

IASbaba's Daily Quiz

December 12, 2017

Q.1) Consider the following statements about 'Orchestia gammarellus'

1. They are found only in the tropics
2. It is involved in breaking up of the plastic bags into microplastics

Select the correct statements

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

Q.1) Solution (b)

The amphipod *Orchestia gammarellus*, which inhabits coastal areas in northern and Western Europe, is involved in degrading plastic.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/how-marine-organisms-degrade-plastic-bags/article21386109.ece>

Q.2) Hambantota Port is located in

- a) Maldives
- b) Seychelles
- c) Djibouti
- d) Sri Lanka

Q.2) Solution (d)

Sri Lanka has formally handed over its southern port of Hambantota to China on a 99-year lease.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/sri-lanka-formally-hands-over-hambantota-port-on-99-year-lease-to-china/article21380382.ece>

Q.3) Consider the following statements

1. Charminar was built by Sultan Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah
2. Golkonda fort was first built by Sultan Quli Qutb-ul-Mulk

Select the correct statements

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

Q.3) Solution (a)

The fifth ruler of the Qutub Shahi dynasty Sultan Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah built the Charminar in 1591. After shifting his capital from Golkonda to Hyderabad he built a big structure of Charminar.

Golkonda was originally known as Mankal. Golkonda Fort was first built by the Kakatiya dynasty as part of their western defenses along the lines of the Kondapalli Fort. The fort was rebuilt and strengthened by Rani Rudrama Devi and her successor Prataparudra. Later, the fort came under the control of the Musunuri Nayaks, who defeated the Tughlaqi army occupying Warangal. It was ceded by the Musunuri Kapaya Naidu to the Bahmani Sultanate as part of a treaty in 1364.

Under the Bahmani Sultanate, Golkonda slowly rose to prominence. Sultan Quli Qutb-ul-Mulk (r. 1487–1543), sent as a governor of Telangana, established it as the seat of his government around 1501. Bahmani rule gradually weakened during this period, and Sultan Quli formally became independent in 1538, establishing the Qutb Shahi dynasty based in Golkonda. Over a period of 62 years, the mud fort was expanded by the first three Qutb Shahi sultans into the present structure, a massive fortification of granite extending around 5 km in circumference. It remained the capital of the Qutb Shahi dynasty until 1590 when the capital was shifted to Hyderabad. The Qutb Shahis expanded the fort, whose 7 kilometres (4.3 mi) outer wall enclosed the city.

The fort finally fell into ruin in 1687, after an eight year long siege leading to its fall at the hands of the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb.

Q.4) The 'Two Plus Four Agreement' is associated with

- a) Israel and Palestine
- b) Germany
- c) North and South Korea
- d) Sudan

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Q.4) Solution (b)

It was negotiated in 1990 between the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic (the eponymous "Two"), and the Four Powers which occupied Germany at the end of World War II in Europe: France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and the United States. In the treaty the Four Powers renounced all rights they held in Germany, allowing a united Germany to become fully sovereign the following year.

Signatories Two: East Germany and West Germany

Plus Four: France, Soviet Union, United Kingdom, United States

Q.5) Consider the following statements about Aggregate Measurement of Support (AMS)

1. It consists of only product-specific subsidies
2. Under Agreement on Agriculture (AoA), developing countries can give AMS up to 50 per cent of the value of agricultural production

Select the correct statements

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

Q.5) Solution (d)

WTO's Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) classifies domestic support or subsidies given by the government to farmers into different categories. An important type of subsidies or supports is Aggregate Measurement of Support (AMS). The AMS represents trade distorting domestic support and is referred as the "amber box".

AMS has two components viz

- 'product-specific' or the excess of price paid to farmers over international price or ERP (external reference price) multiplied by quantum of produce;
- 'non-product specific' or money spent on schemes to supply inputs such as fertilisers, seed, irrigation, electricity at subsidised rates.

As per the WTO provision, AMS is a trade distorting subsidy. Since it distorts trade by directly influencing production and price in an economy, the AMS is categorized as a 'reducible', 'non permissible' or 'non-exempted' subsidy.

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As per the WTO norms, the AMS can be given up to 10 % of a country's agricultural GDP in the case of developing countries. On the other hand, the limit is 5% for a developed economy. This limit is called de minimis level of support.

Read More - https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/agric_e/ag_intro03_domestic_e.htm

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/wto-diverse-views-fuel-bleak-prospect-for-outcomes/article21386433.ece>

