

Q: Consider the following statement regarding the Arctic Council:

1. It was established by the eight Arctic States through the Ottawa Declaration.
2. It is a treaty-based international legal entity for the allocation of resources to the member states.
3. India is one of the observer member states of the Council.

Choose the incorrect option from the codes given below:

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Ans: a

Explanation:

- The Arctic Council was established by the eight Arctic States — the countries whose territories fall in the Arctic region — through the Ottawa Declaration of 1996. The eight Arctic States — Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and the United States — are the only members of the Arctic Council.
- The Arctic Council is not a treaty-based international legal entity like the UN bodies or trade, military or regional groupings like WTO, NATO or ASEAN. It is only an intergovernmental ‘forum’ to promote cooperation in regulating the activities in the Arctic region. It is a much more informal grouping.
- India was given the Observer status in 2013, along with five other countries — China, Italy, Japan, South Korea, and Singapore. Prior to this, only France, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain and the United Kingdom were granted Observer status.

Q: Which of the following countries are part of the Golden Crescent, infamous for opium production?

- a) Afghanistan, Iran, and Iraq
- b) Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan
- c) Myanmar, Laos, and Vietnam
- d) Malaysia, Laos, and Thailand

Ans: b

Explanation:

- Golden Triangle includes the regions of Myanmar, Laos, and Thailand. It is Southeast Asia’s main opium-producing region and one of the oldest narcotics supply routes to Europe and North America.
- Golden Crescent includes Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan. It is a principal global site for opium production and distribution.

Q: S.R. Bommai vs Union of India is related to which article of the Constitution of India?

- a) Article 280
- b) Article 368
- c) Article 356
- d) Article 370

Ans: c

Explanation:

SR Bommai Judgment

- In 1989, the Union government dismissed the Karnataka government by imposing President’s rule.
- The Karnataka Governor recommended to the President that he take over the state’s administration.
- The SC unanimously held that the President’s proclamation can be subject to judicial review on grounds of illegality, malafide, extraneous considerations, abuse of power, or fraud.
- While the President’s subjective appraisal of the issue cannot be examined, the material relied on for making the decision can be reviewed.

Q: Consider the following statements

1. Remission of Duties and Taxes on Export Products (RoDTEP) scheme is based on the globally accepted principle that taxes and duties should be exported.

2. The countervailing measures in India are administered by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied Duties under the Ministry of Finance.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: d

Explanation

- The U.S. and the European Union have now imposed countervailing duties (CVDs) on four Indian products, as a retaliation against the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Export Products (RoDTEP) scheme introduced for outbound shipments in January 2021.
- RoDTEP is based on the globally accepted principle that taxes and duties should not be exported, and taxes and levies borne on the exported products should be either exempted or remitted to exporters.
- The RoDTEP scheme rebates/refunds the embedded Central, State and local duties/taxes to the exporters that were so far not being rebated/refunded.
- Anti dumping and anti subsidies & countervailing measures in India are administered by the Directorate General of Anti dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD) functioning in the Dept. of Commerce in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the same is headed by the "Designated Authority.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Opium production:

1. Myanmar is the world's top producer of opium.
2. In India 80% of the opium is produced by Andhra Pradesh.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

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

Ans: a

Explanation:

- The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) released a report "Southeast Asia Opium Survey 2023: Cultivation, Production and Implications".
- Myanmar has become the world's top producer of opium, overtaking Afghanistan in 2023.
- Afghanistan, the world's biggest producer for some years, has seen cultivation collapse after the Taliban authorities vowed to end illegal drug production.
- Opium farming in Southeast Asia is due to poverty, lack of government services, challenging macroeconomic environments, instability and insecurity.
- In India, there are about 1 lakh farmers across 22 districts in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh with a license to cultivate opium.
- The majority of them are from three districts that border Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan — Mandsaur, Neemuch, and Chittorgarh.
- Together, these districts produce 80% of India's opium.