

## 1. Identify the Incorrect Statements.

- A. Viticulture is the cultivation and harvesting of grapes.  
 B. Pomology can be defined as a branch of horticulture, which deals with the scientific study of vegetable crops.  
 C. Landscaping is the art of beautifying a piece of land using garden designs, methods and plant material.

- a) Only A and B  
 b) Only B and C  
 c) Only A and C  
 d) Only B

e) A, B and C

Answer Key: d

Solution:

**Pomology:** The term is derived from Latin words **poma** and **logus**. Poma means 'fruit' and logus means 'study, knowledge or discourse'. It is a branch of horticulture that deals with the scientific study of fruit crops. **Viticulture** is the cultivation and harvesting of grapes, which deals with the events in the vineyard. When the grapes are used for winemaking, it is known as **viniculture**.

**Olericulture:** The term is derived from Latin words **olerus** meaning 'vegetables' and **cultura** meaning 'cultivation'. It is a branch of horticulture that deals with the scientific study of vegetable crops.

**Floriculture:** The term floriculture is derived from Latin words **florus** and **cultura**. Florus means 'flower' and cultura means 'cultivation'. It can be defined as a branch of horticulture, which deals with the scientific study of flowering and ornamental crops. **Landscaping** is the art of beautifying a piece of land using garden designs, methods and plant material. Professionals who do landscaping are called **landscape architects**.

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## 2. Identify the correct statements.

- A. Rice is the most important food crop in India. It is predominantly a Rabi crop, in other words, a summercrop.  
 B. Wheat is India's second most important food crop, next to rice. It is a Kharif or winter crop.  
 C. Millets are short-duration cold-weather crops.

- a) Only A and B  
 b) Only B and C  
 c) Only A and C  
 d) Only B  
 e) None of the above

Answer Key: e

Solution:

**Rice:** Rice is the most important food crop of India. It is predominantly a **Kharif or summer crop**. It covers about one third of total cultivated area of the country and provides food to more than half of the Indian population. Maximum population of India is of rice consumers.

**Wheat:** Wheat is the second most important food crop of India, next to rice. It is a **Rabi or winter crop**. It is sown in the beginning of winter and harvested in the beginning of summer. Normally (in north India) the sowing of wheat begins in the month of October-November and harvesting is done in the month of March-April. This is the staple food of millions of people particularly in the northern and north-western regions of India.

**Millets:** Millets are **short duration warm weather crops**. These are coarse grain crops and are used for both food and fodder. These are **kharif crop**. These are **sown in May-August** and **harvested in October-November**. Today millets are mostly consumed by poor people as their staple food. In India, lots of millet is grown and these are known by various local names. Some of these are Jawar, Bajra, Ragi, Korra, Kodon, Kutki, Hraka, Bauti, Rajgira. In India, Jawar, Bajra and Ragi are grown in large areas, but unfortunately area under these crops has drastically reduced over the years.

## 3. Which of the following Cropping Intensity Indices depicts Moderate Cropping Intensity?

- a) > 175

- b) 150-175  
 c) 125-150  
 d) <125  
 e) None of these

Answer Key: c

Solution:

India can be divided into four regions/zones based on the cropping intensity.

Zone	Cropping Intensity	Cropping Intensity Index
I	Very high Cropping Intensity	>175
II	High Cropping Intensity	150-175
<b>III</b>	<b>Moderate Cropping Intensity</b>	<b>125-150</b>
IV	Low Cropping Intensity	<125

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4. Fibrous root systems are composed of a primary root and may also include additional seedborne roots called \_\_\_\_\_ (A) \_\_\_\_\_, and below-ground shoot-borne roots called \_\_\_\_\_ (B) \_\_\_\_\_. Identify (A) and (B) respectively.

- a) Adventitious Roots; Seminal Roots  
 b) Crown Roots; Seminal Roots  
 c) Adventitious Roots; Crown Roots  
 d) Seminal Roots; Crown Roots  
 e) None of these

Answer Key: d

Solution:

Fibrous root systems are composed of a primary root and may also include additional seed-borne roots called **seminal roots**, and below-ground shoot-borne roots called **crown roots** (e.g., maize, barley, or rice)

5. Which of the following principles are correct regarding Crop rotation?

- A. The crops with Fibrous roots should be followed by those which have tap root systems. This helps in proper and uniform use of nutrients from the soil.  
 B. The non-leguminous crops should be grown after leguminous crops.  
 C. More exhaustive crops should be followed by less exhaustive crops because crops like potato, sugarcane, maize etc. need more inputs.

