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Daily MCQs: 31-07-2024

1. Afghanistan shares its land border with which of the following countries?

1. Iran
2. Pakistan
3. Kazakhstan
4. Tajikistan

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

2. Consider the following statements about the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY).

1. PKVY primarily aims to increase soil fertility and thereby helps in production of healthy food through organic practices without the use of agro-chemicals.
2. It is a central sector scheme with 100% funding from the central government.

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. Biostimulants are often derived from which of the following natural sources?

- 1) Seaweed extracts
- 2) Humic substances
- 3) Microbial inoculants

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- A) 1 and 2 only
- B) 2 and 3 only
- C) 1 and 3 only
- D) 1,2 and 3

4. Which of the following countries hold the largest reserves of lithium in the world?

- A. Australia
- B. Chile
- C. Argentina
- D. China

5. The objective of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana is to

- A. Empowering gram sabhas by increasing financial allocation

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- B. Provide 100 days of wage employment to every household in rural areas
- C. Provide road connectivity to unconnected habitations
- D. Connect 2,50,000 gram panchayats through optical fibre

Solutions:

1. Answer: C

Explanation

- Afghanistan shares its land borders with the following countries:
 - Iran to the west.
 - Pakistan to the south and east.
 - Tajikistan to the north-east.
- Kazakhstan does not share a border with Afghanistan.



2. Answer: A

Explanation

- Under Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Organic farming is promoted through adoption of organic villages by cluster approach and Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) certification.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** This is a Government of India and the State government shared scheme with a sharing pattern of 60:40.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** It primarily aims to increase soil fertility and thereby helps in production of healthy food through organic practices without the use of agro-chemicals.

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- PKVY also aims at empowering farmers through institutional development through clusters approach not only in farm practice management, input production, quality assurance but also in value addition and direct marketing through innovative means.
- Under PKVY farmers are provided financial assistance of Rs 50,000 per hectare/ 3 years is given, out of which Rs. 31,000 (61%) is provided directly through DBT for inputs bio fertilisers, bio-pesticides, organic manure, compost, vermi-compost, botanical extracts etc.
- It will **increase domestic production** and certification of organic produce by involving farmers.

The Scheme envisages

- Promotion of commercial organic production through certified organic farming.
- The produce will be pesticide residue free and will contribute to improve the health of consumers.
- It will raise farmer's income and create a potential market for traders.
- It will motivate the farmers for natural resource mobilization for input production.

Programme implementation

- Groups of farmers would be motivated to take up organic farming under Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana.
- Fifty or more farmers will form a cluster having 50 acre land to take up organic farming under the scheme. In this way during three years 10,000 clusters will be formed covering 5.0 lakh acre area under organic farming.
- There will be no liability on the farmers for expenditure on certification.
- Every farmer will be provided Rs. 20,000 per acre in three years for seed harvesting of crops and to transport produce to the market.
- Organic farming will be promoted by using traditional resources and the organic products will be linked with the market.
- It will increase domestic production and certification of organic produce by involving farmers

3. Answer: D

Explanation

- Biostimulants are substances or microorganisms that, when applied to plants, seeds, or soil, enhance plant growth, nutrient efficiency, tolerance to abiotic stresses (like drought or extreme temperatures), and crop quality.
- Unlike fertilizers, which directly supply nutrients, biostimulants work by stimulating the plant's natural processes, improving overall plant health and productivity.

Key Components of Biostimulants

1. **Seaweed Extracts:** Rich in plant hormones such as cytokinins, auxins, and gibberellins, which promote growth and improve stress tolerance.
2. **Humic Substances:** These include humic acids which enhance soil fertility, improve nutrient uptake, and stimulate plant root growth.
3. **Amino Acids and Peptides:** These organic compounds are involved in the synthesis of proteins and other essential molecules in plants, helping them to recover from stress and grow more vigorously.
4. **Microbial Inoculants:** Beneficial microorganisms, such as bacteria and fungi, that enhance nutrient availability, protect against pathogens, and improve soil structure.

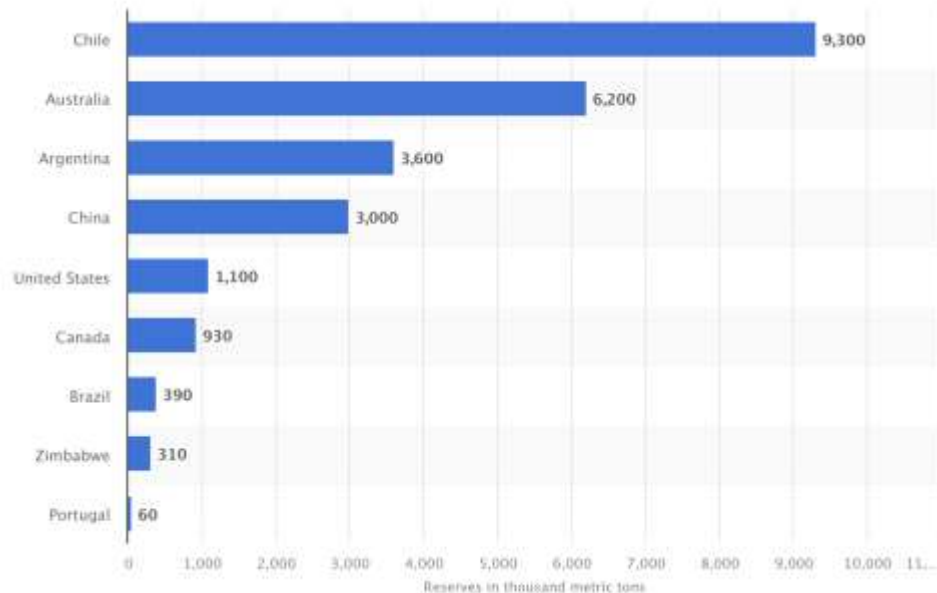
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4. Answer: B

Explanation

- Chile has the largest reserves of lithium worldwide, accounting for over one-third of the total reserves as of 2023. This was followed by Australia, with a 22.4 percent share of global lithium reserves.



5. Answer: C

Explanation

- The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), was launched in 2000 as a centrally **sponsored scheme**.
- Aim: To provide **connectivity to unconnected habitations of designated population size** (500+ in plain areas and 250+ in North-East, hill, tribal and desert areas as per Census, 2001).
- The Government had launched **Phase III** of PMGSY in 2019 for consolidation of Through Routes and Major Rural Links connecting habitations to Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs), Higher Secondary Schools and Hospitals.
- The **Ministry of Rural Development** along with state governments is responsible for the implementation of PMGSY.
- The spirit and the objective of the scheme is to provide good all-weather road connectivity to **unconnected habitations**. A habitation which was **earlier provided all-weather connectivity would not be eligible even if the present condition of the road is bad**.
- The unit for this Programme is a **Habitation** and not a Revenue village or a Panchayat. A Habitation is a cluster of population, living in an area, the location of which does not change over time.

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- PMGSY promotes the use of **new and green technology** in the process of rural road construction. **Locally available materials** are used in road construction activities to promote cost effective and fast construction.
- The PMGSY shall cover **only the rural areas**. Urban roads are excluded from the purview of this Programme.
- Currently, the fund sharing pattern of PMGSY is **60:40** between the **Centre and States** for all states **except for North Eastern and Himalayan States**. For these states the fund sharing pattern is **90:10**.
- In **union territories**, **100%** of funds will be provided by the **Central Government**.

