

# OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

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Daily MCQs: 19-10-2024

**1. Consider the following statements about the Minimum Support Price (MSP).**

- 1) The final decision on MSP is taken by The Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP).
- 2) Announcement of MSP is statutorily backed.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**2. Fixation of prices of pharmaceutical products in India is done by**

- A. Central Drugs Standard Control Organization
- B. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority
- C. State Pharmaceutical Pricing Authorities
- D. Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Bureau of India

**3. Consider the following statements about the Five Eyes Alliance.**

- 1) It is an intelligence-sharing alliance.
- 2) China is a prominent member of the alliance.

**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 parameters are taken into consideration for estimation of 'Global Hunger Index'?**

- 1) Undernourishment
- 2) Sanitation coverage
- 3) Child wasting
- 4) Micronutrient deficiency
- 5) Child mortality

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below**

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

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### 5. Jurisdiction of National Green Tribunal includes which of the following?

- 1) The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972
- 2) The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974
- 3) The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
- 4) The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006
- 5) The Biological Diversity Act, 2002

### Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

### Solutions:

#### 1. 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)**.
- 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. Hence, **statement 1 is incorrect**.

##### 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.

#### Why in News?

- The Union Cabinet has approved MSP hikes for all kharif season crops, in alignment with the government's policy of keeping MSPs **at least 1.5 times above the cost of production**, aiming at reasonably fair remuneration for the farmers.

#### How is the production cost arrived at?

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- As per CACP, there are three definitions of production cost which includes **A2, A2+FL and C2**.
  - 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**. Hence, **statement 2 is incorrect**.

2. Answer: B

### Explanation

#### National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority

- The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority was established in 1997 as an **independent body of experts to regulate the pricing of drugs**. Hence, **answer is option B**.
- It has been constituted as an **attached office** of the **Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers**.
- The Authority has been entrusted with the task of
  - **Fixation/revision of prices** of pharmaceutical products (bulk drugs and formulations);
  - **Enforcement** of provisions of the **Drugs (Prices Control) Order (DPCO)**;
  - **Monitoring of the prices** of controlled and decontrolled drugs in the country.
- The NPPA currently fixes prices of drugs placed in the **National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM)** under **Schedule-I of the DPCO**.
- Non-scheduled drugs are allowed an increase of up to **10 per cent in prices every year**, which is monitored by the NPPA.
- NPPA can **also fix the price for non-scheduled drugs** by invoking extraordinary powers in public interest, under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013.

#### Why in News?

- The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has approved an increase in the ceiling prices of eleven scheduled formulations of eight drugs by 50% of their current ceiling prices.
- Elaborating on the need to bring in the increase in price, the authority said that this was done to ensure availability of essential drugs at affordable prices and ensuring affordability without jeopardising access to such medicines.
- The move was initiated invoking **extraordinary powers under the DPCO, 2013**, and in larger public interest, the move was initiated.
- Earlier such extraordinary powers have been invoked by NPPA in 2019 and in 2021 whereby price of 21 and 9 formulations, respectively, were increased by 50% so as to ensure continued availability of essential drugs for the public.

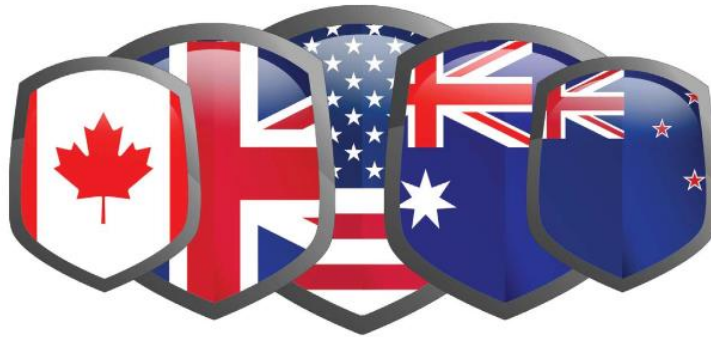
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### 3. Answer: A

#### Explanation

- “Five Eyes” refers to an **intelligence-sharing alliance of the United States, United Kingdom, Australia, Canada and New Zealand**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct and statement 2 is incorrect**.
- These partner countries share a broad range of intelligence with one another in one of the world’s most unified multilateral arrangements.
- The alliance’s origins can be traced back to the **Second World War**.
- Under the alliance, countries often **engage with each other on matters of intelligence gathering and security**. In recent years, common interests, such as balancing the rise of China, have led to a closer alignment among the Five Eyes countries.