- a) Only A  
 b) Both B and C  
 c) Only B  
 d) Both A and B  
 e) Only C

Answer Key: e

Solution:

#### **Crop Rotation Principles**

- The crops with tap roots should be followed by those which have fibrous root system. This helps in proper and uniform use of nutrients from the soil and the roots do not compete for the uptake of nutrients.

- The leguminous crops should be grown after non-leguminous crops because legumes fix atmospheric nitrogen into the soil and add more organic matter to the soil; while on the other hand, non-legumes are fertility depleting crops. Apart from this, the nutritional requirements of these crops are different, e.g. legumes need more phosphate and less nitrogen while non-legumes need more of nitrogen and relatively low phosphorus. Thus, a combination of these crops helps the farmers in reducing their cost of cultivation.

- More exhaustive crop should be followed by less exhaustive crops because crops like potato, sugarcane, maize etc. need more inputs such as better tillage, more fertilizers, greater number of irrigations, more insecticides, pesticides and better care than crops like oil seeds, pulses etc. which need relatively less or little of the above-mentioned inputs.
- Selection of the crops should be demand based i.e. the crops which are needed by the people of the area and by the family members should be chosen so that the produce can be easily sold at a higher price.

6. \_\_\_\_\_ refers to the state of the atmosphere over an area at any point in time.

- a) Weather
- b) Climate
- c) Atmospheric Pressure
- d) Humidity
- e) None of these

Answer Key: a

Solution:

**Weather is the state or condition of atmosphere at a given place and at a given time.** It is daily variations or conditions of lower layers of the atmosphere. Weather pertains to smaller areas like village, city, or even district and smaller duration of time i.e. part of a day, or complete day. Some examples are hot day, rainy day, cloudy weather, dry weather, etc.

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7. Towards the close of the summer season, pre-monsoon showers are common especially, in Kerala and Karnataka. They are often referred to as \_\_\_\_\_ (A) \_\_\_\_\_.

Identify (A).

- a) Kaal Baisakhi
- b) Mango Showers
- c) Cherry Blossom
- d) Wheat Downpour
- e) None of these

Answer Key: b

Solution:

A striking feature of the hot weather season is the 'loo'. These are strong, gusty, hot, dry winds blowing during the day over north and north-western India. Sometimes they even continue until late in the evening. Direct exposure to these winds may even prove to be fatal. Dust storms are very common during the month of May in northern India. These storms bring temporary relief as they lower the temperature and may bring light rain and cool breeze. This is also the season for localised thunderstorms, associated with violent winds, and torrential downpours, often accompanied by hail. In West Bengal, these storms are known as the 'Kaal Baisakhi'.

Towards the close of the summer season, pre-monsoon showers are common especially, in Kerala and Karnataka. They help in the early ripening of mangoes, and are often referred to as 'mango showers'.

8. When pollen grains are transferred from an anther to the stigma of the same flower the process is called;

- A. Self Pollination
- B. Autogamy
- C. Allogamy
- D. Cross-Pollination

- a) Only A
- b) Only B
- c) Only C
- d) A and B
- e) C and D

Answer Key: d

Solution:

When pollen grains are transferred from an anther to the stigma of the same flower the process is called **self-pollination or autogamy**. Cross-pollination or allogamy is said to have occurred if they are transferred to the stigma of another flower.

9. \_\_\_\_\_(A)\_\_\_\_\_ represents the point at which the soil is unable to supply water to the plant. Water at this coefficient is held with a force of 15 atmospheres.

Identify "A" from the above statement.

- Hygroscopic coefficient
- Gravity coefficient
- Wilting coefficient
- Field capacity coefficient
- None of the above

Answer Key: c

Solution:

**Wilting coefficient:** The stage at which plants start wilting for want of water is termed the Wilting Point and the percentage amount of water held by the soil at this stage is known as the Wilting Coefficient. It represents the point at which the soil is unable to supply water to the plant. Water at wilting coefficient is held with a force of 15 atmospheres.

10. Whenever a plough works round a strip of un-ploughed land, it is said to be \_\_\_\_\_(A)\_\_\_\_\_.

Identify (A) in the above excerpt.

- Gathering
- Round and Round Ploughing
- Casting
- Converging
- None of these

Answer Key: c

Solution:

Methods of ploughing are,

- **Gathering** - Whenever a plough works round a strip of ploughed land, it is said to be gathering.
- **Casting** - Whenever a plough works round a strip of un-ploughed land, it is said to be casting.
- **Continuous ploughing method** - In normal conditions, the continuous ploughing method is considered very convenient and economical. This method is usually used when the tractor and plough never run idle for more than three quarter land width along the headland and never turn in a space narrower than a quarter land width.
- **Round and round ploughing** - In this method, the plough moves round and round a field. This system is adopted under conditions where ridges and furrows interfere with cultivation work.

