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Daily MCQs: 12-09-2024

1. Consider the following statements in relation to PM-KUSUM Scheme

1. It's aimed at promoting the use of solar energy among farmers and reducing their dependence on diesel-powered agricultural pumps.
2. It was launched by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.

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 Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)

- 1) It provides a comprehensive insurance cover against crop damage or loss arising out of unforeseen events.
- 2) All crops except oilseeds are covered under the scheme.
- 3) A uniform premium of 2% is to be paid by farmers for all Kharif crops.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

3. With reference to the Competition Commission of India (CCI), consider the following statements.

1. It is a statutory body.
2. Its objective is to prevent practices having adverse effects on competition.
3. It is responsible for the implementation of Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

4. With reference to 'Eco-sensitive zones (ESZ)', consider the following statements.

1. As a general principle, land falling within 100 kms of the boundaries of the National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries are categorized as Eco-sensitive Zones.
2. They are declared under the Environment Protection Act, 1986.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only

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

5. Consider the following with respect to the National Food Security Act, 2013.

1. The Act legally entitled the population to receive subsidized food grains under the Universal Public Distribution System.
2. According to the Act, Pregnant women and lactating mothers will be entitled to meals and maternity benefits of not less than Rs 6000.
3. The implementation of the scheme comes under the ambit of the Ministry of Agriculture and farmer's welfare.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solutions:

1. Answer: A

Explanation

- The **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthan Mahabhiyan (PM KUSUM) Scheme** was launched in 2019 for installation of solar pumps and grid connected solar and other renewable power plants in the country. Thus it's aimed at **promoting the use of solar energy among farmers** and reducing their dependence on diesel-powered agricultural pumps. Hence **statement 1 is correct**.
- It was launched by the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy**. Hence **statement 2 is incorrect**.
- Under the Kusum scheme farmers, panchayats, co-operative societies can apply to plant a solar pump. The total cost involved in this scheme is divided into three categories in which the Government will help farmers.
- Government will provide a subsidy of 60% to farmers and 30% of the cost will be given by the Government in the form of loans. Farmers will only have to give 10% of the total cost of the project. The electricity generated from the solar panel can be sold by the farmers.
- The scheme consists of three components:
 - **Component-A:** 10,000 MW of Decentralized Ground Mounted Grid Connected Renewable Power Plants.
 - **Component-B:** Installation of 17.50 lakh standalone Solar Powered Agriculture Pumps.
 - **Component-C:** Solarisation of 10 Lakh Grid-connected Solar Powered Agriculture Pumps.

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Benefits of the Scheme:

- The Scheme will have **substantial environmental impact in terms of savings of CO2 emissions**. All three components of the Scheme combined together are likely to result in saving about 27 million tonnes of CO2 emission per annum.
- Further, Component-B of the Scheme on standalone solar pumps may result in saving of 1.2 billion liters of diesel per annum and associated **savings in the foreign exchange** due to reduction of import of crude oil.
- The scheme has direct employment potential. Besides increasing self-employment the proposal is likely to generate employment opportunities equivalent to 6.31 lakh job years for skilled and unskilled workers.

2. Answer: B

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** PMFBY, launched in **2016**, provides a **comprehensive insurance cover** against crop damage or loss arising out of unforeseen events.
- The scheme is administered by the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare**.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect: Crops covered:** Oilseed crops; all food crops; Annual commercial/horticultural crops.
- **Statement 3 is correct: Premium:** There will be a uniform premium of **2%** to be paid by farmers for all **Kharif crops** and **1.5%** for all **Rabi crops**. For **annual commercial and horticultural crops**, the premium to be paid by farmers will be **5%**.
- The balance premium is shared by the **Central and State Government on a 50:50 basis** and **90:10** in case of **North Eastern States**.
- **Coverage:** It aims at covering the losses suffered by farmers such as **pre-sowing losses, post-harvest losses** due to cyclonic rains and losses due to **unseasonal rainfall** in India. It also covers **losses due to localized calamities** such as inundation, hailstorm and landslide risks.
- **Exclusions:** The losses arising out of war and nuclear risks, malicious damage and other preventable risks are not covered under this scheme.
- The scheme is implemented by **empanelled general insurance companies**. The funds for the scheme come from the **Krishi Kalyan Kosh**.

3. Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Competition Commission of India (CCI) is a **statutory body** established under the **Competition Act, 2002** for the administration, implementation and enforcement of the Act.
- The following are the objectives of the Commission.
 - To prevent practices having adverse effects on competition. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - To promote and sustain competition in markets.

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- To protect the interests of consumers and
- To ensure freedom of trade
- CCI consists of a Chairperson and 6 Members appointed by the Central Government.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 [MRTP Act] repealed and was replaced by the Competition Act, 2002.

4. Answer: B

Explanation:

- ESAs are defined as those areas that are ecologically and economically important, but vulnerable even to mild disturbances, and hence demand careful management.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** As a general principle, **land falling within 10 kms** of the boundaries of the National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries are categorised as Eco-Fragile Zones or Eco-sensitive Zones.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** They are declared under the **Environment Protection Act, 1986**.
- The purpose of declaring Eco-sensitive Zones around National parks and Sanctuaries is to create some kind of "**Shock Absorber**" for the Protected Areas. They would also act as a **transition zone** from areas of high protection to areas involving lesser protection.
- The activities in the eco-sensitive zones would be of a **regulatory nature rather than prohibitive nature**, unless and otherwise so required.

5. Answer: B

Explanation:

- The National Food Security Act, 2013 was notified on 10th September, 2013 with the objective to provide for food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Act provides for coverage of upto 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population for receiving subsidized foodgrains under **Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)**, thus covering about two-thirds of the population.
- The eligible persons will be **entitled to receive 5 Kgs of foodgrains per person per month at subsidised prices of Rs. 3/2/1 per Kg for rice/wheat/coarse grains**. The existing Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households, which constitute the poorest of the poor will continue to receive 35 Kgs of foodgrains per household per month.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Act also has a special focus on the nutritional support to women and children. Pregnant women and lactating mothers will be entitled to meals and maternity benefits of not less than Rs 6000. It is however restricted to two children only.
- Children upto 14 years of age will be entitled to nutritious meals as per the prescribed nutritional standards. In case of non-supply of entitled foodgrains or meals, the beneficiaries will receive food security allowance. The Act also contains provisions for setting up of grievance redressal mechanism at the District and State levels

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- The eldest women of the household of age 18 years or above will be the head of the household for the purpose of issuing ration cards
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The implementation of the scheme comes under the ambit of the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution** (not under the Ministry of Agriculture and farmer's welfare).

