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Daily MCQs: 12-02-2025

1. Consider the following with respect to the National Food Security Act, 2013.

1. The Act legally entitled the population to receive subsidized food grains under the Universal Public Distribution System.
2. According to the Act, Pregnant women and lactating mothers will be entitled to meals and maternity benefits of not less than Rs 6000.
3. The implementation of the scheme comes under the ambit of the Ministry of Agriculture and farmer's welfare.

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

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

2. The terms 'neutral', 'calibrated tightening', 'accommodative' sometimes seen in the news are related to

- A. Fiscal policy
- B. Monetary policy
- C. External trade
- D. Inflation

3. With reference to Ashtamudi Lake, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1) It is located in the state of Kerala.
- 2) The Kallada river is a major river which drains into the Ashtamudi lake.

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

4. Consider the following statements.

1. A country has a trade deficit when the value of its imports exceeds the value of its exports.
2. In the year 2023-24, India recorded a trade deficit with its largest trading partner.
3. The US is India's largest trading partner in 2023-24.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

5. Kursk Oblast became a strategic location in global news due to its involvement in which of the following conflicts?

- A. Russia-Georgia War
- B. Crimea Annexation
- C. Russia-Ukraine War
- D. Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict

Solutions:

1. Answer: A

Explanation:

- The National Food Security Act, 2013 was notified on 10th September, 2013 with the objective to provide for food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Act provides for coverage of upto 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population for receiving subsidized foodgrains under

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Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), thus covering about two-thirds of the population.

- The eligible persons will be **entitled to receive 5 Kgs of foodgrains per person per month at subsidised prices of Rs. 3/2/1 per Kg for rice/wheat/coarse grains**. The existing Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households, which constitute the poorest of the poor will continue to receive 35 Kgs of foodgrains per household per month.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Act also has a special focus on the nutritional support to women and children. Pregnant women and lactating mothers will be entitled to meals and maternity benefits of not less than Rs 6000. It is however restricted to two children only.
- Children upto 14 years of age will be entitled to nutritious meals as per the prescribed nutritional standards. In case of non-supply of entitled foodgrains or meals, the beneficiaries will receive food security allowance. The Act also contains provisions for setting up of grievance redressal mechanism at the District and State levels
- The eldest women of the household of age 18 years or above will be the head of the household for the purpose of issuing ration cards
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The implementation of the scheme comes under the ambit of the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution** (not under the Ministry of Agriculture and farmer's welfare).

2. Answer: B

Explanation:

- These terms indicate the central bank's monetary policy stance on deciding policy rates like repo rate.
- "Accommodative" indicates that the central bank is telling the market to expect a rate cut anytime, "neutral" means that RBI could either increase or reduce repo rates as per liquidity conditions, "calibrated tightening" means that a cut in the repo rate is unlikely in the current rate cycle.

3. Answer: C

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Explanation

- **Both the statements are correct.**
- Ashtamudi lake is located in Kollam District of **Kerala**.
- It is a gateway to several backwaters in Kerala.
- The **Kallada river** is a major river which drains into the Ashtamudi lake.
- The lake is surrounded by vegetation such as mangrove forests, coconut groves, and palm trees.
- **Munroe Island**, a cluster of eight tiny islands, lies in the Ashtamudi Lake.

4. Answer: B

Explanation:

- India has recorded a trade deficit with nine of its top 10 trading partners, including China, Russia, Singapore, and Korea, in 2023-24.
- A country has a trade deficit when the value of its imports exceeds the value of its exports. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **China has emerged as India's largest trading partner with \$118.4 billion of two-way commerce in 2023-24, edging past the US.**
- The data also showed that the **deficit with China (\$85 billion)**, Russia (\$57.2 billion), Korea (\$14.71 billion), and Hong Kong (\$12.2 billion) increased in the last fiscal compared to 2022-23, while the trade gap with the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Russia, Indonesia, and Iraq narrowed. **Hence, statement 2 is correct and statement 3 is incorrect.**
- India has a trade surplus of \$36.74 billion with the US in 2023-24.
- America is one of the few countries with which India has a trade surplus. The surplus is also there with the UK, Belgium, Italy, France and Bangladesh.
- India's total trade deficit in the last fiscal narrowed to \$238.3 billion as against \$264.9 billion in the previous fiscal.

5. Answer: C

Explanation

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- Kursk Oblast has been in the news due to its strategic location near the Russia-Ukraine border.
- Kursk Oblast is a region in Russia that shares its western border with Ukraine.
- It lies in the southwestern part of Russia, with the city of Kursk as its administrative center.

