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Economic and Social Issues Questions for RBI Grade B Exam.

ESI Quiz 4

Directions: Study the following questions carefully and choose the right answer.

[Set of 2 questions]

A day after the Cabinet gave its nod to the Prime Minister's Research Fellows (PMRF) scheme, Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar said the initiative taken by the government will improve the quality of research.

The Scheme is said to attract the best talents across the country. It will go a long way in tapping the talent pool for carrying out research indigenously in cutting-edge science and technology domains. It will address "our national priorities" on the one hand and the shortage of quality faculty in premier educational institutions on the other. The initiative will convert brain drain to brain gain.

1. In the three year period beginning 2018-19, what is the maximum number of students who would be selected under the Prime Minister's Research Fellows (PMRF) Scheme?
(Topic : Growth Measurement) – 2 Marker

- A. 4000 B. 2000 C. 6500 D. 3000 E. 5000

2. Under the PMRF scheme, Research grant provided to each selected fellow students for 5 years amounts to?
(Topic : Growth Measurement) – 2 Marker

- A. Rs. 2 lakh B. Rs. 5 lakh C. Rs. 3 lakh D. Rs. 6 lakh E. Rs. 6 lakh

[Set of 2 questions]

The India Health Fund (IHF) has invited applications from organizations and individuals for innovations and technologies designed to combat two major diseases that account for over 423,000 deaths and around 1.5 million confirmed cases respectively on an annual basis in India. The IHF aims to support new products and strategies that impact the entire lifecycle of the two diseases in question, from prevention to post-cure recovery.

Promotion of robust molecular diagnostic facility/pathway feasible for primary healthcare in low-resource settings for expediting diagnosis and improving accuracy of results & Use of technology and data science to strengthen surveillance of the two diseases, inform early warning systems, and improve early detection and prompt treatment, are some of the areas that the IHF has invited application on.[S.2, Q.1]

3. A collaboration between which of the following Institutions have led to the formation of the India Health Fund (IHF)?
(Topic : Growth Measurement) – 2 Marker

- A. Tata Trusts, Global Fund B. UNESCO, CARE India C. UNICEF, Tata Trusts
D. Goonj, Global Fund E. Reliance Foundation, WHO

4. The Indian Health Fund aims to financially support innovations and technologies designed to combat which of the following diseases?

(Topic : Growth Measurement) – 2 Marker

- A. Hepatitis B & Polio B. Meningitis & Methicillin C. Tuberculosis & Malaria
D. Leprosy & Measles E. None of the above

[Set of 2 questions]

“We don’t need no education,” crooned Pink Floyd decades ago. The Government of India eminently disagrees. It wants us and our coming generations to imbibe world class education — from ‘Institutions of Eminence’. Miffed that even the best Indian academic institutions did not make it to the lists of top ranked global universities and did not produce enough cutting-edge research, the government decided that something needed to be done. The answer: Institutions of Eminence. The hunt began last year with the University Grants Commission tasked with selecting 10 government universities and 10 private ones that would be a cut above the rest. These Institutions of Eminence would be given significant autonomy in operations — from setting their curriculum and recruiting foreign faculty to entering academic tie-ups. The selected government institutions would also be given up to Rs 1,000 crore over five years to help them become world-class. The ultimate objective is for these Institutions of Eminence to acquire global standing in a few years. [S.3, Q.1]

5. The Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) has granted Institution of Eminence (IoE) status to how many institutions?

(Topic : Growth Measurement) – 2 Marker

- A. 5 B. 3 C. 7 D. 6 E. 4

6. The Empowered Expert Committee which was responsible for selecting institutions for grant of IoE status, was headed by?

(Topic : Growth Measurement) – 2 Marker

- A. N Gopaldaswami B. S.Y Quraishi C. M.S Gill D. H.S Brahma E. None of the above

[Set of 2 questions]

Union Cabinet has approved the proposal of Ministry of Commerce and Industry to give focused attention to 12 identified Champion Services Sectors (CSS) for promoting their development and realizing their potential. It has directed all the Ministries and Departments concerned with these sectors to make use of the available draft sectoral plans to finalize and implement Sectoral Action Plans for identified CSS.

The Government has also decided to set up a dedicated fund of Rs. 5000 crores to support initiatives for the Sectoral Action Plans of the Champion Sectors. These Action Plans will develop vision for each of these identified Champion Sectors by year 2022 and enumerate steps that need to be taken to achieve that vision. These steps are expected to enhance the competitiveness of India's service sectors and will promote GDP growth, create more jobs and promote exports to global markets.

7. The Government has also decided to set up a dedicated fund of _____ crores to support initiatives for the Sectoral Action Plans of the Champion Sectors.

(Topic : Growth Measurement) – 2 Marker

- A. Rs. 4400 B. Rs. 3500 C. Rs. 3000 D. Rs. 5000 E. None of the above

8. These Action Plans will develop vision for each of these identified Champion Sectors by year and enumerate steps that need to be taken to achieve that vision.

(Topic : Growth Measurement) – 2 Marker

- A. 2024 B. 2021 C. 2022 D. 2019 E. 2020

[Set of 2 questions]

The Micro irrigation Fund has been setup with an initial corpus of Rs 5000 crore under NABARD. This fund will have pan India coverage. States which are lagging behind in terms of adoption of micro irrigation will be encouraged to take advantage of the available funds to incentivize farmers. Besides, community driven and innovative projects will be taken up by state will be provided loans to bring additional coverage of micro irrigation. States can access the Fund for Public Private Partnership (PPP) projects. Farmers Producers Organization (FPO), Cooperatives and State Level Agencies can also access funds with Guarantee of State Government or equivalent collateral.

