

Current test 11 Explanation

Question 1

Answer: C

Agriculture Infrastructure Fund

Recently, the Union Cabinet approved some modifications in the Central Sector Scheme of Financing Facility under 'Agriculture Infrastructure Fund'.

Launch: It was launched in 2020 as a part of the Rs. 20 lakh crore stimulus package announced in response to the Covid-19 crisis.

Aim: To provide medium-long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management Infrastructure and community farming assets. The funds will be provided for setting up of cold stores and chains, warehousing, grading and packaging units, e-marketing points linked to e-trading platforms, besides PPP (Public Private Partnership) projects for crop aggregation sponsored by central/state/local bodies.

Duration: Extended to 13 years upto 2032-33.

Features: Eligible Beneficiaries: They are Farmers, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), Primary Agricultural Credit Society (PACS), Marketing Cooperative Societies, Self Help Groups (SHGs), Joint Liability Groups (JLG), Multipurpose Cooperative Societies, Agri-entrepreneurs, Start-ups, and Central/State agency or Local Body sponsored PPP Projects. Eligibility has been extended to State agencies and Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees (APMCs), as well as federations of cooperative organisations, FPOs and SHGs.

Financial Support: Rs. 1 Lakh Crore will be provided by banks and financial institutions as loans to eligible beneficiaries. Moratorium for repayment may vary subject to minimum of 6 months and maximum of 2 years.

Interest Subvention: Loans will have interest subvention of 3% per annum up to a limit of Rs. 2 crore. This subvention will be available for a maximum period of seven years.

CGTMSE Scheme: A credit guarantee coverage will be available for eligible borrowers from this financing facility under Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) scheme for a loan up to Rs. 2 crore.

Management: The fund will be managed and monitored through an online Management Information System (MIS) platform. It will enable all the qualified entities to apply for loans under the Fund. The National, State and District level monitoring committees will be set up to ensure real-time monitoring and effective feed.

Question 2

Answer: B

Centre has tightened the procedure for grant of central funds under Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) through new rules.

Each state will be required to set up a Single Nodal Agency (SNA) for each CSS. Centre will release the funds to the state's account which should be transferred to concerned SNA's account within 21 days. This has to be released within 40 days by the State govt. Phased and conditional funding from the centre. No more that 25% of total central funding in beginning of financial year. Further funding on the condition that state government has transferred and ensured utilisation of 75% of the total released funding. All interest earned from the funds should be mandatorily remitted to

the respective Consolidated Fund of India. All SNAs and IAs will get mapped to the centrally run Public Financial Management System (PFMS) to track and monitor fund flow.

Question 3

Answer: B

Conservation Status of Indian Elephants:

Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I

IUCN Red List: Endangered

CITES: Appendix I

CMS: Appendix I

Question 4

Answer: B

Project Elephant: It is a centrally sponsored scheme which was launched in 1992.

Question 5

Answer: C

Both are Incorrect

Conservation Reserves:

- The amendment act of 2003 provided for the creation of new type of protected area called a conservation reserve.
- It is an area owned by the state government adjacent to the national parks and sanctuaries for protecting the landscape, seascape, and habitat of fauna and flora. It is managed through a conservation reserve management committee.
- The state government may, after having consultations with the local communities, declare any area owned by the government as a conservation reserve.
- Tiruppadaimarathur conservation reserve in tirunelveli, tamilnadu is the first conservation reserve established in the country. It is an effort of the village community to protect the birds nesting in their village and acted for declaration of conservation reserve.

Community Reserve:

- The amendment act of 2003 provide for the creation of a new type of protected area called a community reserve.
- The state government may notify any community land or private land as a community reserve, provided that the members of that community or individuals concerned are agreeable to offer such areas for protecting the fauna and flora, as well as their traditions, cultures and practices.

- The declaration of such an area is aimed at improving the socio-economic conditions of the people living in such areas as well as conserving wildlife. The reserve is managed through a community reserve management committee.
- The state government may, where the community or individual has volunteered to conserve wildlife and its habitat, declare the area by notification as community reserve.
- No change in land use pattern shall be made within the community reserve, except in accordance with a resolution passed by the management committee and approval of the same by the state government.