#### Why in News?

- The United Kingdom expressed its "full confidence" in the Canadian judicial process, expanding the ambit of the diplomatic crisis that has broken out between India and Canada.
- The recent tensions emerged over the alleged involvement of Canada-based Indian diplomats in the 2023 killing of pro-Khalistan preacher Hardeep Singh Nijjar.
- U.K. is the third member of the ‘Five Eye’ countries to extend support to Canada’s position. Earlier New Zealand and Australia too had extended support to Canada.

### 4. Answer: C

#### Explanation

- The Global Hunger Index is an annual score ranking countries of the world on hunger levels.
- The Index is a peer-reviewed report released annually by **Concern Worldwide**, Ireland based humanitarian agency and **Welthungerhilfe**, one of the largest private aid organisations in Germany.
- The GHI determines hunger on a **100-point scale**, where 0 is the best possible score (no hunger) and 100 is the worst. Each country’s GHI score is classified by severity, from low to extremely alarming.



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- It is based on 4 indicators:
  - **Undernourishment** - population with inadequate food availability
  - **Child wasting** - the share of children under the age of five who have low weight for their height, reflecting acute undernutrition
  - **Child stunting** - children under the age of five who have low height for their age, reflecting chronic undernutrition
  - **Child mortality** - the mortality rate of children under the age of five. Hence, **answer is option C.**
- The reason for mapping hunger is to ensure that the world achieves “**Zero Hunger by 2030**” — one of the Sustainable Development Goals laid out by the United Nations. It is for this reason that GHI scores are **not calculated for certain high-income countries.**

### Why in News?

- The Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2024 was released recently.

### Highlights of the Index

- India has been ranked **105th out of 127 countries** in the latest Index, placing it in the “**serious**” category for hunger levels.
- With a **GHI score of 27.3**, India’s performance remains concerning, particularly when compared to its South Asian neighbours such as Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, which fall into the “moderate” category.
- India is **listed alongside countries like Pakistan and Afghanistan**, which also face severe hunger challenges.
- The report reveals alarming statistics: **13.7 percent of India's population is undernourished, 35.5 percent of children under five are stunted, 18.7 percent suffer from wasting, and 2.9 percent of children die before their fifth birthday.**
  - These figures reflect deep-rooted issues related to undernutrition, unhealthy environments, and inadequate access to essential nutrients.
- The Global Hunger Index 2024 calls for **more decisive action** to address hunger in India and warns that without significant progress, the hunger crisis in the world's poorest countries could persist for decades.

### 5. Answer: D

### Explanation

#### About NGT

- It is a **statutory body** established in 2010 under the National Green Tribunal Act 2010.
- It is a specialized body equipped with the necessary expertise to handle **environmental disputes** involving multi-disciplinary issues.
- The Tribunal shall not be bound by the procedure laid down under the **Code of Civil Procedure, 1908**, but shall be guided by principles of **natural justice**.
- The Tribunal is vested with the powers of a **civil court** under the Code of Civil Procedure for discharging its functions but it can make its own rules.
- It provides speedy environmental justice and helps reduce the burden of litigation in the higher courts.

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- **New Delhi** is the Principal Place of Sitting of the Tribunal and **Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata** and **Chennai** shall be the other four places of sitting of the Tribunal.

### Tribunal's composition?

- The Tribunal has a presence in **five zones**- North, Central, East, South and West. The Principal Bench is situated in the North Zone, headquartered in Delhi.
- The Central zone bench is situated in Bhopal, East zone in Kolkata, South zone in Chennai and West zone in Pune.
- The Tribunal is headed by the **Chairperson** who sits in the Principal Bench and has at least ten but not more than twenty judicial members and at least ten but not more than twenty expert members.

### Tribunal's Jurisdiction

The NGT deals with civil cases under the seven laws related to the environment, these include

- **The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974**
- **The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977**
- **The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980**
- **The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981**
- **The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**
- **The Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991** and
- **The Biological Diversity Act, 2002**
- Two important acts – **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972** and **Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006** have been kept out of NGT's jurisdiction. Hence, **answer is option D.**
- The Tribunal has jurisdiction over all civil cases involving a substantial question relating to the environment. Additionally, any person aggrieved by an order/direction of any of the Appellate Authorities under the legislations mentioned above can also challenge them before the National Green Tribunal.

### Are decisions of the Court binding?

- Yes, decisions of the Tribunal are **binding**. The Tribunal's orders are enforceable as the powers vested are the same as in a civil court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.

### Are decisions of the Tribunal final?

- The Tribunal has powers to review its own decisions. If this fails, the decision can be challenged before the **Supreme Court** within ninety days.