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Comprehension Test Questions for IBPS Clerk Pre, SBI Clerk Pre, LIC Assistant Pre and IBPS RRB Asst. Pre Exams.

Passage No. 150

Direction: Read the following passage carefully and answer the following questions.

As India awaits the arrival of the annual summer monsoon, hopes are particularly high for normal rainfall that is so vital for agriculture, the health of forests, rivers and wetlands. The India Meteorological Department has forecast normal rainfall of 96% of the long period average of 89 cm rain, with an onset date in the first week of June in Kerala. It has also signaled a significant possibility of a deficit. The monsoon bounty is crucial for the 60% of gross cropped area in farming that is rain-fed, and represents 45% of agricultural output. Given the **erratic** patterns of rainfall witnessed over the past few decades and their possible connection to atmospheric changes caused by a variety of pollutants, the distribution of monsoon 2019 will add to the insights. The southwest monsoon is a determinant of India's overall prosperity, and sustained efforts to make the best use of rainfall are absolutely important for farms, cities and industry. Considering that there has been a 52% decline in groundwater levels based on tests conducted last year over the previous decadal average, *State governments should have pursued the setting up of new recharging wells and made improvements to existing ones on a war footing.* They also have lagged in building structures to harvest surface water and helping farmers raise the efficiency of irrigation. The approach to the farming sector, however, has been influenced more by the imperatives of an election year, and the Centre's biggest intervention was to announce a cash handout to specified categories of small farmers.

A normal summer monsoon over the subcontinent brings widespread prosperity, but does not guarantee a uniform spread. This, as scientists point out, may be due to the effect of particulates released through various industrial and agricultural processes. Some of these aerosols suppress the rainfall and disperse it across the land, causing long breaks in **precipitation**, while others absorb heat and lead to a convection phenomenon that increases rainfall in some places. Such evidence points to the need for India to clean up its act on rising industrial emissions, and burning of fossil fuels and biomass in order to improve the stability of the monsoon.

Questions :

1. Which of the following can be inferred from the statement – *“State governments should have pursued the setting up of new recharging wells and made improvements to existing ones on a war footing.”*?

- I. The persisting situation is such that people are fighting over water.
- II. Creating new recharging wells will be a relief to war like situation over water crisis.
- III. The government came in the support of people who are facing water crisis.

A. Only I B. Only II C. Only I and II D. Only II and III E. None of these

2. Why monsoon is not uniformly spread across the country as per the passage?

- I. Due to poor air quality persisting in most of the parts of the nation.
- II. Due to polluting particles emitted from industries and various agricultural processes.
- III. Due to reduction in forest density in some parts of the country.

A. Only I B. Only II C. Only I and II D. Only II and III E. None of these

3. What are the shortcomings that cater to water crisis as per the passage?

- I. Lack of infrastructure for water harvesting.
- II. Deficiency of resources of water.
- III. Reduction in ground water level.

A. Only I B. Only II C. Only I and II D. Only II and III E. All of these

4. Which of the following measures as suggested in the passage can help the nation to fight the water crisis?

- I. Creating new recharge wells.
- II. Initiating schemes to promote surface water harvesting.
- III. Spread awareness among the citizens to avoid wastage of water.

A. Only I B. Only II C. Only I and II D. Only II and III E. None of these

5. Which of the following is a synonym of the word "precipitation" in the context of the passage?

A. rainfall B. hindrance C. upsurge D. hesitate E. None of these

6. Which of the following gives an antonym to the word "erratic" in the context of passage?

A. Deduce B. Inconsistent C. Predictable D. Usual E. Whimsical

7. Which of the following is true?

- I. The rainfall could be deficit this year as per the forecast by the India Meteorological department.
- II. 45% of gross cropped area in farming depends upon rain and produces 60% of the output.
- III. A decline of 52% is observed in groundwater levels.

A. Only I B. Only II C. Only I and II D. Only I and III E. None of these

Correct Answers :

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
C	B	E	C	A	C	D



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Explanations:

1. With the given statement it cannot be inferred that government has supported such people who are suffering from water crisis.

Rather it suggests building recharge wells or open wells to fight the war like situation over water shortage. This clearly means that such an act will lower the deficiency of water and improve the situation. Thus Statement II can be inferred from the statement.

“Existing on a war footing” clearly indicates that the current situation is such that people may have serious battle over water deficiency. Thus statement I can also be inferred.

Hence option C is correct.

2. Refer:

A normal summer monsoon over the subcontinent brings widespread prosperity, but does not guarantee a uniform spread. This, as scientists point out, may be due to the effect of particulates released through various industrial and agricultural processes. Clearly only statement II proves to be a reason for differentiated monsoon pattern observed across the country.

Neither Forest density nor air quality is being talked in the passage.

Hence option B is correct.

3. Refer :

Considering that there has been a 52% decline in groundwater levels based on tests conducted last year over the previous decadal average, State governments should have pursued the setting up of new recharging wells and made improvements to existing ones on a war footing. They also have lagged in building structures to harvest surface water and helping farmers raise the efficiency of irrigation.

Clearly all the three statements signify the shortcomings for water crisis.

Hence option E is correct.



4. Refer:

State governments should have pursued the setting up of new recharging wells and made improvements to existing ones on a war footing. They also have lagged in building structures to harvest surface water and helping farmers raise the efficiency of irrigation.

Clearly statement III is not mentioned in the passage.

Thus only statements I and II can be treated as the suggestive measures as per the passage.

Hence option C is correct.

5. Refer:

Some of these aerosols suppress the rainfall and disperse it across the land, causing long breaks in **precipitation**,..

Here precipitation is used in the sense of rain falling down from sky.

Hence option A is correct.

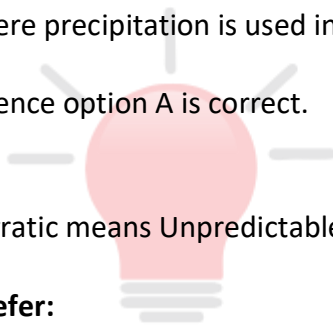
6. Erratic means Unpredictable.

Refer:

Given the **erratic** patterns of rainfall witnessed over the past few decades and their possible connection to atmospheric changes caused by a variety of pollutants, the distribution of monsoon 2019 will add to the insights.

This clearly talks about the instability of a pattern being observed here. Thus the only word that suit the context is "Predictable" which means regular or consistent.

Hence option C is correct.



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7. Refer:

The India Meteorological Department has forecast normal rainfall of 96% of the long period average of 89 cm rain, with an onset date in the first week of June in Kerala. It has also signaled a significant possibility of a deficit.

Thus statement I is true.

Refer:

The monsoon bounty is crucial for the 60% of gross cropped area in farming that is rain-fed, and represents 45% of agricultural output.

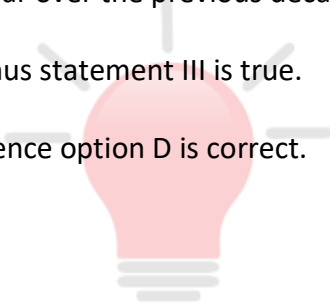
Thus statement II is false.

Refer:

Considering that there has been a 52% decline in groundwater levels based on tests conducted last year over the previous decadal average,..

Thus statement III is true.

Hence option D is correct.



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