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Daily MCQs: 11-11-2024

1. One Rank One Pension works on the basis of

- A. Military personnel retiring in the same rank and same date of retirement should receive the same pension, regardless of their length of service
- B. Military personnel retiring in the same rank and with the same length of service should receive the same pension, regardless of their date of retirement
- C. Military personnel retiring in the same rank should receive the same pension, regardless of their date of retirement and length of service
- D. Military personnel retiring with the same length of service should receive the same pension, regardless of their date of retirement and rank

2. Consider the following statements about the PM Vidyalaxmi scheme.

- 1) The scheme seeks to provide financial support to meritorious students pursuing their higher studies.
- 2) Students admitted in Quality Higher Education Institution (QHEIs) are only eligible to apply under the scheme.
- 3) The scheme aims to provide collateral-free, guarantor-free loans.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

3. With reference to the PM E-DRIVE, consider the following statements.

- 1) The primary goal of the scheme is to accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles.
- 2) PM E-DRIVE and FAME programmes will run simultaneously complementing each other.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

4. Consider the following.

- 1) Shellfish mortality
- 2) Feather contamination in birds
- 3) Contamination of mangroves
- 4) Disruption in marine food chain

How many of the above event(s) can be a consequence of oil spills?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two

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- C. Only three
- D. All four

5. Consider the following statements about The International Solar Alliance (ISA).

- 1) It was conceived as a joint effort by India and France.
- 2) The ISA was established by The Paris Declaration.
- 3) The ISA is headquartered in New Delhi.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Solutions:

1. Answer: B

Explanation

- One Rank One Pension (OROP) is a **pension scheme for military veterans** launched in **2015** by the **Ministry of Defence**.
- The scheme addressed the long-standing disparity in pension benefits for ex-servicemen, in which *the military personnel retiring in the same rank and with the same length of service should receive the same pension, regardless of their date of retirement*. Hence, **answer is option B**.

Background

- Before implementation of OROP, the computation of pension was linked to the pay drawn by the personnel in a particular pay scale/ pay band at the time of his/her retirement.
- Pay scales are revised to the higher side generally on the recommendation of Pay Commissions.
- As such, the personnel retiring after the revision of the pay scales got more pension than those who had already retired. Hence, the gap remained in the pension of the past and present retirees.

Key features of the OROP Scheme

The policy's primary elements include:

1. **Re-fixation of Pensions:** The **pension of all past pensioners is re-fixed based on the pensions of personnel who retired in 2013**, starting from July 1, 2014. This created a new benchmark for pensions, with all retirees getting equal benefits for their service.
2. **Periodic Revision:** The pension is to be **re-fixed every five years**, ensuring that it continues to reflect changes in the pay and pension structure.
3. **Arrears Payments:** Arrears of pension were to be **paid in equal half-yearly installments**.

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4. **Safeguarding above-Average Pension:** For personnel drawing pensions higher than the average, their pensions are protected, ensuring that they do not lose out on the benefits of OROP.
5. **Inclusive of all Ex-Servicemen:** The order covered all personnel who retired up to June 30, 2014, and provided a robust framework for revising pensions for all ranks, including family pensioners.

Why in News?

- One Rank One Pension (OROP) marks the completion of ten years since its inception on Nov, 7, 2015.

2. Answer: C

Explanation:

- The PM Vidyalaxmi is a **Central Sector scheme** that seeks to provide **financial support to meritorious students who pursue higher studies**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- Under the scheme, any student who gets admission in **Quality Higher Education Institution (QHEIs)** will be **eligible to get collateral free, guarantor free loan** from banks and financial institutions. Hence, **statements 2 and 3 are correct**.

Eligibility Criteria

The following categories are eligible for this scheme,

- Students having an **annual family income of up to ₹ 8 lakhs** and **not eligible for benefits** under any other government scholarship or interest subvention schemes.
- Also, **preference** will be given to students who are **from government institutions** and have opted for technical/ professional courses.

Implementing Agency

- The **Union Ministry of Education (MoE)** is primarily responsible for the implementation and monitoring of the PM-Vidya Lakshmi Scheme.
- Alongwith, the **Department of Higher Education** will have a **unified portal "PM-Vidyalaxmi"** on which students will be able to apply for the education loan as well as interest subvention.

3. Answer: A

Explanation

- The 'PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE)' Scheme, recently approved by the Cabinet, came into effect recently, and will remain in force until March 31, 2026.
- The primary goal of the scheme is to **accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs), develop essential charging infrastructure, and establish a robust EV manufacturing ecosystem** across the country. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The scheme will be implemented by the **Ministry of Heavy Industries**.

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- PM E-DRIVE will **replace the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles in India (FAME) programme** that ran for nine years. Hence, **statement 2 is incorrect.**

4. Answer: D

Explanation

- **Oil spills** refer to the **accidental or intentional release** of liquid petroleum hydrocarbons into the environment.
- These spills can have detrimental effects on ecosystems, wildlife, and human communities.
- Oil spills can occur through various means
 - **Accidents:** Accidental spills can happen during the extraction, transportation, and refining of oil. For example, pipeline ruptures, tanker accidents, or drilling mishaps can lead to oil being released into the environment.
 - **Leakage:** Aging infrastructure, corrosion, or technical failures in oil pipelines and storage facilities can result in leaks, leading to oil spills.
 - **Shipwrecks:** Maritime accidents, such as collisions, groundings, or sinking of oil tankers, can cause significant oil spills in marine environments.

Impacts of oil spills

- Oil is **toxic to many marine organisms**. Fish, shellfish, and other aquatic organisms may suffer direct mortality when exposed to oil. Hence, **event 1 is correct.**
- Birds that come into contact with oil can experience **feather contamination**, making it difficult for them to fly. Hence, **event 2 is correct.**
- Oil spills can **contaminate coastal habitats**, including marshes, mangroves, and estuaries. Hence, **event 3 is correct.**
- Oil spills can have **cascading effects on plankton and small organisms**, disrupting the base of the **marine food chain**. Hence, **event 4 is correct.**

5. Answer: B

Explanation:

- The **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** was conceived as a **joint effort by India and France** to mobilize efforts against climate change through deployment of **solar energy solutions**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- It was conceptualized on the sidelines of the **21st Conference of Parties (COP21)** to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in **Paris in 2015**.
- The **Paris Declaration** that established the ISA states that the alliance is an action-oriented, member-driven, collaborative platform for **increased deployment of solar energy technologies** as a means for bringing energy access, ensuring energy security, and driving energy transition in its member countries. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- The ISA is headquartered in **Gurugram, Haryana**. Hence, **statement 3 is incorrect.**