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Daily MCQs: 13-09-2024

1. Which of the following statements about the PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana is correct?

- A. It aims to provide 100% solar energy to all government buildings.
- B. It provides subsidies to install rooftop solar panels for residential consumers.
- C. It mandates that all new buildings must have solar panels installed.
- D. It focuses only on rural electrification projects.

2. Consider the following statements about PM SHRI Schools

- 1) PM SHRI Schools are a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Education.
- 2) The primary aim of PM SHRI Schools is to provide free education to all children in India.

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 regions is often referred to as the world's "Third Pole"?

- A. Central Siberian Plateau
- B. Columbia Icefield
- C. Perito Moreno glacier
- D. Himalaya, Karakoram and Hindu Kush mountain ranges

4. Which of the following protected areas in India is a critical habitat for the Golden Langur?

- A. Ranthambore National Park
- B. Kaziranga National Park
- C. Manas National Park
- D. Gir National Park

5. The terms 'neutral', 'calibrated tightening', 'accommodative' sometimes seen in the news are related to

- A. Fiscal policy
- B. Monetary policy
- C. External trade
- D. Inflation

Solutions:

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1. Answer: B

Explanation

- In a bid to boost solar power and sustainable progress, the Government of India has launched the PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana (PM-SGMBY) with a total outlay of ₹75,021 crore for **installing rooftop solar in one crore households nationwide.**
- The scheme aims to **provide free electricity up to 300 units every month to the one crore households of the country.**

About the Scheme

- Under the scheme, the **households who opt to install rooftop solar electricity units will get 300 units of electricity for free every month.**
- The scheme **focuses on the household segment with up to 3 kW systems**, which covers most of the residential consumers in India.
- The households will apply for subsidy through the **National Portal** (<https://pmsuryaghar.gov.in>) and will be able to select a suitable vendor for installing rooftop solar.

What is the amount of subsidy for households?

- The initiative offers a **subsidy of 60% of the solar unit cost for systems up to 2 kW capacity** and **40%** of the extra system cost for **systems between 2 and 3 kW capacity.**
- The subsidy is **limited to systems up to 3 kW capacity.**
- Based on current benchmark prices, eligible beneficiaries will receive a subsidy of Rs 30,000 for 1 kW systems, Rs 60,000 for 2 kW systems, and Rs 78,000 for 3 kW systems or higher.
- Households will also be able to access **collateral-free low-interest loan products of around 7%** for installation of residential Rooftop Solar systems up to 3 kW.

Other Features of the Scheme

- A **Model Solar Village** will be developed in **each district** of the country to act as a role model for adoption of rooftop solar in rural areas.
- **Urban Local Bodies and Panchayati Raj Institutions** shall also benefit from incentives for promoting RTS installations in their areas.

Outcome and Impact

- Through this scheme, the households will be **able to save electricity bills** as well as **earn additional income through sale of surplus power to DISCOMs.**
- The proposed scheme will result in **addition of 30 GW of solar capacity** through rooftop solar in the residential sector, generating **1000 BUs (billion units) of electricity** and resulting in **reduction of 720 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent emissions** over the 25-year lifetime of rooftop systems.
- It is estimated that the scheme will create around **17 lakh direct jobs** in manufacturing, logistics, supply chain, sales, installation, O&M and other services.

Who is eligible for PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana?

- Individuals must meet the following criteria to apply for the scheme:
 1. Indian citizenship.
 2. Ownership of a house with a suitable roof for solar panel installation.
 3. Possession of a valid electricity connection.
 4. Absence of prior subsidies for solar panels.

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2. Answer: A

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** PM SHRI (**PM Schools for Rising India**) is a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Education.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** While PM SHRI Schools aim to provide quality education, their primary goal is not to provide free education to all children in India. The scheme focuses on upgrading existing government schools to provide better facilities and infrastructure, but it does not guarantee free education for all.
- This is a new **centrally sponsored scheme for upgradation and development of more than 14500 Schools across the country** by strengthening the selected existing schools from amongst schools managed by Central Government/ State/ UT Government/ local bodies.
- PM SHRI Schools will showcase all components of the **National Education Policy 2020** and act as **exemplar schools** and also offer **mentorship to other schools** in their vicinity.

Objectives

- The aim of these schools will not only be **qualitative teaching, learning and cognitive development**, but also **creating holistic and well-rounded individuals** equipped with key 21st century skills.
- **Pedagogy** adopted in these schools will be more experiential, holistic, integrated, play/toy-based (particularly, in the foundational years) inquiry-driven, discovery-oriented, learner-centered, discussion-based, flexible and enjoyable.
- These schools will be equipped with **modern infrastructure** including labs, smart classrooms, libraries, sports equipment, art room etc. which is inclusive and accessible.
- These schools shall also be developed as **green schools** with water conservation, waste recycling, energy-efficient infrastructure and integration of organic lifestyle in curriculum.

3. Answer: D

Explanation:

- The Himalaya, Karakoram and Hindu Kush (HKHK) mountain ranges span 2,400 kilometers across six nations (Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, Nepal, and Pakistan).
- There are almost 55,000 glaciers in the HKHK mountains, and they **store more freshwater than any other region outside the North and South Poles.**
- The HKHK region is referred to as the **world's "Third Pole"** because it contains so much glacial ice.
- The glaciers contain estimated ice reserves of 163 cubic kilometers, of which almost **80% feeds the Indus, the Ganges and the Brahmaputra.** Snow and glacier melt from the HKHK play an important role in the timing and magnitude of water availability within the region.

4. Answer: C

Explanation

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- **Manas National Park in Assam, situated along the border of Bhutan**, falls within the geographic range of the Golden Langur and is known for being a critical habitat for this primate species.
- **Ranthambore National Park:** Primarily known for tigers, Ranthambore in Rajasthan doesn't fall within the Golden Langur's habitat range in western Assam and Bhutan.
- **Kaziranga National Park:** Famous for one-horned rhinos, Kaziranga National Park in Assam isn't part of the Golden Langur's typical habitat either.
- **Gir National Park:** This park protects Asiatic lions and is located in Gujarat, far outside the Golden Langur's distribution area.

5. Answer: B

Explanation:

- These terms indicate the central bank's monetary policy stance on deciding policy rates like repo rate.
- "Accommodative" indicates that the central bank is telling the market to expect a rate cut anytime, "neutral" means that RBI could either increase or reduce repo rates as per liquidity conditions, "calibrated tightening" means that a cut in the repo rate is unlikely in the current rate cycle.