment that encourages compliance by reducing transaction costs and promoting ease of business.

Statement c refers to Aviation Jobs Portal

Aviation Jobs portal is a unique initiative to harness the growth potential of the aviation sector to contribute to employment and re-employment in skilled aviation jobs in India. Both Candidates and Employers would be able to access a wider choice. Candidates will be able to seek job opportunities matching their profiles. Employers will be able to shortlist those suitable to serve their HR requirements as per their company policy through an online medium.

Statement d refers to National Agriculture Market (eNAM) portal

National Agriculture Market (eNAM) is a pan-India electronic trading portal which networks the existing APMC mandis to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities. Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) is the lead agency for implementing eNAM under the aegis of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India. Its main objective is to promote uniformity in agriculture marketing by streamlining of procedures across the integrated markets, removing information asymmetry between buyers and sellers and promoting real time price discovery based on actual demand and supply.

16. Consider the following statements about Viability Gap Funding

- 1) Viability Gap Funding (VGF) signifies a grant provided to support infrastructure projects that are economically justified but fall short of financial viability.
- 2) The lack of financial viability usually arises from long gestation periods and the inability to increase user charges to commercial levels.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation:

Viability Gap Funding (VGF) signifies a grant, one-time or deferred, provided to support infrastructure projects that are economically justified but fall short of financial viability. The lack of financial viability usually arises from long gestation periods and the inability to increase user charges to commercial levels. Hence **both the statements are correct.**

Why in the news?

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister has approved continuation and Revamping of the Scheme for Financial Support to Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) in Infrastructure Viability Gap Funding (VGF) Scheme Till 2024-25 with a total outlay of Rs. 8,100 cr.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1671914>

17. Which among the following are examples of Consumer goods?

1. Household appliances 2. Computers in an MNC company 3. Steam turbines 4. Apparel

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

- Capital goods and consumer goods are classified based on how they are used.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- Capital goods are any tangible assets used by one business to produce goods or services as an input for other businesses to produce consumer goods.
- The most common capital goods are property, plant, and equipment (PPE), or fixed assets such as buildings, machinery and equipment, tools, and vehicles.
- A consumer good is any good purchased for consumption and not used later for the production of another consumer good.
- Examples of consumer goods include food, clothing, vehicles, electronics, and household appliances.

18. Consider the following statements:

1. A major drawback of introducing the Goods and Services Tax (GST) is the increased impact of cascading effect. 2. Under the GST regime, it is mandatory for a state to get approval of the GST council to levy cess.

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:

- Cascading tax effect is also termed as “tax on tax”. This effect occurs when a good is taxed on every stage of production. Such a good is taxed till it is finally sold to the consumer. This means each succeeding transfer of good is taxed inclusive of the taxes charged on the preceding transfer. As a result, the final consumer bears the burden of the multiple taxes imposed on every stage of production.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Under the GST system, the consumer pays the final tax but an efficient input tax credit system **ensures that there is no cascading of taxes-** tax on tax

paid on inputs that go into manufacture of goods.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** Under the GST regime, it is mandatory for a state to get approval of the GST council to levy cess. In January 2019, the GST council gave permission to Kerala to implement 1 per cent Flood Cess, apart from GST.

19. Consider the following countries:

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

Caspian Sea is bordered by which of the above countries?

- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (b) 1, 3 and 5 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) All of the above

Ans: (c)

Explanation:



OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

20. What is the correct sequence of occurrence of the following cities from North to South?

1. Kabul
2. Ashgabat
3. Astana
4. Bishkek

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- a) 4-2-1-3
- b) 3-4-2-1
- c) 3-4-1-2
- d) 4-3-2-1

Answer: B



21. 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.

22. '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

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)**.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- 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.

23. 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.
- 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

24. 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:



25. 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)



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.