

Q.1) Consider the following statements about World Customs Organization (WCO)

1. It is an intergovernmental organisation based in Geneva
2. The Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System is developed and maintained by the WCO

Select the correct statements

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

Q.1) Solution (b)

The World Customs Organization (WCO) is an intergovernmental organization headquartered in Brussels, Belgium. The WCO is noted for its work in areas covering the development of international conventions, instruments, and tools on topics such as commodity classification, valuation, rules of origin, collection of customs revenue, supply chain security, international trade facilitation, customs enforcement activities, combating counterfeiting in support of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), drugs enforcement, illegal weapons trading, integrity promotion, and delivering sustainable capacity building to assist with customs reforms and modernization. The WCO maintains the international Harmonized System (HS) goods nomenclature, and administers the technical aspects of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreements on Customs Valuation and Rules of Origin.

The Harmonized System (HS) nomenclature was developed by the WCO and entered into force on 1 January 1988 through a Convention. Although Article II of the GATT (Schedules of Concessions) does not establish a specific nomenclature to be used by Members in this respect, and despite the fact that other nomenclatures such as the BTN and CCCN were used in the past, the HS has become the de facto standard for Members in this respect. The HS has also been used by WTO Members as a tool to define the products which are covered by certain agreements, the most important of which is probably Annex 1 of the Agreement on Agriculture. This Annex defines, in terms of Chapters, headings and subheadings of the 1992 version of the HS, which are the agricultural products. Therefore, changes in the HS have important legal implications for WTO Members, in particular with respect to their schedules.

The Harmonized System Committee of the WCO undertakes a periodic review of the HS to take account of changes in technology and patterns in international trade, and recommends amendments to the HS.

Read More - https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/coher_e/wto_wco_e.htm

<http://www.wcoomd.org/en/about-us/what-is-the-wco.aspx>

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/business/wco-backs-indias-trade-facilitation-plan/article19326517.ece>

Q.2) Recently National Dairy Development Board “NDDB’s” Quality Mark “Logo” was launched. Consider the following statements

1. It is launched by Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
2. The ‘Logo’ signifies safe and quality milk and milk products from dairy cooperatives
3. It proposes additional system for Food Safety and Quality Management

Select the ***incorrect*** statements

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

Q.2) Solution (c)

NDDB Quality Mark “Logo” is being launched as an umbrella brand identity. This “Logo” signifies safe and quality milk and milk products from dairy cooperatives. This reinforces the consumers’ recognition that the Quality Mark is synonymous with good quality.

It will provide dairy cooperatives and producer institutions the much-needed brand identity and a competitive edge. This will also contribute to building consumer confidence in dairy cooperative brands

It is aimed at bringing about process improvement in the entire value chain from producer to the consumers to ensure availability of quality milk and milk products.

This initiative does not propose any new/additional system for Food Safety and Quality Management but lays down the processes required for ensuring quality and safety.

It is launched by Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=168694>

Q.3) Consider the following statements about Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)

1. Article 148 provides for post of CAG of India
2. Life Insurance Corporation of India and State Bank of India are totally audited by CAG
3. It upholds the Constitution of India and the laws of Parliament in the field of financial administration

Select the correct statements

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

Q.3) Solution (c)

Article 148 provides for an independent office of the CAG.

SBI and LIC are totally subjected to private audit. Their audit is done exclusively by private professional auditors and the CAG does not come into picture at all. They submit their annual reports and accounts directly to the Parliament.

The organisations subject to the audit of the CAG are:-

- All the Union and State Government departments including the Indian Railways, Defence and Posts and Telecommunications.
- About 1500 public commercial enterprises controlled by the Union and State governments, i.e. government companies and corporations.
- Around 400 non-commercial autonomous bodies and authorities owned or controlled by the Union or the States.
- Bodies and authorities substantially financed from Union some of the local bodies and Panchayati Raj Institutions which are critical grass root agencies for implementation of developmental programmes and delivery of services.

The Audit Reports of the CAG submitted to the Parliament and State Legislatures consist of compliance and performance audit reports covering revenue collection and expenditure of Government, separate audit reports on the functioning of certain autonomous bodies as provided by legislation, reports on the Financial position of Central and State Governments and reports on the adherence to the Appropriation Acts passed by Parliament and Legislatures. The CAG also submits the certified annual accounts of the States, known as the Finance and Appropriation Accounts, to the State Legislatures.

Note – Revise Chapter on CAG from Laxmikanth

Source: <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/railways/after-bad-quality-food-cag-raps-railways-over-dirty-linen-management-issues/articleshow/59723745.cms>

Q.4) Gulf of Darien is lies

- a) Between Colombia and Panama
- b) Southeast coast of Cuba
- c) North of Australia
- d) Eastern part of the North Island of New Zealand

Q.4) Solution (a)



Gulf of Darién, Spanish Golfo De Darién, triangular southernmost extension of the Caribbean Sea, bounded by Panama on the southwest and by Colombia on the southeast and east. The inner section, which is called the Gulf of Urabá, is a shallow, mangrove-lined arm lying between Caribana Point and Cape Tiburón, Colombia. The delta of the Atrato River protrudes into the gulf.

Q.5) Drake Passage separates

- a) European and Asiatic Turkey
- b) Denmark and Sweden
- c) South America and Antarctica
- d) Southeast England and France

Q.5) Solution (c)

It is the body of water between South America's Cape Horn and the South Shetland Islands of Antarctica. It connects the southwestern part of the Atlantic Ocean (Scotia Sea) with the southeastern part of the Pacific Ocean and extends into the Southern Ocean.