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11. As per the Census 2011, \_\_\_\_\_(A)\_\_\_\_\_ Indians live in Rural areas, which is more than two-thirds of the total population.

Identify "A" from the above statement.

- 728 million
- 759 million
- 775 million
- 817 million
- 833 million

Ans: e

Solution:

**Population:**

- 833 million Indians live in Rural areas, which is more than two-third of the total population.
- Rural – Urban distribution: 68.8% & 31.2%
- Out of total increase of 181.4 million persons during 2001-11, contribution of Urban areas (91.0 million) is higher than of Rural areas (90.4 million).

12. Which of the following is not a part of the fourfold classification of workforce as per the census?

- Cultivators
- Agricultural Labourers
- Household Industry
- Rural Artisan
- Others

Answer Key: d

Solution:

**Fourfold Classification of workforce (Census):**

- **Cult** – Cultivators,
- **AL** – Agricultural Labourers,
- **HHI** – Household Industry,
- **Oth** – Others (all the non-agricultural workers excluding those in HHI).

13. \_\_\_\_ (A) \_\_\_\_ Committee on Doubling the Farmer's Income has appreciated the role of Digital Technology, which can play a transformational role in modernizing and organizing how rural India performs its agricultural activities.

Identify (A) in the above context!

- S.P Mohanty Committee
- Swaminathan Committee
- Ashok Dalwai Committee
- Alok Jha Committee
- K.L Sharma committee

Ans: c

Solution:

The Committee on Doubling Farmers' Income (DFI) under the chairmanship of **Ashok Dalwai** in its Report has appreciated the role of Digital Technology, which can play a transformational role in modernizing and organizing how rural India performs its agricultural activities. Digital technologies are finding increasing use in the agricultural value system, and farmers are increasingly becoming more informed, as various measures are taken to provide them ready access to technology and information.

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14. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct regarding Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)?

- 50:50 ratio for wage and material cost should be maintained at Gram Panchayat level.
  - Removing Grass and Pebbles from a land can be counted as a work under MGNREGA.
  - The disbursement of daily wages shall be made on a weekly basis or in any case not later than a fortnight after the date on which such work was done.
- Only A
  - Only B
  - Both A and B
  - Only C
  - Both B and C

Answer Key: c

Solution:

The mandate of the MGNREGA is to provide at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

Cost of material component of projects including the wages of the skilled and semi-skilled workers taken up under scheme shall not exceed 40 per cent. 60:40 ratio for wage and material cost should be maintained at GP level for works executed by GP and for works executed by agencies other than GP, it should be maintained at block/intermediate panchayat level.

The works which are not included in the list of permissible works and works which are nontangible, not measurable, non-quantifiable, repetitive such as removing grass, pebbles, agricultural operation are not permitted.

The disbursement of daily wages shall be made on a weekly basis or in any case not later than a fortnight after the date on which such work was done.

15. In \_\_\_\_ (A) \_\_\_\_, the Government of India set up a committee under the Chairmanship of \_\_\_\_ (B) \_\_\_\_ to prepare concept paper on the revitalization of the Panchayati Raj Institutions. The committee recommended that the local self- government should be constitutionally recognized, protected, and preserved by the inclusion of a new chapter in the constitution.

Identify (A) and (B) respectively.

- a) 1986, L.M Sanghvi
- b) 1967, Balwant Rai Mehta
- c) 1983, Ashok Mehta
- d) 1976, P.K Thungon
- e) None of the Above

Answer Key: a

Solution:

In **1986**, the Government of India set up a committee under the Chairmanship of **L.M. Sanghvi** to prepare concept paper on the revitalization of the Panchayati Raj Institutions. The committee recommended that the **local self- government should be constitutionally recognized, protected, and preserved by the inclusion of a new chapter in the constitution.**

16. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct regarding the Rural Cooperative Societies structure?  
A. The rural short-term cooperative society credit structure is a two-tier structure.

B. The banking functions of District Credit Cooperative Banks (DCCB) are regulated by the Reserve Bank of India.

C. PACS is the last level of cooperative structure. It is outside the ambit of the Banking regulation act, 1949.

- a) Only A
- b) Only C
- c) Both A and B
- d) Both A and C
- e) Both B and C

Answer Key: e

Solution:

The Rural Short term cooperative structure consists of three tiers. Banking functions of UCB/StCB/DCCB are regulated by the Reserve Bank.

PACS is outside the ambit of Banking Regulation Act 1949. It is the last level of cooperative structure.

