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Daily MCQs: 25-09-2024

1. The Polygraph Test, commonly known as lie detector test, detects which of the following physiological indicators?

- 1) Pulse
- 2) Blood pressure
- 3) Respiration
- 4) Skin conductivity

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- A. 1, 2 and 3
- B. 1, 3 and 4
- C. 2, 3 and 4
- D. All of the above

2. Which of the following organization functions as the Supreme Audit Institution

- A. The Indian Audit & Accounts Department
- B. National Statistical Office
- C. Department of Economic Affairs
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

Explanation

- The **Indian Audit & Accounts Department**, functioning as the **Supreme Audit Institution (SAI)** of the country, plays a pivotal role in ensuring accountability within the Indian governance framework. Mandated by the Constitution of India, it serves as the **auditor to the nation**.
- **Articles 148 to 151** of the Constitution outline a distinctive role for the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (**CAG**) in supporting Parliament to enforce the accountability of government departments.
- As the apex auditing authority, **the SAI of India audits both Central and State/UT Governments, while also maintaining the accounts of the State Governments.**
- The Indian Audit & Accounts Department, functioning as the SAI, acts as a crucial mechanism in ensuring the effective and transparent utilization of public funds, thereby upholding the principles of accountability in the Indian governance system.

3. With reference to the White Revolution 2.0, consider the following statements

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- 1) It has set a target to increase milk procurement by dairy cooperative societies by 50 per cent over the next five years.
- 2) It has a special focus on empowerment of Senior Citizens.

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

4. With reference to the revamped PM AASHA scheme, consider the following statements

- 1) It is an umbrella scheme that aims to ensure better prices to farmers as well as price stability for consumers.
- 2) The Price Stabilization Fund scheme is a component of the revamped PM AASHA Scheme.

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

5. With reference to the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) listings, consider the following statements

- 1) Grey list countries are designated as "high-risk jurisdictions subject to call for action"
- 2) Iran, Myanmar and North Korea are member countries of FATF who are listed under black list.

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

Solutions:

1. Answer: D

Explanation

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- The Polygraph Test (commonly known as “**lie detector test**”) is a procedure that **detects several physiological indicators**, including pulse, blood pressure, respiration, and skin conductivity, which **indicate if a person is being untruthful when asked a series of questions**.
- This test is **based on the assumption that physiological responses that are triggered when a person is lying are different** from what they would be otherwise.
- Polygraph tests are used to detect truthfulness of individuals by crime investigation departments, national security agencies, etc.
- However, **accuracy of polygraph tests and ethical issues** associated with the tests are **highly debated**.

Supreme Court rulings about Polygraph Test

- In the case of **Selvi vs State of Karnataka & Anr (2010)**, the Supreme Court ruled that **lie detector tests must be voluntary** and only conducted with the **informed consent of the accused**.
- The court also ruled that **results of the tests cannot be considered to be "confessions"**, but any information or material subsequently discovered with the help of such a voluntarily-taken test **can be admitted as evidence**.
- In the **D.K. Basu vs. State of West Bengal case, 1997**, the SC ruled that involuntary administration of the polygraph and narcos test will amount to cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment in the context of **Article 21 or the Right to Life and Liberty**.

2. Answer: A

Explanation

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- **Articles 148 to 151** of the Constitution outline a distinctive role for the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (**CAG**) in supporting Parliament to enforce the accountability of government departments.
- As the apex auditing authority, **the SAI of India audits both Central and State/UT Governments, while also maintaining the accounts of the State Governments**.
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3. Answer: A

Explanation

- In a major push to transform India's dairy cooperative sector, the Government of India has launched '**White Revolution 2.0**', a comprehensive initiative aimed at **empowering women farmers and creating job opportunities**.
- The programme focuses on **four key areas - empowering women farmers, enhancing local milk production, strengthening dairy infrastructure, and boosting dairy exports**. Hence **statement 2 is incorrect**.
- Under White Revolution 2.0, the government aims to **increase milk procurement by dairy cooperative societies by 50 per cent** over the next five years. Hence **statement 1 is correct**.

'Cooperation among Cooperatives'

- The Government has also announced the **nationwide expansion of the 'Cooperation among Cooperatives' initiative**, which was successfully piloted in **Gujarat**.
- This programme will provide **interest-free cash credit to dairy farmers** through **RuPay-Kisan Credit Cards** and distribute **micro-ATMs to dairy cooperative societies**, bringing banking services to farmers' doorsteps.