9. The Micro Irrigation Fund under NABARD has been setup under which of the following schemes?

(Topic : Growth Measurement) – 2 Marker

- A. Scheme for Soil and Water Conservation on Watershed Basis B. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana
C. Gram Sachivalaya Yojana D. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana E. None of the above

10. Which of the following is not an objective of the scheme under which the Micro Irrigation Fund has been setup?

(Topic : Growth Measurement) – 2 Marker

- A. Improve on-farm water use efficiency to reduce wastage of water.
B. Expand cultivable area under assured irrigation
C. Enhance the recharge of aquifers.
D. Only A and B
E. All are objectives of the scheme

Correct Answers:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
D	A	A	C	D	A	C	C	D	E

Explanations :

- 1.** Under the PMRF scheme, best students who have completed or are in final year of B. Tech/Integrated M. Tech/M. Sc courses in Science and Technology streams from IISc/IITs/IISERs/ NITs/IIITs will be offered direct admission in PhD programme in IITs/IISc. **A Maximum of 3000** Fellows would be selected in three year period, beginning 2018-19.

Hence, option D is correct.

- 2.** The fellowship scheme was announced in the Budget Speech 2018-19. It will be implemented for period of seven years beginning 2018-19 at total cost of Rs. 1650 crore. Selected students through selection process laid down in PMRF Guidelines will be offered monthly fellowship of Rs.70,000 for first two years, Rs.75,000 for 3rd year and Rs.80,000 in 4th and 5th years. **Each selected fellow students will be also provided research grant of Rs 2 lakh for period of 5 years** to cover their foreign travel expenses for presenting research papers in international conferences and seminars.

Hence, option A is correct.

- 3.** The India Health Fund (IHF) was launched by Tata Trusts in collaboration with Global Fund in August 2016.

Hence, option A is correct.

- 4.** The initiative aims to support new products and strategies that impact entire lifecycle of TB & Malaria, from prevention to post-cure recovery. TB and malaria pose long-standing health challenges for India. These two diseases account for over 4.23 lakh deaths and around 15 million lab-confirmed cases every year. The IHF initiative will support individuals and organisations with already germinated innovative strategies, services, products, such that they become sustainable and scalable solutions in addressing TB and malaria. The initiative is not a fellowship programme to do research from scratch. It is long-term exercise aligned with country's goal of eliminating TB by 2025 and malaria by 2030. It will promote innovative solutions such that they are widely accessible and are affordable.

Hence, option C is correct.

5. The Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) has granted Institution of Eminence (IoE) status to **six educational institutions. It includes 3 Institutions from Public Sector and 3 from Private Sector.** The scheme of IoE was rolled out by University Grants Commission (UGC). It aims to help 20 higher education (10 public and 10 private) institutions from country break into top 500 global rankings in 10 years, and then eventually break into top 100 over time.

Selected institutions are:

Public Sector: Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru (Karnataka); Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay (Maharashtra) and IIT, Delhi.

Private Sector: Birla Institute of Technology & Sciences, Pilani (Rajasthan); Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal (Karnataka) and proposed Jio Institute of Reliance Foundation in Pune (Maharashtra) under Green Field Project.

Hence, option D is correct.

6. **The Empowered Expert Committee headed by former Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) N Gopalaswami, was responsible for selecting the six institutions for the grant of IOE status.**

These selected institutions will have greater autonomy compared to other higher education institutions. They will be free to decide their fee for domestic and foreign students and have flexible course duration and structure. They will be exempted from approvals of government or UGC for academic collaborations with foreign institutions, except institutions in MEA and MHA's list of negative countries. 10 government institutions selected will also get Rs 1,000 crore each from HRD Ministry to achieve world-class status. There will be no financial assistance to the private institutions.

Hence, option A is correct.

7. The Government has also decided to set up a dedicated fund of Rs. 5000 crores to support initiatives for the **Sectoral Action Plans** of the Champion Sectors. These Action Plans will develop vision for each of these identified Champion Sectors by year 2022 and enumerate steps that need to be taken to achieve that vision.

Hence, option C is correct.

8. The Government has also decided to set up a dedicated fund of Rs. 5000 crores to support initiatives for the **Sectoral Action Plans** of the Champion Sectors. These Action Plans will develop vision for each of these identified Champion Sectors by year 2022 and enumerate steps that need to be taken to achieve that vision.

Hence, option C is correct.

9. The Micro Irrigation Fund has been setup under **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)**.

The allocation of MIF under PMKSY will be made in instalments of Rs 2,000 crore and Rs 3,000 crore in 2018-19 and 2019-20. Under it, NABARD will extend loans to state governments during this period. The lending rate under MIF has been proposed at 3% lower than cost of raising fund by NABARD. States will pay back loans in total seven years period, including grace period of two years. The total financial implication on interest subvention from MIF will be about Rs. 750 crore.

Hence, option D is correct.

10. PMKSY has been formulated amalgamating ongoing schemes viz. AIBP, Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) and On Farm Water Management (OFWM) component of National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA). It is implemented by Ministries of Agriculture, Water Resources and Rural Development.

Objectives of PMKSY

- Achieve convergence of investments in irrigation at the field level.
- Expand cultivable area under assured irrigation
- Enhance the adoption of precision-irrigation and other water saving technologies (More crop per drop).
- Improve on-farm water use efficiency to reduce wastage of water.
- Enhance recharge of aquifers.
- Introduce sustainable water conservation practices.

Hence, option E is correct.



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