17. In the context of agricultural or rural economy, the term "defeminisation" refers to;

- a) Ignoring the nutritional needs of females.
- b) Excluding women from their entitlements in agricultural activities.
- c) Causing social conditions that keep female population uneducated
- d) Opening up women-led SHGs to the male members as well.
- e) All of the above

Answer Key: b

Solution:

The absence of land rights not just keeps landless women and female agricultural labourers on the fringes, it also denies them credit, insurance, irrigation and other entitlements of agriculture-related schemes, in the absence of land security. This phenomenon of "**defeminisation**" (i.e. excluding women from their entitlements in agriculture) coexists with feminisation of agriculture.

18. Rural Youth under the age group \_\_\_\_\_ years are covered in the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen KaushalyaYojana.

- a) 15-25
- b) 18-35
- c) 15-35
- d) 18-40
- e) 21-40

Answer Key: c

Solution:

Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen KaushalyaYojana (DDU-GKY) is a placement-linked skill development program for rural poor youth under National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) since **September, 2014**. Rural Youth in the age group of **15-35 years** are covered under this scheme.

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19. District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) has traditionally been the principal organ at the District level to oversee the implementation of different anti-poverty programme. However, keeping in view the need for an effective agency at the District level to co-ordinate the antipoverty programmes, a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme for strengthening the DRDAs was introduced w.e.f 1st April, \_\_\_\_ (A) \_\_\_\_\_. Under this scheme, the staff costs of DRDA establishments are met by the Central and State Government in the ratio of \_\_\_\_ (B) \_\_\_\_.

Identify (A) and (B) respectively!

- a) 2001, 50:50
- b) 2003, 60:40
- c) 1996, 50:50
- d) 1999, 75:25
- e) None of the above

Ans: d

Solution:

**District Rural Development Agency (DRDA)** has traditionally been the principal organ at the District level to oversee the implementation of different anti-poverty programme. However, keeping in view the need for an effective agency at the District level to co-ordinate the antipoverty programmes, a new **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** for strengthening the DRDAs was introduced w.e.f **1st April, 1999**. Under this scheme, the staff costs of DRDA establishments are met by the Central and State Government in the ratio of **75:25**.

A bill to increase authorised capital of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) by six times to **Rs 30,000 crore** and enable exit of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) was passed by Parliament after the government assured that there is no plan to have private holding in it.

20. eGramSwaraj is a/an \_\_\_\_\_ application for Panchayati Raj Institutions;

- a) Accounting
- b) Benefits disbursement dashboard
- c) Procurement
- d) Regulatory provisions-related
- e) All of the above

Answer Key: a

Solution:

Under Digital India Programme, **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** is implementing **e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project (MMP)** with the aim to transform the functioning of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), making them more transparent, accountable, and effective.

The Ministry launched **eGramSwaraj**, a work-based Accounting Application for Panchayati Raj Institutions under the e-Panchayat MMP on **24<sup>th</sup> April 2020**. This application encompasses all aspects of Panchayat functioning viz. planning, budgeting, accounting, monitoring, asset management etc., on a single digital platform including online payments.

21. National Panchayat Awards were revamped in;

- a) 2011
- b) 2013
- c) 2014
- d) 2021
- e) 2022

Answer Key: e

Solution:

Ministry of Panchayati Raj has been incentivising best performing Panchayats through National Panchayat Awards. These awards were **first launched in 2011** and have been revamped and **relaunched in 2022** aligning them with 9 **Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs)** themes aggregating 17 SDGs.

22. The National Panchayati Raj Day is celebrated on 24<sup>th</sup> April because;

- a) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj was created as a separate ministry on this day.

- b) The 73<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment came into force on this day.  
 c) The first Panchayat in the country was created on this day.  
 d) The 17 Sustainable Goals were localized on this day.  
 e) All of the above

Answer Key: b

Solution:

The Nation celebrates 24th April of every year as National Panchayati Raj Day. 24<sup>th</sup> April marks a defining moment in the history of decentralization of power to the grassroots, with the institutionalization of Panchayati Raj, through the Constitution (73<sup>rd</sup> Amendment) Act, 1992 which came into force with effect from that day. Ministry of Panchayati Raj commemorates 24<sup>th</sup> April of every year as the National Panchayati Raj Day (राष्ट्रीयपंचायतीराजदिवस) (NPRD), as the **73<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment** came into force on this day. National Panchayati Raj Day is commemorated as a grand event on a big scale and is being generally held outside the National Capital.

