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Daily MCQs: 18-10-2024

1. Consider the following statements about the Sagarmala Project.

- 1) The objective of this initiative is to promote "Port-led development".
- 2) It also focuses on expansion of rail and road services to enhance connectivity with main economic centers.
- 3) Ministry of Commerce and Industry is the nodal ministry for the project.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

2. Samarth is a skilling program focussing on

- A. Electronics and related sectors
- B. Textile and related sectors
- C. Agriculture sector
- D. None of the above

3. Consider the following statements about the International Energy Agency (IEA).

- 1) The International Energy Agency was established by the member countries of the G7.
- 2) India is a full member of the IEA.

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

4. Which of the following crops enjoy the Minimum Support Price (MSP) coverage?

- 1) Tea
- 2) Copra
- 3) Coffee
- 4) Sugarcane
- 5) Jute

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- A. 1 and 5 only
- B. 3 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2 and 4 only
- D. 2, 4 and 5 only

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5. Consider the following statements about ASEAN.

- 1) The ASEAN Secretariat is located in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- 2) India is part of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), established by ASEAN.
- 3) South Korea is a member of ASEAN.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

Solutions:

1. Answer: B

Explanation

- The Sagarmala project seeks to develop a **string of ports around India's coast**. The **objective of this initiative is to promote "Port-led development"** along India's 7500 km long coastline. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- It **aims to develop access to new development regions and enhance connectivity with main economic centres** and beyond through expansion of rail, inland water, coastal and road services. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- The **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways** has been appointed as the nodal ministry for this initiative. Hence, **statement 3 is incorrect**.
- To assist in implementation of the Sagarmala Programme, the **Sagarmala Development Company Limited was incorporated in 2016** under the Companies Act, 2013 by the Ministry of Shipping.

2. Answer: B

Explanation

- Samarth is a **demand-driven and placement-oriented umbrella skilling program** of the **Ministry of Textiles**.
- The scheme aims to **encourage and support the industry in creating jobs in the organized textile and related sectors**, covering the entire value chain of textiles, excluding Spinning and Weaving. Hence, **answer is option B**.
- In addition to **entry-level skilling**, the scheme also provides **upskilling/reskilling programs** to improve the productivity of existing workers in Apparel & Garmenting segments.
- Samarth also caters to the **upskilling/reskilling needs of traditional textile sectors** such as handloom, handicraft, silk, and jute.

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- The scheme is implemented through **Implementing Partners (IPs)** comprising Textile Industry/Industry Associations, Central/State government agencies, and Sectoral Organizations of the Ministry of Textiles like DC/Handloom, DC/Handicrafts, Central Wool Development Board, and Central Silk Board.

Why in News?

- Samarth Scheme has been **extended for two years** (FY 2024-25 and 2025-26) with a budget of Rs. 495 Crore to train 3 lakh persons in textile-related skills.

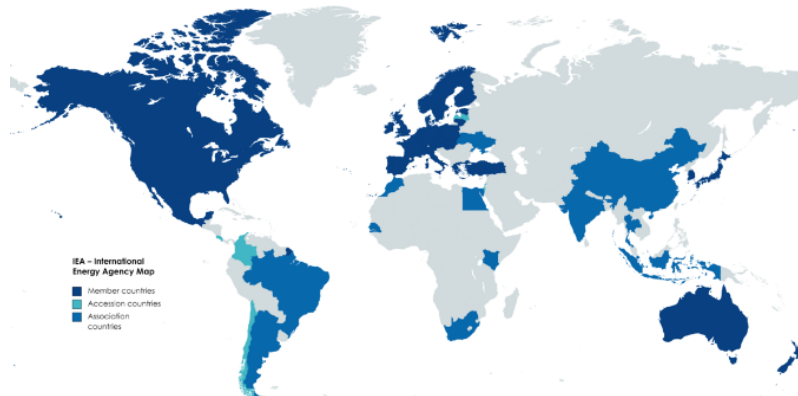
3. Answer: D

Explanation

- The International Energy Agency is an **autonomous intergovernmental organization** established by the member countries of the **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** in 1974. Hence, **statement 1 is incorrect**.
 - *OECD is a group of 38 member countries that discuss and develop economic and social policy.*
 - *OECD members are typically democratic countries that support free-market economies. India is not a member of OECD.*

The IEA was created in response to the 1973-1974 oil crisis when an oil embargo by major producers pushed prices to historic levels, and exposed the vulnerability of industrialised countries to dependency on oil imports.

- The IEA works to **ensure reliable, affordable and clean energy** for its member countries and beyond.
- Its main areas of focus are energy security, economic development, environmental awareness and engagement worldwide.
- The IEA is made up of **31 member countries**.



