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Daily MCQs: 08/03/2023

1. Consider the following statements.

1. Biofortification is the process by which the nutrient density of food crops is increased through selective breeding, improved agronomic practices or modern biotechnology.
2. Biofortification in India is prohibited under the Environment Protection Act, 1986.

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

2. Consider the following statements about the Seekho aur Kamao (Learn & Earn) Scheme.

1. The scheme entails upgrading the skills of the beneficiaries which can earn them suitable employment or equip them with skills to opt for self-employment.
2. It is implemented by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

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

3. Which of the following initiatives aims at promoting the food processing sector by creating modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet?

- A. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana
- B. Swarna Jayanthi Sagari Rozhar Yojana
- C. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana
- D. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana

4. With reference to the National Companies Law Tribunal (NCLT), consider the following statements.

1. It is a quasi-judicial authority which settles disputes which are related to corporate cases.
2. It acts as the appellate authority under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.

Which among the above statements is/are incorrect?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

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5. The INSPIRE programme of the Department of Science & Technology aims to

- A. Empower and instill confidence in women by providing knowledge, tools and techniques for interacting with Government systems
- B. To create and promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship across the country
- C. Encourage students to study science subjects
- D. Enable NRIs to participate and contribute to research and development in India

Solutions:

1. Answer: A

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Biofortification is the process by which the **nutrient density of food crops is increased** through **selective breeding, improved agronomic practices or modern biotechnology**.
- It's **not the same as 'fortified' foods** that have **micronutrients added to them during processing**.

Focus Areas

- The **most common micronutrient deficiencies are iron and zinc**, with 2 billion people affected worldwide with **anaemia** (30% of the world's population), says the World Health Organization.
- **Vitamin A** deficiency is not far behind. **This triad**, vital to our health, especially for the development of children, women, and other vulnerable sections (seniors or those who have low immunity), is the **focus of biofortification research**.
- **Children** are especially vulnerable to micronutrient deficiencies. Lack of zinc in childhood leads to poor growth and stunting, vitamin A deficiency can cause night blindness and poor immunity, while iron deficiency leads to poor mental and physical development.
- In India, the **focus is on six staples**. These are pearl millet (iron), wheat (zinc), sorghum (iron), rice (zinc), cowpeas (iron) and lentils (iron and zinc). Currently, **biofortified pearl millet, rice, and wheat** are available to farmers in India.

Measure by Government

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Government of India has given a strong endorsement to staple crop biofortification as a **sustainable and cost-effective solution to alleviate malnutrition**.
- On World Food Day 2020 (October 16), Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation 17 recently-developed biofortified seed varieties of eight local and traditional crops, including wheat and paddy rice, that are being made available to Indian farmers.
- Further, to encourage biofortification amongst farming communities, **Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR)** has started the **Nutri-Sensitive Agricultural Resources and Innovations (NARI) programme** for promoting family farming linking agriculture to nutrition, nutri-smart villages for enhancing nutritional security.
- Under NARI, location-specific nutrition garden models are being developed and promoted by **Krishi Vigyan Kendras** (agricultural extension centers in India) to ensure access to locally available, healthy and diversified diets with adequate macro and micronutrients.

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Impacts on Health

- After a decade of testing, the first iron-rich pearl millet named *Dhanashakti* was released in 2012 in Maharashtra, and in 2013 across India. Studies also show that iron-deficient women can absorb twice the amount of iron from this variety, when compared to non-biofortified grain.
- In fact, consumption of 200 grams of *Dhanashakti* every day can provide women with more than 80% of their daily iron needs.

2. Answer: A

Sol:

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Seekho aur Kamao (Learn & Earn) is a scheme implemented by the **Ministry of Minority Affairs** since 2013-14 and is **aimed at skill development of minorities**.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** The scheme entails upgrading the skills of minority youth in various modern/traditional skills depending upon their qualification, present economic trends and market potential, which can earn them suitable employment or equip them with skills to opt for self-employment.

Objectives

- The scheme aims to:
 - To bring down the unemployment rate of minorities;
 - To conserve and update traditional skills of minorities and establish their linkages with the market;
 - To improve employability of existing workers, school dropouts etc. and ensure their placement;
 - To generate means of better livelihood for marginalized minorities and bring them into the mainstream;
 - To enable minorities to avail opportunities in the growing market;
 - To develop potential human resources for the country.

3. Answer: C

Sol:

- The **Ministry of Food Processing Industries** has been implementing the Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY) since 2017.
- SAMPADA (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters) is a comprehensive package which **aims to create modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet**.
- It aims to provide a big boost to the growth of the food processing sector in the country and also help in providing better returns to farmers, reducing wastage of agricultural produce, increasing the processing level and enhancing the export of the processed foods.
- Under PMKSY the following schemes are to be implemented.

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- Mega Food Parks
- Integrated Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure
- Creation/Expansion of Food Processing/Preservation Capacities
- Infrastructure for Agro Processing Clusters
- Scheme for Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages
- Food Safety & Quality Assurance Infrastructure
- Human Resources and Institutions

Objectives of PMKSY

- Creation of modern infrastructure for food processing mega food parks/ clusters and individual units
- To create effective backward and forward linkages - linking farmers, processors and markets
- To create robust supply chain infrastructure for perishables

4. Answer: B

Sol:

- National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) was established under the Companies Act 2013 and was constituted in 2016 to handle the laws regarding the companies.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** It operates as a quasi-judicial authority which handles the structures, laws and settles disputes which are related to corporate cases. The NCLT is formed on Article 245 in the constitution of India.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016, the NCLT is the **Adjudicating Authority**. The **National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)** acts as the appellate authority.

5. Answer: C

Sol:

- Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) is an innovative programme sponsored and managed by the **Department of Science & Technology (DST)** which aims to attract, motivate, nurture and train talented and meritorious students to study science subjects and opt for careers in Research and Development (R&D) to build a pipeline of quality human resource, thereby widening the R&D human resource base of the country.
- The basic objective of INSPIRE is to
 - Communicate to the youth of the country the excitements of creative pursuit of science,
 - Attract talent to the study of science at an early age and thus build the required critical human resource pool for strengthening and expanding the science & technology system and r&d base.
 - A striking feature of the programme is that it **does not believe in conducting competitive exams** for identification of talent at any level.

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- It believes in and relies on the efficacy of the **existing educational structure for identification of talent.**
- INSPIRE has three components:
 - **Scheme for Early Attraction of Talent (SEATS)**
 - **Scholarship for Higher Education (SHE)**
 - **Assured Opportunity for Research Careers (AORC)**

INSPIRE Award MANAK

- The **INSPIRE Awards - MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspirations and Knowledge)**, being executed by DST with **National Innovation Foundation-India**, aims to motivate **students in the age group of 10-15 years** and studying in **classes 6 to 10.**
- The objective of the scheme is to target one million original ideas/innovations rooted in science and societal applications to foster a culture of creativity and innovative thinking among school children.