23. The "Campaign on Promoting Digital Transactions in 50000 Gram Panchayats" is also known as;

- a) Panchayat Sakhis  
 b) Computerisation of PACS  
 c) SAMBAL Campaign  
 d) SAMARTH Campaign  
 e) Digi Shala

Answer Key: d

Solution:

The Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India is running a "Campaign on Promoting Digital Transactions in 50000 Gram Panchayats", also known as SAMARTH Campaign, which started from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023 and will continue till 15 August 2023 under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. The key thrust of the campaign is to promote Digital Transactions in rural areas, particularly among women.

**SAMARTH Campaign:**

- It was started on 1<sup>st</sup> **February 2023 and will continue till 15 August 2023** under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- The key thrust of the campaign is to **promote Digital Transactions in rural areas, particularly among women.**
- Minister praised the significant reduction in Non-Performing Assets (**NPA**) of **Self-Help Groups (SHGs)**, which has **decreased from 9.58% in 2013 to below 2%** presently.
- The event witnessed unveiling of a compendium of **75 Inspirational Tales of BC Sakhis** along with live testimonies of transformations in the lives of BC Sakhis who narrated before the august gathering their success stories.
- **Deendayal AntyodayaYojna- National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)** will help to achieve the goals of this campaign.

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24. The REWARD Programme is being administered in the state(s) of;

- A. Odisha  
 B. Andhra Pradesh  
 C. Bihar  
 D. Karnataka  
 a) A and C  
 b) B and C  
 c) A and D  
 d) A, B and C  
 e) A, C and D

Answer Key: c

Solution:



The Secretary, **Department of Land Resources** (DoLR), Government of India (GoI) Shri Ajay Tirkey reviewed the Implementation Support Mission of **World Bank Assisted Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development** (REWARD) programme.

REWARD is a World Bank assisted Watershed development program which is being implemented from **2021 to 2026**. The Development Objectives of REWARD program is to **"Strengthen capacities of National and State institutions to adopt improved watershed management for increasing farmers resilience and support value chains in selected watersheds of participating States"**.

The program is being implemented to introduce modern watershed practices in the Department of Land Resources in the Ministry of Rural Development and in the States of Karnataka and Odisha.

25. The Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN) -or Bhu Aadhaar system is developed under;

- a) PM SVAMITVA Scheme
- b) DILRMP
- c) DAY - NRLM
- d) A and B
- e) B and C

Answer Key: b

Solution:

The **Department of Land Resources**, Government of India is implementing the **Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme** (DILRMP) through State / UT Governments specifically to accelerate digitisation of land records, both textual and spatial to facilitate land related information to the citizens. The **Unique Land Parcel Identification Number** (ULPIN) -or **Bhu Aadhaar** system developed under DILRMP to uniquely assign to a land parcel has been rolled out in 26 States/UTs namely; Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Goa, Bihar, Odisha, Sikkim, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Haryana, Tripura, Chhattisgarh, Jammu & Kashmir, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Kerala and Ladakh.

Bhu-Aadhaar (ULPIN) is a **14-digit Alpha numeric number** system which is of international standards. Geo-referencing is a pre-condition for generation of BhuAadhaar.

26. Which of the following statement(s) is/are true about PM-KISAN?

- A. PM KISAN Scheme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to supplement the financial needs of land-holding farmers.
  - B. The financial benefit of Rs. 6000 per year is transferred into the bank accounts of farmer families through direct benefit transfer.
  - C. This ambitious scheme, which was launched on 24th February, 2019, is one of the largest DBT Schemes in the world.
- a) Only A and B
  - b) Only B and C
  - c) Only A and C
  - d) Only B
  - e) A, B, and C

Ans: b

Solution:

PM KISAN Scheme is a **Central Sector Scheme** to supplement financial needs of land holding farmers. Financial benefit of **Rs. 6000 per year** is transferred into the bank accounts of farmer families through direct benefit transfer. Certain categories of higher economic status are excluded from the scheme.

This ambitious scheme, which was **launched on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2019** by Hon'ble Prime Minister, is one of the largest DBT Schemes in the world. The scheme has been able to reach out to crores of farmers, with no middlemen involved in between. Maintaining absolute transparency in the process of registration and verification of beneficiaries, Government of India has been able to transfer benefits within minutes of press of a button by Hon'ble Prime Minister during the bulk release events.

27. Identify the correct statement(s) about Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS).

- A. A Centrally sponsored project for the Computerization of 63,000 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) across the country has been approved.
  - B. The total financial outlay for the scheme is Rs. 2,616 Crore.
  - C. PACS are involved in short term lending — or what is known as crop loan.
- a) Only A and B

- b) Only B and C
- c) Only A and C
- d) Only B
- e) A, B, and C

Ans: c

Solution:

PACS are **village level cooperative credit societies** that serve as the last link in a **three-tier cooperative credit structure headed by the State Cooperative Banks (SCB)** at the state level. Credit from the SCBs is transferred to the district central cooperative banks, or DCCBs, that operate at the district level. The DCCBs work with PACS, which deal directly with farmers.

