

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

Daily MCQs: 27-09-2024

1. Consider the following statements about Merchant Discount Rate (MDR)

- 1) It is a fee charged from merchants or business owners when they receive payments from customers via digital methods.
- 2) It is applicable for transactions made using credit card, debit card and UPI.

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

2. Exercise Eastern Bridge VII is a joint exercise between the Air Forces of

- A. India and Japan
- B. India and South Korea
- C. India and Indonesia
- D. India and Oman

3. Consider the following statements about Ayushman Bharat Scheme

- 1) It is an umbrella scheme of two major health initiatives- Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAM) and Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY).
- 2) AAM aims to deliver Comprehensive Primary Health Care to citizens.
- 3) PM-JAY is the largest health assurance scheme in the world.
- 4) National Health Authority has full operational autonomy over the implementation of the scheme in the States.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1, 3 and 4 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. All of the above

4. Who among the following countries are members of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation?

- 1) China
- 2) Iran
- 3) Iraq
- 4) Turkmenistan
- 5) Tajikistan

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- A. 2 and 3 only
- B. 4 and 5 only

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- C. 1, 2 and 5 only
- D. 1, 4 and 5 only

5. With reference to the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF), consider the following statements

- 1) India has joined all the four pillars of IPEF.
- 2) 'Clean Economy' is one of the focus areas of IPEF.
- 3) IPEF aims to offer US allies an alternative to China's growing commercial presence across the Asia-Pacific.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solutions:

1. Answer: A

Explanation

- Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) is a **fee charged from merchants or business owners when they receive payments from customers via digital methods** such as credit and debit cards. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- MDR compensates the bank issuing the card, the bank which installs the PoS (Point of Sale) terminal and network providers (MasterCard and Visa), and payment gateways for their services.

Why in News?

- A recent survey has revealed that users of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) for digital payments are resisting the proposal to levy a fee on such transactions.
- As many as 75 per cent of respondents said that they will stop using UPI if a transaction fee is introduced.
- As UPI transactions are growing, fintech industry players and banks have been pushing the government and regulators to permit a **Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on UPI transactions.** Hence, **statement 2 is incorrect.**
- The demand for MDR has led to small merchants and consumers expressing their discontent. Consumers believe that if MDR charges are introduced for merchants, **they will in turn pass it on to them, just like it happens in the case of credit and debit cards.**
- It is quite common for small merchants to demand a processing charge from consumers who are using credit or debit cards to make payments.

2. Answer: D

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

Explanation

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) recently participated in Exercise Eastern Bridge VII with the **Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO)** at the RAFO airbase in Masirah, Oman.

3. Answer: A

Explanation

- Ayushman Bharat is a flagship scheme of Government of India launched to achieve the vision of **Universal Health Coverage (UHC)** by holistically addressing the healthcare system at the primary, secondary and tertiary level.
- Launched in 2018, Ayushman Bharat is an umbrella of two major health initiatives, namely **Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAM)** and **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

Ayushman Arogya Mandirs

- Under this component, the Government of India aims at creation of **1,50,000 Ayushman Arogya Mandirs** (previously known as Health and Wellness Centres) by transforming the existing Sub Centres and Primary Health Centres.
- These centres will deliver **Comprehensive Primary Health Care** that is **universal and free** to users, with a focus on wellness and the delivery of an expanded range of services closer to the community. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- AAMs are envisaged to deliver **expanded range services that go beyond Maternal and child health care services** to include care for non-communicable diseases, palliative and rehabilitative care, Oral, Eye and ENT care, mental health and first level care for emergencies and trauma.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)

- Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY is the **largest health assurance scheme in the world** which aims at providing a **health cover of Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization** to over **12 crores poor and vulnerable families**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
- The households included are based on the **deprivation and occupational criteria of Socio-Economic Caste Census 2011 (SECC 2011)** for rural and urban areas respectively.
- PM-JAY is **fully funded by the Government** and **cost of implementation is shared between the Central and State Governments**.

Implementation Strategy

- At the national level to manage, the **National Health Authority** has been set up. It is an **attached office of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare with full functional autonomy**.
- NHA is governed by a **Governing Board chaired by the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare**.
- To implement the scheme at the State level, **State Health Agencies (SHAs)** in the form of a society/trust have been set up by respective States.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- SHAs have **full operational autonomy** over the implementation of the scheme in the State including extending the coverage to non SECC beneficiaries. Hence, **statement 4 is incorrect.**

Recent Changes

- Recently, the Union Cabinet approved to further broaden the scope of the Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY to **extend coverage to all senior citizens aged 70 years and above, irrespective of their socio- economic status.**

4. Answer: C

Explanation

- The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was built on the **'Shanghai Five' grouping of Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan**, which had come together in the post-Soviet era in 1996, in order to work on regional security, reduction of border troops, and terrorism. In 2001, the Shanghai Five inducted **Uzbekistan** into the group and named it the SCO.
- **Currently, nine countries enjoy the status of the SCO full members: India, Iran, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan; three countries — Afghanistan, Belarus, and Mongolia — have an observer status with the SCO, and fourteen countries — Azerbaijan, Armenia, Bahrain, Cambodia, Egypt, Kuwait, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Türkiye and UAE — have a dialogue partner status.** Hence, answer is option C.
- The organisation has **two permanent bodies** — the **SCO Secretariat** based in **Beijing** and the **Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure** in **Tashkent**.
- The **Heads of State Council** is the supreme decision-making body in the SCO. It meets once a year and adopts decisions and guidelines on all important matters of the organisation.

5. Answer: C

Explanation

- The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) was launched in **Tokyo (Japan)** by **the US and other Indo-Pacific countries** in 2022.
- IPEF aims to **strengthen economic engagement and cooperation** among partner countries with the goal of advancing growth, economic stability and prosperity in the region.
- The framework includes 14 countries — **Australia, Brunei, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Fiji and the United States.**
- Together, the participants account for **about 40 percent of global GDP and 30 per cent of trade.**

What would IPEF do?

- IPEF provides a platform for countries in the region to **collaborate on advancing resilient, sustainable, and inclusive economic growth.**
- The framework is structured around **four pillars** relating to:

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- **Trade (Pillar I);**
 - **Supply Chains (Pillar II);**
 - **Clean Economy (Pillar III);** Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
 - **Fair Economy (Pillar IV).**
- **India had joined Pillars II to IV of IPEF while it maintains observer status for pillar I** as the current terms are seen as less favourable for the country. Hence, **statement 1 is incorrect.**

Significance

- The IPEF is part of the U.S.'s "**Pivot to Asia**" programme, re-imagining the Indo-Pacific as a geographic construct including America.
- The **Quad grouping**, consisting **India, Australia, Japan and the U.S.**, is part of the same pitch made by the U.S. administration.
- IPEF is intended to offer US allies an **alternative to China's growing commercial presence** across the Asia-Pacific. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**
- The IPEF's **non-specific and flexible nature** also suits India, which has held strong views on a range of issues like labour standards, environmental restrictions on fossil fuels, and data localisation.
- India's inclusion also comes from a **geopolitical need to counter China's virtual control over Asian trade.**