4. Answer: C

Explanation

- In 2018, the government launched Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) to **ensure that farmers growing oilseeds, pulses and copra actually get the MSP they are promised for their crops every year**.
- The Government of India has approved the continuation of the PM-AASHA scheme to **provide better prices to farmers and control price volatility of essential commodities for consumers**.
- The government has converged the Price Support Scheme (PSS) and Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) schemes under PM-AASHA to serve farmers and consumers more effectively.
- This integration aims to **provide farmers with remunerative prices for their crops**, while **stabilising the market prices of essential commodities**, thus making them affordable for consumers.
- The revamped PM-AASHA now includes components like:
 - Price Support Scheme (PSS)
 - Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF)
 - Price Deficit Payment Scheme (PDPS)
 - Market Intervention Scheme (MIS)

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Price Support Scheme:

- Under PSS, the **government will procure notified pulses, oilseeds, and copra at Minimum Support Price (MSP)** to ensure farmers receive fair prices and to prevent distress sales.
- The procurement of these crops will be **limited to 25 per cent of national production**. However, this **ceiling will not be applicable in case of Tur, Urad & Masur** as there will be a **100% procurement** of these crops during 2024-25 season.
- It is expected to **boost domestic production, reducing reliance on imports**.

Price Stabilisation Fund:

- The PSF will continue to **protect consumers from sharp price spikes in agricultural and horticultural commodities** by maintaining a **strategic buffer stock of pulses and onions**.
- The **Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA)**, under the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs**, will procure these items when market prices exceed the MSP, including from pre-registered farmers.
- This measure aims to **discourage hoarding, reduce speculative trading, and ensure that essential commodities are available at affordable prices**.
- Interventions under PSF have also **extended to crops like tomatoes**, and the scheme supports the **subsidised retail sale of products like Bharat Dal, Bharat Atta, and Bharat Rice**.

Price Deficit Payment Scheme (PDPS):

- PDPS aims to **ensure remunerative price to the producer of oilseeds** whose MSP are notified and when sold in the harvest season **without the actual procurement by the government agencies**.
- Under the scheme, the **Central government** provides **direct payment of up to 15 per cent of the difference between the MSP and the market price** to the farmers selling their produce in the notified market yard.
- To encourage states to adopt PDPS for oilseeds, the government has now **increased the coverage from 25 per cent to 40 per cent of state production**.

Market Intervention Scheme (MIS):

- MIS is an **ad-hoc scheme** under which the **government procures agricultural and horticultural commodities** which are **perishable in nature**.
- The **objective** of intervention is to **protect the growers of these commodities in the event of a bumper crop** during the peak arrival period.
- The scheme is implemented at the **request of a State/UT government** which is ready to bear **50 percent of the loss** (25 percent in case of North-Eastern States), if any, incurred on its implementation.
- The government has now introduced an option for **direct differential payments to farmers**, replacing the physical procurement process.

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- In the case of **tomato, onion, and potato (TOP) crops**, the **government will bear the costs of transportation and storage**, helping to bridge the price gap between producing and consuming states during peak harvesting times.

5. Answer: D

Explanation

- At the end of every plenary meeting, FATF comes out with two lists of countries.
- The **grey list countries** are designated as “**jurisdictions under increased monitoring**”, working with the FATF to counter criminal financial activities. Hence **statement 1 is incorrect**.
 - For such countries, the watchdog does not tell other members to carry out due-diligence measures vis-a-vis the listed country but does tell them to consider the risks such countries possess. Currently, more than **20 countries** such as Bulgaria, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Croatia, Philippines, South Africa, Vietnam, etc. are on the grey list.
- **Black list** means countries designated as ‘**high-risk jurisdictions subject to call for action**’.
 - In this case, the countries have **considerable deficiencies in their AML/CFT** (anti-money laundering and counter terrorist financing) regimens and the body calls on members and non-members to apply enhanced due diligence.
 - In the most serious cases, members are told to apply counter-measures such as **sanctions** on the listed countries. Currently, **North Korea, Iran and Myanmar** are on the black list but they are not members of FATF. So **statement 2 is incorrect**.
- Being listed under the FATF’s lists makes it **hard for countries to get aid from organisations** like the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the European Union. It may also **affect capital inflows, foreign direct investments, and portfolio flows**.