Since these are cooperative bodies, individual farmers are members of the PACS, and office-bearers are elected from within them. A village can have multiple PACS.

PACS are involved in **short term lending** — or what is known as **crop loan**. At the start of the cropping cycle, farmers avail credit to finance their requirement of seeds, fertilisers etc. **Banks extend this credit at 7 per cent interest**, of which **3 per cent is subsidised by the Centre**, and **2 per cent by the state government**. Effectively, farmers avail the crop loans at **2 per cent interest** only.

A **Centrally sponsored project** for Computerization of 63,000 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS)/Large Area Multi-Purpose Societies (LAMPS)/Farmers Service Societies (FSS) across the country with a total financial outlay of **Rs. 2,516 Crore**, approved by the **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** on 29th June, 2022, is under implementation.

Consequently, after the Cabinet Committee's approval, the **Union Budget 2023-24** has announced Rs 2,516 crore for digitisation of 63,000 **Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS)** over the **next five years**.

28. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct about the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI)?

- A. The journey of Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), popularly known as Pusa Institute, began in 1905 at Pusa, Bihar.
- B. The institute was then known as Agricultural Research Institute (ARI) which functioned with five departments, namely Agriculture, Cattle Breeding, Chemistry, Economic Botany and Mycology.
- C. Following a devastating earthquake on 15th January 1934, the institute was shifted to Delhi on 29th July 1936.

- a) Only A and B
- b) Only B and C
- c) Only A and C
- d) Only B
- e) A, B, and C

Ans: e

Solution:

#### About IARI

The journey of Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), popularly known as **Pusa Institute**, began in 1905 at Pusa (**Bihar**) with the generous grant of 30,000 pounds from an American philanthropist, Mr. **Henry Phipps**. The institute was then known as **Agricultural Research Institute (ARI)** which functioned with five departments, namely **Agriculture, Cattle Breeding, Chemistry, Economic Botany and Mycology**. The bacteriology unit was added in 1907. The name of ARI was changed to the Imperial Institute of Agricultural Research in 1911 and, in 1919 it was renamed as Imperial Agricultural Research Institute. Following a devastating earthquake on 15th January 1934, the institute was **shifted to Delhi on 29th July 1936**. Post-independence, the institute has been renamed as Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI).

This farming approach was introduced by **Masanobu Fukuoka**, a Japanese farmer and philosopher, in his 1975 book **The One-Straw Revolution**.

29. Which of the following statement(s) is/are true about the Tea Industry in India?

- A. India is the 2nd largest tea producer after Brazil.
- B. Darjeeling tea is one of the coveted products of India and is the first GI-tag registered tea.
- C. India is also the largest consumer of black tea.

- a) Only A and B
- b) Only B and C
- c) Only A and C

- d) Only B  
e) A, B, and C

Ans: b

Solution:

India is the **2<sup>nd</sup> largest tea producer** after China and **largest black tea producer** with production at around 1350 M. Kgs and self-sufficient to meet out the domestic requirements and export obligations. India is also the largest consumer of black tea and consumes around 18% of the total World tea consumption. Indian teas are exported to various destinations and is the 4th largest tea exporter besides catering to a large number of domestic consumers.

Small Tea Growers are the emerging Sector contributing nearly 52% of the total produce. Presently there are nearly 2.30 lakh of Small Tea Growers existing in the supply chain.

Indian Tea Exports have been competing strongly in the international markets and has been able to create a niche for itself. During 2022-23, Indian tea exports are expected to achieve more than 95% of **the set targets of \$883 million** despite various geo-political, geo-economic and logistical challenges.

**Darjeeling tea** is one of the coveted produces of the India which is the first GI registered. It is produced in the hilly area of Darjeeling district spread over in 87 tea gardens.

Tea Board has suggested further amendments in the "**Tea Development and Promotion Scheme, 2021-26**" wherein several components are included for the overall benefit of the tea industry. In order to have a transparency in the disbursement and identification of beneficiaries, an online mechanism under the "Service plus Portal" has been implemented.

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30. Currently, there are \_\_\_\_\_ Agromet Field Units in the country.

- a) 95  
b) 103  
c) 110  
d) 120  
e) 130

Answer Key: e

Solution:

**India Meteorological Department (IMD)** runs an operational **Agrometeorological Advisory Services (AAS) viz., Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa (GKMS)** scheme for the benefit of farming community in the country.

