

Q1. Which of the following statements is correct with respect to the “Treaty on Open Skies”, was in the news recently?

- (a) It is a bilateral treaty between the Russian Federation and the European Union for energy security cooperation.
- (b) It is a multilateral cooperation treaty among the G20 nations for the promotion of trade.
- (c) It is a nuclear arms reduction agreement between the United States and the Russian Federation.
- (d) It is a multilateral treaty among five permanent nations of UNSC to regulate the control of nuclear-related technology.

Answer: C

Explanation:

In News- As the United States will withdraw from the Open Skies accord in November 2020. The remaining members of the 1992 Open Skies Treaty are moving forward with determining how the treaty will function following the planned withdrawal of the United States.

Option C is correct: Recently, The United States has insisted Russia that any future arms control talks must include China. The US wants a vision for a trilateral arms control agreement that includes both Russia and China. The New START treaty is a nuclear arms reduction agreement between the United States and the Russian Federation that was signed in Prague in 2010 and is going to expire in February 2021 unless both the countries agree to extend it for up to five years. The US is insisting on bringing China into the new arms control pact because of the growing threat posed by its nuclear arsenal, that the country is currently modernising.

Q2. Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to the Hydrogen Compressed Natural Gas (H-CNG)?

- 1. It is a mixture of compressed natural gas and along with 50 per cent hydrogen by energy.
- 2. It is used as fuel in the internal combustion engine and also for the home appliances.

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

In News- In a major step toward adopting substitute clean fuel for transportation, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has allowed the use of H-CNG (18% mix of hydrogen) in CNG engines.

Statement 1 is not correct but 2 is correct: The blending of hydrogen with CNG provides a blended gas termed as HCNG. It stands for hydrogen-enriched compressed natural gas and it combines the advantages of both hydrogen and methane. The Hydrogen Compressed Natural Gas (H-CNG) is a mixture of compressed natural gas and 4-9 per cent hydrogen by energy. It can be used as a fuel in an internal combustion engine and also for home appliances. As compared to conventional CNG, use of H-CNG can reduce the emission of carbon monoxide (CO) up to 70%, besides enabling up to 5% savings in fuel. Hydrogen has been regarded as a future secondary fuel for power system due to carbon-free operation. Hydrogen is an excellent additive to improve the combustion of hydrocarbon fuel due to its low ignition energy, high reactivity, diffusivity and burning velocity.

Q3. Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to the Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP)?

1. The first Defence Acquisition Procedure was promulgated in 2016.
2. Under the Defence Acquisition Procedure, 2020, New Category called Buy (Global – Manufacture in India) has been introduced.

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

In News- Recently, Defence Minister unveiled the Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020.

Statement 1 is not correct: The DAP 2020 will eventually replace the existing Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2016. DAP comprises processes that should be followed by the Government entities while procuring defence items. It is framed to simplify the defence procurement procedure and to achieve the objective of self-reliance. The procedure aims to promote indigenous design and manufacturing of defence weapons in a time-bound manner. The first Defence Acquisition Procedure was promulgated in 2002. Since then it has been revised several times.

Statement 2 is correct: DAP 2020 is padded with an assortment of new ideas – such as integration of artificial intelligence with platforms and systems, use of indigenous high-end material and special alloys, and setting up of a Project Management Unit to support contract management. Indigenous Content of various categories has been increased by 10%. This has been done to support the Make in India initiative.

New Category called Buy (Global – Manufacture in India) has been introduced. The items under this category will hold a minimum of 50% indigenous content on a cost basis of the total contract value.

Q4. Consider the following statements:

1. National Cooperative Development Corporation is an executive body established for export and import of agricultural produce.
2. The MSP is the rate at which the government buys grains from farmers, it is decided on the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).

Which of the statements given is/are **not correct**?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

In News- NCDC has sanctioned Rs 19,444 crore as the first instalment to the state of Haryana, Telangana and Chhattisgarh for carrying out Kharif paddy procurement operation at the minimum support price.

Statement 1 is not correct: NCDC was established by an Act of Parliament in 1963 as a statutory Corporation under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare. The sources of Funds of NCDC includes internal accruals, market borrowings and allocations from the Government of India including International assistance. The objectives of the body are- Production, processing, marketing, storage, export and import of agricultural produce, industrial goods and other notified items.

Statement 2 is correct: Minimum Support Price is the price set by the government to purchase crops from the farmers, whatever may be the market price for the crops. The minimum support prices are announced by the Government of India at the beginning of the sowing season for certain crops on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).

Q5. Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) is headed by which of the following?

- (a) Prime Minister
- (b) Defence Minister
- (c) Defence Secretary
- (d) Chief of Defence Staff

Answer: B

In News- Defence Minister recently released New Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) at Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) meeting.

Option B is correct: Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) is headed by the Defence Minister. The objective of the DAC is to ensure expeditious procurement of the approved requirements of the Armed Forces, in terms of capabilities sought, and time frame prescribed, by optimally utilizing the allocated budgetary resources.