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Q11

In the context of which of the following do you sometimes find the terms 'amber box, blue box and green box' in the news? (a) WTO affairs (b) SAARC affairs (c) UNFCCC affairs (d) India-EU negotiations on FTA Official key: A.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2016 · General Studies · 2 marks · Economy

Indian economy, budget, schemes - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation**(a) Official key**

WTO affairs. Amber, blue and green boxes are the Agreement on Agriculture's colours for domestic support: trade-distorting (amber), production-limiting (blue) and minimally distorting (green). That stored letter is the official key.

(b)

SAARC affairs. The South Asian grouping does not use amber/blue/green box jargon for farm subsidies. This letter is not the key.

(c)

UNFCCC affairs. Climate talks use annexes, NDCs and mechanisms, not these boxes. This letter is not the key.

(d)

India-EU FTA talks. Those negotiations may discuss agriculture, but the box vocabulary is WTO AoA, not a bilateral FTA brand. This letter is not the key.

Summary

Official key is (a) WTO affairs. The three boxes classify domestic farm support under the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture. They are not SAARC, UNFCCC or India-EU FTA labels. Honour the stored letter (a).

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Amber box

Trade-distorting support, subject to reduction commitments (AMS)

Green box

Decoupled, minimally distorting support, generally permitted

Blue box

Support tied to production-limiting programmes

AoA

WTO Agreement on Agriculture

Peace Clause

Bali/Nairobi public-stockholding flexibility for developing members

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