- Before becoming a member country of the IEA, a candidate country must meet several criteria.

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- For eg: It must have **crude oil or product reserves equivalent to 90 days** of the previous year's net imports.
- It must have in place a **demand restraint program** to reduce national oil consumption by up to 10 per cent.
- Legislation and measures to ensure that all oil companies under its jurisdiction report information upon request.
- **India** became an **Associate Member** in 2017. Hence, **statement 2 is incorrect**.
- IEA is headquartered in **Paris, France**.

Why in News?

- The International Energy Agency (IEA) has published the **World Energy Outlook 2024** (WEO), an annual flagship report.

4. Answer: D

Explanation

About MSP

- Minimum Support Price (MSP) is a form of **market intervention** by the Government to **insure agricultural producers against any sharp fall in farm prices**.
- MSP is the price at which the **government procures certain crops from farmers** to ensure support price to farmers and affordable prices to the consumer.
- The minimum support prices are announced by the Government at the **beginning of the sowing season** for certain crops on the basis of the recommendations of the **Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)**.

About CACP

- The Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices is an attached office of the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**. It came into existence in 1965.
- It is **mandated to recommend MSPs** to incentivize the cultivators to adopt modern technology and raise productivity and overall grain production in line with the emerging demand patterns in the country.

How many crops does the minimum support price cover?

- As of now, CACP recommends MSPs of **23 commodities**, which comprise **7 cereals** (paddy, wheat, maize, sorghum, pearl millet, barley and ragi), **5 pulses** (gram, tur, moong, urad, lentil), **7 oilseeds** (groundnut, rapeseed-mustard, soyabean, seasmum, sunflower, safflower, niger seed), and **4 commercial crops** (copra, sugarcane, cotton and raw jute). Hence, **answer is option D**.
- CACP submits its recommendations to the government. The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** chaired by the **Prime Minister** takes a **final decision** on the level of MSPs and other recommendations made by CACP.

How is the production cost arrived at?

- As per CACP, there are three definitions of production cost which includes **A2, A2+FL and C2**.

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- A2 covers **all paid-out expenses**, including cash and in kind. It includes costs on seeds, chemicals, hired labour, irrigation, fertilisers and fuel.
- A2+FL covers **actual paid cost and also unpaid family labour**.
- C2 cost method is more comprehensive and makes the calculation by including a wider range of inputs. It includes **actual paid out costs, imputed value of family labour, interest on the value of owned capital assets, rent paid for leased-in land and the rental value of owned land**.
- CACP considers **both A2+FL and C2 costs** while recommending MSP.
- It should be noted that there is currently **no statutory backing** for these prices, **nor any law mandating their enforcement**.

- The **agricultural crop year** in India is from **July to June**. The Indian cropping season is classified into **two main seasons** - (i) **Kharif** and (ii) **Rabi** based on the **monsoon**.
- The **kharif cropping** season is from **July–October** during the **south-west monsoon** and the **Rabi cropping** season is from **October–March (winter)**.
- The kharif crops include **rice, maize, sorghum, pearl millet/bajra, finger millet/ragi (cereals), arhar (pulses), soyabean, groundnut (oilseeds), cotton etc.** The rabi crops include **wheat, barley, oats (cereals), chickpea/gram (pulses), linseed, mustard (oilseeds) etc.**

Why in News?

- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** chaired by the Prime Minister, has approved the **increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSP)** for all mandated **Rabi Crops** for Marketing Season 2025-26.

5. Answer: A

Explanation

About ASEAN

- The Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN, is a **regional & intergovernmental organisation of 10 countries of Southeast Asia**.
- ASEAN was established in **1967** in Bangkok, Thailand, with the signing of the **ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration)**.
- Its members are **Thailand, Malaysia, Laos, Cambodia, Indonesia, Singapore, Myanmar, Philippines, Brunei and Vietnam**. Hence, **statement 3 is incorrect**.

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- The organisation aims to **accelerate the economic growth, social progress and cultural development** in the region through joint endeavours in the spirit of equality and partnership. They work towards the **progress of the Southeast Asia region**.
- ASEAN is headed by a **chair**—a position that rotates annually among leaders of member states.
- ASEAN activities are coordinated by the **ASEAN Secretariat** in **Jakarta, Indonesia**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

Free Trade Agreements of ASEAN

- ASEAN has free trade agreements with **six partners** namely People's Republic of China (ACFTA), Republic of Korea (AKFTA), Japan (AJCEP), India (AIFTA) as well as Australia and New Zealand (AANZFTA).
- ASEAN member states have also established the **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)** with China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand. Hence, **statement 2 is incorrect**.

Why in News?

- The ASEAN Summit is being held in Vientiane, Laos, focused on pressing regional and international issues.