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Daily Mcqs- January 11th 2021

1.The 'Dark fibre' recently seen in the news is related to which of the following?

- a) It is the part of the Internet below the private deep web that uses custom software and hidden networks superimposed on the architecture of the Internet
- b) It is fibre network used for illicit financial transaction by terrorist organization
- c) It is an unused optical fibre that has been laid but is not currently being used in fibre-optic communications
- d) It is a type of malware from cryptovirology that threatens to publish the victim's data or perpetually block access to it unless a ransom is paid

Answer: C

Explanation:

Dark fibre

- It is an **unused optical fibre that has been laid but is not currently being used in fibre-optic communications**. Since fibre-optic cable transmits information in the form of light pulses, a "dark" cable refers to one through which light pulses are not being transmitted.
- It is also known as **unlit fibre**.

Recently, three **major telecom service providers**, Reliance Jio Infocomm, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea, have approached the state-run **Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL)** to use its **dark fibre**. It will help the telecom service providers to cut down on their capital expenditure. The unused infrastructure of BBNL will be used to **expand the presence in rural India and offer 4G as well as other long-term evolution (LTE) mobile telephony services**.

Bharat Broadband Network Limited

- It is a **Special Purpose Vehicle** set up by the **Government of India** under the **Companies Act, 1956** with an authorized capital of ₹1000 crore.
- It comes under the **Ministry of Communications and Information Technology**.
- In 2011, it was **mandated to create the National Optical Fiber Network (NOFN)** in India which was later renamed as **the BharatNet project** in 2015

2. Consider the following statements about Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana

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- 1) It strives to build the capacity of women in the domain of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises(MSME)
- 2) It is a sub-component of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana :

- The “Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana” (MKSP), a sub component of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) seeks to improve the present status of women in Agriculture, and to enhance the opportunities available to empower her. Hence statement 2 is correct.
- MKSP recognizes the identity of “Mahila” as “Kisan” and strives to build the capacity of women in the domain of agro-ecologically sustainable practices (not MSME’s). Hence statement 1 is Incorrect.
- Vision: To reach out to the poorest of poor households and expand the portfolio of activities currently handled by the Mahila Kisan.
- The focus of MKSP is on capacitating smallholders to adopt sustainable climate resilient agro-ecology and eventually create a pool of skilled community professionals.
- Its objective is to strengthen smallholder agriculture through promotion of sustainable agriculture practices such as :
- Community Managed Sustainable Agriculture (CMSA),
- Non Pesticide Management (NPM),
- Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF),
- Pashu-Sakhi model for doorstep animal care services,
- Sustainable regeneration and harvesting of Non-Timber Forest Produce.

<http://vikaspedia.in/agriculture/women-and-agriculture/mahila-kisan-sashaktikaran-pariyojana>

DAY-NRLM

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- Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India in June 2011 as a restructured version of Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojna (SGSY).
- The Mission aims at creating efficient and effective institutional platforms of the rural poor enabling them to increase household income through sustainable livelihood enhancements and improved access to financial services.

<http://vikaspedia.in/social-welfare/rural-poverty-alleviation-1/schemes/aajeevika>

3. Which among the following is/are components of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) Programme?

1. Promotion of Affordable Housing for weaker section through credit linked subsidy
2. Affordable Housing in Partnership with Public & Private sectors
3. Subsidy for beneficiary-led individual house construction /enhancement
4. Slum rehabilitation of Slum Dwellers with participation of private developers using land as a resource

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4 only

Answer: D

Explanation:

- Mission Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) for ensuring housing for all in urban areas was launched in 2015 which is to be implemented during 2015-2022.
- The Mission provides central assistance to all eligible families/ beneficiaries across all statutory towns for houses included under the mission.
- States/UTs will have the flexibility to include the Planning Areas (to the exclusion of rural areas) as notified with respect to Statutory Towns and such Planning Areas (to the exclusion of rural areas) as notified by development authorities.
- To address Housing for All in urban area, the Mission has four verticals:

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- In-situ Slum Redevelopment (ISSR) with participation of private developers using land as resource for providing housing to eligible slum dwellers;
- affordable housing through credit-linked subsidy scheme (CLSS now renamed as CLSS for EWS/LIG);
- affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP) with public and private sectors;
- subsidy for beneficiary-led individual house construction/ enhancements; size of house for Economically Weaker Section (EWS) is 30 sq. mt., in the carpet area but states have flexibility to enhance the size of houses in consultation with the Ministry.

4. Consider the following statements regarding the Swadesh Darshan

1. It is coordinated by the Ministry of Jal Shakti under the Swachh Bharat Mission
2. It aims to develop theme-based tourist circuits in the country on the principles of competitiveness and sustainability in an integrated manner

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: B

Explanation

Swadesh Darshan Scheme

- It was launched by the Ministry of Tourism
- **Objective:** To develop theme-based tourist circuits in the country. These tourist circuits will be developed on the principles of high tourist value, competitiveness and sustainability in an integrated manner.
- The Scheme is **100% centrally funded** and efforts are made to achieve convergence with other schemes of Central and State Governments and also to leverage the voluntary funding available for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives of Central Public Sector Undertakings and Corporate Sector.

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The scheme has following objectives:

- Position tourism as a major engine of economic growth and job creation;
- Develop circuits having tourist potential in a planned and prioritized manner;
- Promote cultural and heritage value of the country to generate livelihoods in the identified regions;
- Follow community based development and pro-poor tourism approach;
- Create employment through active involvement of local communities;
- They are identified as **tourist circuits** under this scheme. Tourist Circuit is defined as a route having at least three major tourist destinations which are distinct and apart. Circuits should have well defined entry and exit points. A tourist who enters should get motivated to visit most of the places identified in the circuit.
- A Circuit could be confined to a State or could be a regional circuit covering more than one State/Union Territory. These circuits may have one dominant theme and other sub-themes.
- Projects under the scheme shall be under the following identified themes; **Eco-tourism, Wildlife, Buddhist, Desert, Spiritual, Ramayana, Krishna, Coastal, Northeast, Rural, Himalayan, Tribal and Heritage**

Statement 1 refers to Swachh Iconic Places (SIP)

- It is coordinated by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti under the Swachh Bharat Mission.
- Aims to take iconic places and their surroundings to higher standards of Swachhata, so that all visitors benefit and also take away home the message of cleanliness.
- Implementation of the project: It is a collaborative project with three other central Ministries: Urban Development, Culture, Tourism

5. Consider the following actions by the Government

1. Cutting the tax rates
2. Increasing the government spending
3. Rationalising subsidies

Which of the above actions can be considered a part of the “fiscal consolidation” package?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only

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- C. 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: **C**

Explanation:

- Fiscal Consolidation refers to the policies undertaken by Governments (national and sub-national levels) to reduce their deficits and accumulation of debt stock.
- Cutting the tax rates and Increasing the government spending increases the government's debt stock.
- Abolishing subsidies helps the government to reduce its expenditure and improve its fiscal position. **Hence, option C is correct.**

