

Q.1) The recently launched Saubhagya scheme is associated with

- a) Rural and Urban Electrification
- b) Primary Education
- c) Skill Development
- d) Micro-loans

Q.1) Solution (a)

PM Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (Saubhagya), every household in the country will be given an electricity connection. No price will be charged for the poor to get an electricity connection and the government will go to their houses to give them the connection.

Under the scheme, the power connection will be provided free of cost to all poor families.

The total outlay for Saubhagya is Rs 16,320 crore.

The outlay for rural households is Rs 14,025 crore, while that for urban households is Rs 2,295 crore. The urban non-poor are excluded from the scheme.

Rs 12,320 crore has been earmarked as gross budgetary support for Saubhagya.

The Union government will provide a 60 per cent grant toward funding the scheme, while the states will provide a 10 per cent grant. The remaining amount will be covered by loans.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/modi-launches-free-power-scheme-for-poor/article19752583.ece>

Q.2) Swiss Challenge is concerned with

- a) Black Money
- b) European Union
- c) Social Impact Assessment
- d) A process of giving contracts

Q.2) Solution (d)

A Swiss challenge is a form of public procurement in some jurisdictions which requires a public authority (usually an agency of government) which has received an unsolicited bid for a public project (such as a port, road or railway) or services to be provided to government, to publish the bid and invite third parties to match or exceed it.

Some Swiss challenges also allow the entity which submitted the unsolicited bid itself then to match or better the best bid which comes out of the Swiss challenge process.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/govt-may-open-railway-lines-to-private-players/article19748086.ece>

Q.3) Consider the following statements about Agreement on Agriculture (AoA)

1. It was negotiated during the Doha Development Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
2. All domestic support measures considered to distort production and trade (with some exceptions) fall into the Amber Box

Select the correct statements

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.3) Solution (b)

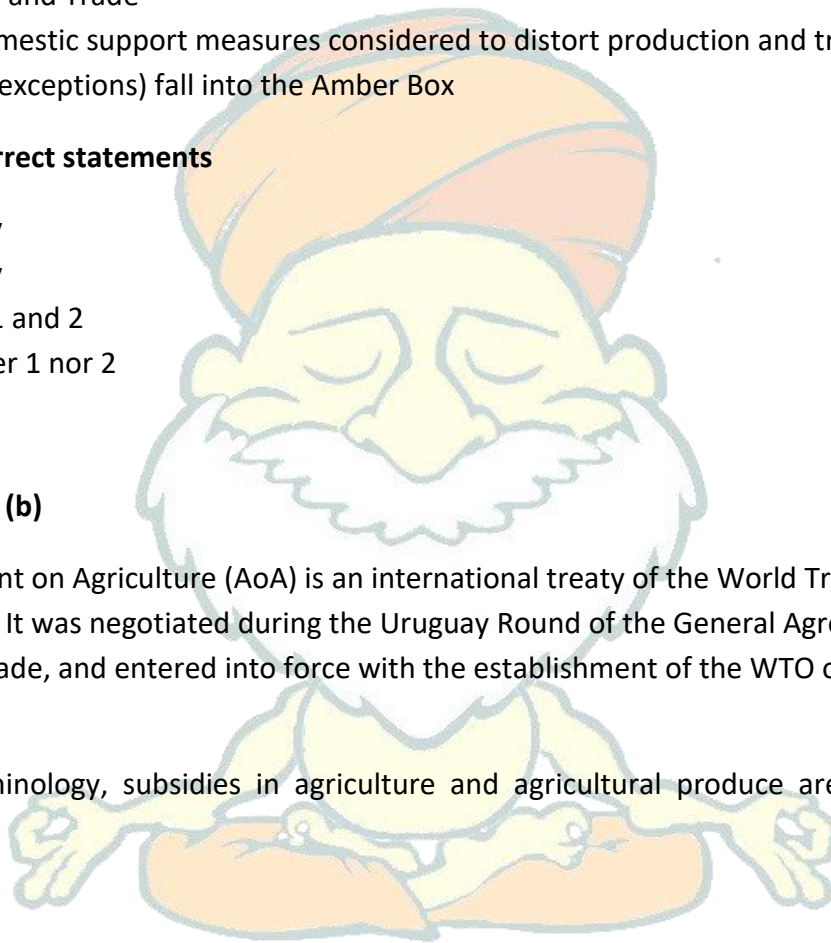
The Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) is an international treaty of the World Trade Organization. It was negotiated during the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, and entered into force with the establishment of the WTO on January 1, 1995.

In WTO terminology, subsidies in agriculture and agricultural produce are identified by "Boxes".

Green Box

- In simple terms, subsidies that do not distort trade fall in this box. According to WTO, green box subsidies should not distort trade, or at most cause minimal distortion.
- Example - environmental and conservation programs, research funding, inspection programs, domestic food aid including food stamps, and disaster relief , farmer training programs, pest-disease control program

Amber Box



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- The subsidies that distort the international trade by making products of a particular country cheaper as compared to same or similar product from another country is slotted under this box.
- They distort trade balance because they encourage excessive production, therefore given country's product becomes cheaper than others, in the international market.
- **Example** :- Input subsidies such as subsidy on electricity , seeds , fertilizers , irrigation etc. Market support price (MSP) subsidies also fall under this box.
- **WTO limit** –
 - For developed country - 5% of agriculture production in 1986-88
 - For developing country - 10% of agriculture production in 1986-88

Blue Box

- These are basically Amber Box subsidies but they tend to limit the production. . Any support that would normally be in the amber box, is placed in the blue box if the support also requires farmers to limit their production.
- This "Box" is a hotly debated topic. Countries argue that Blue box subsidies are crucial for ushering in agricultural reforms. Currently only few countries like Norway , Iceland , Slovenia etc use this kind of subsidies.
- **Example** - Subsidies that don't increase with production. For example subsidies linked with acreage or number of animals.

Source: <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/g33-nations-wants-sops-for-food-security-in-global-rules/articleshow/60834091.cms>

Q.4) Consider the following statements about G-33 countries.

1. It is an Informal coalition seeking to significantly reduce fisheries subsidies
2. It also seeks more disciplines on the use of anti-dumping measures

Select the correct statements

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.4) Solution (d)

G-33

Also called "Friends of Special Products" in agriculture. Coalition of developing countries pressing for flexibility for developing countries to undertake limited market opening in agriculture.

WTO members (47): Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Plurinational State of, Botswana, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Korea, Republic of, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Chinese Taipei, Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Source: <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/g33-nations-wants-sops-for-food-security-in-global-rules/articleshow/60834091.cms>

Q.5) Consider the following statements about 'Kaushal Panjee'

1. It is connected to the Social Economic Caste Census (SECC 2011)
2. It aims to be citizen centric end-to-end solution to aid mobilization of candidates for Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETI) and Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)

Select the correct statements

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.5) Solution (c)

Ministry of Rural Development has launched a mobilization platform 'Kaushal Panjee' (Skill Register).

The skill register aims to be citizen centric end-to-end solution to aid mobilization of candidates for RSETIs and DDU-GKY.

It facilitates mobilization through Self Help Group members, Gram Panchayat Functionaries, Block Officials, CSCs and directly by the candidate.

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RSETIs and DDU-GKY Partners can access the Kaushal Panjee to connect with the mobilized rural youth.

Kaushal Panjee is connected to the Social Economic Caste Census 2011 which will help the States plan and target their mobilizations based on the socio-economic profile of households in their State.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171070>

