

IASbaba's Daily Quiz

September 27, 2016

Q.1) Consider the following statements about Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

1. It is an autonomous body registered under the Registration of Societies Act of 1860
2. Minister of Science & Technology and Earth Sciences is the President of CSIR

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

Q.1) Solution (a)

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), established in 1942, is an autonomous body and the largest research and development (R&D) organisation in India. It runs 37 laboratories and 39 field stations or extension centres spread across the nation, with a collective staff of over 17000. Although it is mainly funded by the Ministry of Science and Technology, it operates as an autonomous body registered under the Registration of Societies Act of 1860.

The research and development activities of CSIR includes aerospace engineering, Structural engineering, ocean sciences, Life sciences, metallurgy, chemicals, mining, food, petroleum, leather, and environment.

Prime Minister is the President of CSIR.

Minister of Science & Technology and Earth Sciences is the Vice-President of CSIR

In News - <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/modi-lauds-csir-scientists-on-its-75th-anniversary/article9149673.ece>

Q.2) Consider the following statements with respect to WTO's principle of Most Favoured Nation (MFN)

1. It ensures equal rather than exclusive trading privileges between two partners
2. The principle of MFN is included in GATS, GATT and TRIPS
3. India withdrew the MFN status accorded to Pakistan

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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- a) 1 and 2
- b) 1 and 3
- c) 2 and 3
- d) All of the above

Q.2) Solution (a)

Under the World Trade Organisation (WTO) agreements, countries cannot normally discriminate between their trading partners. If any country grants one country a special favour such as a lower customs duty rate for one of their products the same would need to be extended to all other WTO members. This principle is known as most-favoured-nation (MFN) treatment.

MFN is so important a principle that it is the first article of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which governs trade in goods. MFN is also a priority in the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) (Article 2) and the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) (Article 4). Together, those three agreements cover all three main areas of trade handled by the WTO.

Some exceptions, however, are allowed under WTO regime. For example, countries can set up a free trade agreement that applies only to goods traded within the group — discriminating against goods from outside. Or they can give developing countries special access to their markets. Or a country can raise barriers against products that are considered to be traded unfairly from specific countries. And in services, countries are allowed, in limited circumstances, to discriminate. But the agreements only permit these exceptions under strict conditions. In general, MFN means that every time a country lowers a trade barrier or opens up a market, it has to do so for the same goods or services for all its trading partners whether developed or developing.

In international trade, MFN treatment is understood as being synonymous with non-discriminatory trade policy, because it ensures equal rather than exclusive trading privileges between two partners.

The Centre has clarified that it is not considering any proposal to withdraw the 'Most Favoured Nation' (MFN) status accorded to Pakistan

In News - <http://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/mfn-status-to-pakistan/article9144854.ece>

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Q.3) Consider the following statements with respect to Kaladan Multi-modal Transit Transport Project

1. It is a project between India, Bangladesh and Myanmar
2. The project consists of only naval routes
3. It will reduce the need to transport goods through the "Chicken's neck"

Which of the following is incorrect?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) 1 and 2
- d) 2 and 3

Q.3) Solution (c)

Kaladan Multi-modal Transit Transport Project is between India and Myanmar

The project consists of road and naval routes

It will reduce the need to transport good through the narrow Siliguri corridor, also known as Chicken's Neck

Siliguri Corridor - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siliguri_Corridor

Kaladan Multi-modal Transit Transport Project - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaladan_Multi-modal_Transit_Transport_Project

In News - http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/india-myanmar-agree-to-increase-bilateral-cooperation-116082901504_1.html

Q.4) Recently remotely operated vehicle (ROV) was in news. It is developed by

- a) National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) and ISRO
- b) SpaceX and NASA
- c) Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT)
- d) None of the above

Q.4) Solution (d)

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It is developed by The National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai

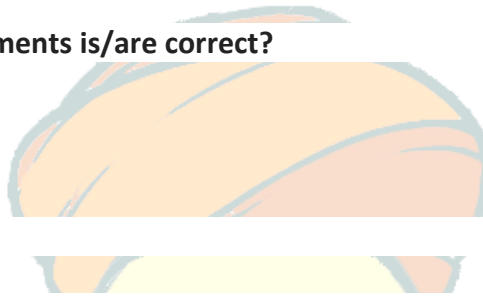
In News - <http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/indian-rov-monitors-the-health-of-coral-reefs/article9149517.ece>

Q.5) Consider the following statements about e-NAM Scheme:

1. It provides for a pan-India electronic trading portal for agricultural commodities
2. The lead agency for NAM is NABARD

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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



Q.5) Solution (a)

Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) will be the lead agency for the development of the National e-Market (not NABARD). Hence, second statement is incorrect.

In News - <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/haryana-to-integrate-54-mandis-with-enam/article9151633.ece>