Under the scheme, medium range weather forecast at district and block level for next five days is generated and based on the forecast, **130 Agromet Field Units (AMFUs)** located at State Agricultural Universities (SAUs), institutes of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) etc. and **District Agromet Units (DAMUs)** at Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) under ICAR network prepare Agromet Advisories on **every Tuesday and Friday** for the districts under their jurisdiction and for the blocks of the district of their location and communicate to the farmers to take decision on day-to-day agricultural operations.

31. \_\_\_\_\_ refers to the cultivation of mulberry plants, whose leaves are used as silkworm feed.

- a) Sericulture  
b) Moriculture  
c) Silviculture  
d) Pisciculture  
e) Fungiculture

Answer Key: b

Solution:

Sericulture is the cultivation of silkworms and the extraction of silk from them. Domestic silk moth caterpillars (also known as 'Bombyx mori') are the most often utilised silkworm species in **sericulture**. Other silkworm species (such as Eri, Muga, and Tasar) are also raised for the manufacture of 'wild silks.'

**Sericulture process** is the practice of raising silkworms and extracting silk from them. Mulberry leaf farming, silkworm breeding to convert the leaves to cocoons, cocoon reeling to obtain silk thread, and weaving to convert the yarn to clothes are all part of the process.

**Silk production in India** is one of the oldest and still functional businesses. Indians started producing silk from the 15th century itself. **India is the second-largest producer of silk in the world, the first being China.**

The Indian sericulture market size reached INR 451.6 Billion in 2022. Looking forward, the market is expected to reach INR 1,194.5 Billion by 2028, exhibiting a growth rate (CAGR) of 17.7% during 2023-2028.

**Moriculture** refers to the cultivation of mulberry plants, whose leaves are used as silkworm feed.

32. The Central Silk Board is under the administrative control of;

- a) Ministry of Commerce & Industries
- b) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
- c) Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
- d) Ministry of Textile
- e) NITI Aayog

Answer Key: d

Solution:

Central Silk Board (CSB) is a statutory body, under the administrative control of the Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India. Established in 1948, by an Act of Parliament, the CSB has been entrusted with the overall responsibility of developing silk industry covering the full gamut of sericulture activities in the country from development of food plants to silk cocoons for production of silk yarn including formulation of policies governing Import & Export of silk. CSB is basically a Research and Development Organization.

33. Recently, PashuPardarshani & Krishi Mela (Animal Exhibition and Agriculture Fair) were observed at the initiative of the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India and ICAR – Central Institute for Research on Cattle.

Where is this ICAR institute located?

- a) New Delhi
- b) Hyderabad
- c) Jodhpur
- d) Bhopal
- e) Meerut

Answer Key: e

Solution:

Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India and ICAR – **Central Institute for Research on Cattle, Meerut** have observed the PashuPardarshani & Krishi Mela (Animal Exhibition and Agriculture Fair).

The main objective of PashuPardarshani & Krishi Mela is to promote and exhibit the agricultural, animal husbandry, fisheries practices. The exhibition serves as a platform for participation by many exhibitors from 15 organizations for supporting fisheries including others and highlighted the latest technologies i.e RAS Biofloc, fish food, fish seed, other information on fisheries schemes etc., tools, and techniques used in fishing, farming, livestock rearing, and animal health management.

34. Recently, some entities have come together to promote innovation in the agricultural sector among school students across India. Which of the following are those entities?

- A. Atal Innovation Mission
  - B. Ministry of Education
  - C. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
  - D. Ministry of Skill Development
- a) A and B
  - b) A and C
  - c) B and C
  - d) B and D
  - e) B, C and D

Answer Key: b

Solution:

**Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)**, NITI Aayog, and the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW)** have come together to promote innovation in the agricultural sector among school students across India.

The two government bodies have agreed to connect **Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs)** with **Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVKs)** and **Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMAs)** under the initiative. The collaboration is a result of the vision of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi who seeded this idea during a conversation and proposed to connect the ATLs with the KVKs across the country. KVKs function as a "Single Window Agricultural Knowledge Resource and Capacity Development Centre," and this collaboration will provide numerous stakeholders with necessary information, training, and inputs. KVKs, in partnership with ATMA, will collaborate with nearby ATLs to support agricultural-related innovation.

35. Which of the following states has the largest number of Krishi Vigyan Kendras?

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Uttar Pradesh
- d) Bihar
- e) Pondicherry

Answer Key: c

Solution:

#### **KVK : An Overview**

- Based on the recommendation by the committee headed by **Dr. Mohan Singh Mehta** appointed by **ICAR** in 1973 the idea of establishment of **Farm Science Centre (Krishi Vigyan Kendra)** was developed.
- The first KVK, on a pilot basis, was established in **1974** at **Pondicherry** under the administrative control of the **Tamil Nadu Agricultural University**, Coimbatore.
- At present there are **731 KVKs** established in the country. Uttar Pradesh (89) has the largest number of KVKs.

