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Q82

'Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA)' is sometimes seen in the news in the context of negotiations held between India and (a) European Union (b) Gulf Cooperation Council (c) Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (d) Shanghai Cooperation Organization Official key: A.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2017 · General Studies · 2 marks · Current Affairs and GK
Current events, government schemes, miscellaneous GK - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation**(a) Official key**

The Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement is the long-running proposed FTA-plus package negotiated between India and the European Union. News on BTIA refers to those talks. This option is the official key.

(b)

India-GCC talks have used other labels; BTIA in Indian usage is the EU track. This option is not the key.

(c)

OECD is not a customs union negotiating BTIA with India. This option is therefore wrong.

(d)

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation is a security-political grouping, not the BTIA counterpart. This option is not the key.

Summary

Official key is (a) European Union. BTIA is the India-EU broad trade and investment negotiation launched in 2007 and often stalled over market access, data and procurement. GCC, OECD and SCO are different partners or forums. In Indian Prelims usage, BTIA means the EU. Only (a) is correct.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

BTIA launch

India-EU negotiations began in 2007

Sticking points

Automobiles, wines/spirits, services, data, intellectual property, government procurement

EU Customs Union

Commission negotiates for member states

FTA vs BTIA

BTIA aimed to cover trade plus investment, not goods alone

Later talks

India-EU FTA/investment talks revived in the 2020s under a new mandate

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