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1.SAFTA, sometimes in news is related to ;

- a.SASEC
- b.ASEAN
- c.SAARC
- d.BIMSTEC

Answer:c

Explanation:

The South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) is the free trade arrangement of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). The agreement came into place in 2006, succeeding the 1993 SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement. SAFTA signatory countries are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The **basic principles** underlying SAFTA are as under;

- 1.overall reciprocity and mutuality of advantages so as to benefit equitably all Contracting States, taking into account their respective level of economic and industrial development, the pattern of their external trade, and trade and tariff policies and systems;
- 2.negotiation of tariff reform step by step, improved and extended in successive stages through periodic reviews;
- 3.recognition of the special needs of the Least Developed Contracting States and agreement on concrete preferential measures in their favour;
- 4.inclusion of all products, manufactures and commodities in their raw, semi-processed and processed forms

2. Consider the following statements regarding the *membership to non-permanent seat of United Nations Security Council (UNSC)*:

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1. To be elected as a member, a candidate must receive a simple majority of all votes cast for that seat.
 2. A retiring member is not eligible for immediate re-election.
- 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)

- Along with the five permanent members, the UNSC has **10 temporary members** that hold their seats on a rotating basis by geographic region.
- Each year the 193-member of UNGA elects five non-permanent members for a two-year term at the UNSC, with five replaced each year.
- To be approved, a candidate must receive **at least two-thirds of all votes (not a simple majority)** cast for that seat.
- A retiring member is **not eligible for immediate re-election**.

3. The Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for Farmer Producer Companies is operated by

- A. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)
B. Small Farmer's AgriBusiness Consortium
C. Central cooperative bank
D. Regional Rural Banks

Answer: B

Explanation:

- Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme is a central sector scheme operated by **Small Farmer's AgriBusiness Consortium (SFAC)** through lending institutions.
- The Credit guarantee Fund has been set up with the primary objective of providing a Credit Guarantee Cover to Eligible Lending Institutions (ELI's) which are providing collateral free loans to Farmer Producer Companies.

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About SFAC

- The Government established Small Farmers' Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC) as a Society in 1994 to facilitate agri-business ventures by catalyzing private investment through Venture Capital Assistance (VCA) Scheme in close association with financial institutions.
- The main functions of SFAC are:
 - Promotion of development of small agribusiness through VCA scheme;
 - Helping formation and growth of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) / Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs);
 - Improving availability of working capital and development of business activities of FPOs/FPCs through **Equity Grant and Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme**;
 - **Implementation of National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) Electronic Trading platform.**

4. Consider the following statement regarding kayakalp awards

- 1.It is an initiative of NITI aayog
- 2.The award is given only to public facilities for maintaining high standards of hygiene.

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

- It is an initiative of Ministry of health and family welfare
- The Kayakalp Award was instituted as part of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan on 15 May, 2015 as a national initiative to recognize and felicitate public health facilities that demonstrate high levels of cleanliness, hygiene and infection control measure on promoting cleanliness in public spaces.

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- In the year 2019 for the holistic and comprehensive improvement across the health Sector, the Kayakalp scheme was extended to private sector health facilities.

Why in the news?

Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health and family Welfare inaugurated the 5th National Kayakalp Awards through a video conference recently.

5. Consider the following statements about Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bhima Yojana

- 1) All farmers including sharecroppers and tenant farmers growing the notified crops in the notified areas are eligible for the scheme.
- 2) The premium paid by farmers is not uniform in nature for all the crops.

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:

Fasal Bima Yojana

1. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) is a **crop insurance scheme**
2. **All farmers** including sharecroppers and tenant farmers growing the notified crops in the notified areas are eligible for the scheme.

Coverage of Crops:

- I. Food crops (Cereals, Millets & Pulses),
- II. Oilseeds
- III. Annual Commercial / Horticultural crops

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3. There will be a uniform premium of **2% to be paid by farmers for all Kharif crops** and **1.5% for all Rabi crops**.
4. For **annual commercial and horticultural crops**, the premium to be paid by farmers will be **5%**.
5. **Thus premium paid by farmers is different for different crops and it is not uniform in nature.**
6. **Both pre-harvest loss as well as post harvest loss are covered under the scheme.**
7. **Losses arising out of war & nuclear risks, malicious damage and other preventable risks will be excluded.**
8. **The scheme is implemented by empanelled general insurance companies.**
9. **Selection of Implementing Agency (IA) is made by the concerned State Government through bidding.**