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36. The ICAR - National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources is located at;

- a) Kochi
- b) Chennai
- c) Vishakhapatnam
- d) Patna
- e) Lucknow

Answer Key: 5

Solution:

Dr. Abhilash Likhi, Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying visited the ICAR - **National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (NBFGR)** at **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh** and interacted with fish farmers at the institute farms.

The major activities ICAR- National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (NBFGR) involve the collection, characterization, cataloguing and documentation of fish genetic resources of different aquatic ecosystems of the country and their conservation strategies. Further, the institute undertakes research and provides necessary policy guidelines for the introduction of exotics, quarantine for prevention of trans boundary diseases etc.

37. The Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar has inaugurated a Golden Jubilee Auditorium at one of the Extension Education Institutes (EETs) that India currently has. Where is this particular EET located?

- a) Gurugram
- b) Nilokheri
- c) Anand
- d) Hyderabad
- e) Jorhat

Answer Key: d

Solution:

The Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar has inaugurated the EEI **Golden Jubilee Auditorium** at Extension Education Institute (EEI), Rajendranagar, **Hyderabad**.

Extension Education Institute (EEI) is a regional level institute with the main mandate to provide capacity building to middle level extension functionaries of the departments and organizations of agricultural development, particularly in the discipline of Extension Education.

The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC), Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India has established **four EEIs for four regions of the country**: EEI (Southern Region) at Hyderabad, **Andhra Pradesh**, EEI (Northern Region) at Nilokheri, **Haryana**, EEI (Western Region) at Anand, **Gujarat**, and EEI (NE Region) at Jorhat, **Assam**.

38. "SagarParikrama" is an evolutionary journey envisaged in the sea across the coastal belt demonstrating solidarity with all fisher folk, fish farmers and concerned stakeholders as a spirit of 75<sup>th</sup> Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav saluting our great freedom fighters, sailors and fishers. Sagar Parikrama Phase – V started from;

- Mandavi
- Raigad
- Satpati
- Udupi
- Mangrol

Answer Key: b

Solution:

The Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying announced the commencement of Phase-V of the Sagar Parikrama initiative. Starting from **Raigad, Maharashtra** on 17th May 2023 and ending in Canacona, Goa in 19th May 2023, the journey aims to address the challenges faced by fishers and stakeholders while uplifting their economic prospects through various fisheries schemes and programs, such as Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) & Kisan Credit Cards (KCC).

39. The optimum balance for N, P and K nutrients under the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) regime is;

- 1:2:1
- 1:3:1
- 3:2:1
- 4:2:1
- 5:3:1

Answer Key: d

Solution:

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the proposal of the Department of Fertilizers for revision in Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for various nutrients i.e. Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P), Potash (K) and Sulphur (S) for Rabi Season 2022-23 (from 01.01.2023 to 31.03.2023) and approved NBS rates for Kharif Season, 2023 (from 1.4.2023 to 30.09.2023) for Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers.

#### **Nutrient Based Subsidy:**

- Under the NBS regime – **fertilizers are provided to the farmers at the subsidized rates based on the nutrients** (N, P, K & S) contained in these fertilizers.
- Also, the fertilizers which are **fortified with secondary and micronutrients** such as molybdenum (Mo) and zinc are **given additional subsidy**.
- The **subsidy on P&K fertilizers is announced by the Government on an annual basis** for each nutrient on a per kg basis – which are determined **taking into account** the international and domestic prices of P&K fertilizers, **exchange rate**, inventory level in the country etc.
- NBS policy intends to increase the consumption of P&K fertilizers so that **optimum balance (N:P:K= 4:2:1) of NPK fertilization** is achieved.

40. ICAR recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with \_\_\_\_A\_\_\_\_ to combine strengths and create synergy between the two organizations for guiding the farmers on scientific cultivation of different crops for optimum yield and income.

Identify "A" from the given options.

- Flipkart Kisan

- b) Amazon Kisan
- c) Microsoft
- d) Google Maps
- e) NITI Aayog

Answer Key: b

Solution:

**Indian Council of Agricultural Research** (ICAR), New Delhi signed a MoU with **Amazon Kisan** to combine strengths and create synergy between the two organizations for guiding the farmers on **scientific cultivation of different crops for optimum yield and income**. ICAR will provide technological backstopping to the farmers through Amazon's network. It will improve farmers' livelihood and boost crop yield. This MoU in farmer's partnership with Amazon Kisan program will help ensuring access to high quality fresh produce for consumers across India, including through Amazon Fresh.

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