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Daily MCQs: 01-08-2024

1. The primary objective of the Semicon India Programme is

- A. To promote semiconductor manufacturing in India
- B. To boost textile exports
- C. To improve agricultural productivity
- D. To increase software exports

2. Consider the following statements about Nirbhaya Fund

- 1) It is a lapsable fund administered by the Department of Economic Affairs of the Ministry of Finance.
- 2) It can be utilized for projects specifically designed to improve the safety and security of women.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

3. The Bharatmala Pariyojana is related to

- A. Making all national highways free of various railway crossings.
- B. Optimizing efficiency of freight and passenger movement across the country by bridging critical infrastructure gaps.
- C. To promote, develop and harness the potential of tourism in India.
- D. To provide connectivity to unconnected Habitations as part of a poverty reduction strategy.

4. Which of the following languages are regarded as classical languages in India?

- 1. Tamil
- 2. Sanskrit
- 3. Telugu
- 4. Kannada
- 5. Malayalam
- 6. Odia

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- A. 1, 2, and 3 only
- B. 1, 2, 4, and 5 only
- C. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 only

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D. All of the above

5. With reference to mangrove forests, consider the following statements.

1. Mangrove swamps are coastal wetlands mainly found in tropical and subtropical regions.
2. They are characterized by halophytic trees, shrubs and other plants growing in brackish to saline tidal waters.
3. In India, mangroves are found along the eastern coast only.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Solutions:

1. Answer: A

Explanation

- In order to **widen and deepen electronic manufacturing and ensure development of a robust and sustainable Semiconductor and Display ecosystem in the country**, the Government of India launched the Semicon India Programme in 2021.
- The initiative aimed at positioning India as a global hub for electronic system design and manufacturing.
- Through the program's scope, the government hopes to attract large global chip makers to make India their production base. India wants to achieve technological leadership in these areas of strategic importance – also **key to the security of the country's critical information infrastructure**.

Implementation

- **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)** has been set up as a dedicated institution for the Semicon India Programme.
- ISM coordinates with the applicant companies who have also reached out to states to provide access to world class infrastructure.

Modified Semicon India Programme

- The Modified Semicon India Programme, unveiled late last year, allows a **wider range of fiscal incentives for more "nodes"** (specific manufacturing processes that might be spread out over a chip's production cycle).
- Under the modified program, companies, consortia, and joint ventures planning to set up **semiconductor fabs** in India, regardless of their stage of development are eligible for a **fiscal incentive of 50 percent of the project cost**.

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- Similarly, a **fiscal incentive of 50 percent of the project cost** is available for the **establishment of display fabs** utilizing specified technologies in India.

2. Answer: B

Explanation

- **Statement 2 is correct:** Nirbhaya Fund is a dedicated fund set up by the Government of India in **2013** which can be utilized for projects specifically designed to **improve the safety and security of women**.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** It is a **non-lapsable corpus fund** administered by the **Department of Economic Affairs of the Ministry of Finance**.
- As per this framework, the **Ministry of Finance through the Department of Economic Affairs** is the nodal Ministry for any accretion into and withdrawal from the corpus, and the **Ministry of Women & Child Development (WCD)** is the nodal authority for appraisal of the schemes/proposals received under Nirbhaya Fund.
- **Funding to Non-Governmental Organizations is not envisaged under the framework.**
- The proposed projects under the Nirbhaya Fund should have the following features:
 - Direct impact on safety and security concerns of women
 - Optimum use of existing infrastructure
 - Innovative use of technology
 - No duplication of existing government schemes/programmes
 - Provision for real time intervention as far as possible.

3. Answer: B

Explanation

- Bharatmala Pariyojana is an umbrella program for the highways sector that focuses on **optimizing efficiency of freight and passenger movement** across the country by **bridging critical infrastructure gaps** through effective interventions like development of Economic Corridors, Inter Corridors and Feeder Routes, National Corridor Efficiency Improvement, Border and International connectivity roads, Coastal and Port connectivity roads and Green-field expressways.
- It was launched in **2017**.
- All key aspects of the scheme are managed by the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways**.

Highlights of Bharatmala Pariyojana

- **Improvement in efficiency of existing corridors** through development of Multimodal Logistics Parks and elimination of choke point;
- Enhance focus on improving connectivity in **North East** and leveraging synergies with **Inland Waterways**;

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- Emphasis on **use of technology & scientific planning** for Project Preparation and Asset Monitoring.

Key features of the scheme

- **Improving the quality of roads** - The launch of the scheme has been done to bring a new wave of development in the nation in the form of well-maintained and developed roads. Under this project, the construction of roads in all parts of the nation will be undertaken.
- **Total road construction** - The government and the ministry will strive to complete new roads, which will add up to a whopping 34, 800 kms.

4. Answer: D

Explanation

- The guidelines for declaring a language as 'Classical' are:
 - **High antiquity** of its early texts/recorded history over a period of 1500-2000 years;
 - A **body of ancient literature/texts**, which is considered a valuable heritage by generations of speakers;
 - The **literary tradition be original** and not borrowed from another speech community;
 - The classical language and literature being **distinct from modern**, there may also be a discontinuity between the classical language and its later forms or its offshoots.

How are the Classical languages promoted?

- Two major annual international awards for scholars of eminence in classical Indian languages
- A Centre of Excellence for studies in Classical Languages
- The University Grants Commission is requested to create a certain number of Professional Chairs for the Classical Languages so declared.

Current status

- At present, **six languages** enjoy the 'Classical' status:
 - Tamil (declared in 2004),
 - Sanskrit (2005),
 - Kannada (2008),
 - Telugu (2008),
 - Malayalam (2013), and
 - Odia (2014).

5. Answer: A

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Mangrove swamps are coastal wetlands found in **tropical and subtropical regions**.

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- Mangroves belong primarily to the families **Rhizophoraceae, Acanthaceae, Lythraceae, Combretaceae, and Arecaceae.**
- **Statement 2 is correct:** They are characterized by **halophytic** (salt loving) trees, shrubs and other plants growing in **brackish to saline tidal waters.**
- These wetlands are often found in **estuaries**, where fresh water meets salt water.

Significance of mangroves

- A **wide diversity of plants and animals** are found in mangrove swamps. Since these estuarine swamps are constantly replenished with nutrients transported by fresh water runoff from the land and flushed by the ebb and flow of the tides, they support a bursting population of bacteria and other decomposers and filter feeders.
- Because mangroves create dense foliage and close proximity of trees, they **protect shorelines from damaging winds and waves.** A series of studies in the early 2000s discovered that mangroves with an average height of 6-10 metres could shorten a cyclone's waves by 60%.
- Their protective role has been widely recognized especially after the devastating **Tsunami of 2004.**
- Mangrove forests **stabilize the coastline**, and help **prevent erosion** by stabilising sediments with their tangled root systems.
- Mangroves also have a **big impact on climate.** Mangroves are powerhouses when it comes to carbon storage. Studies indicate that mangroves can **sequester greater amounts of carbon** than other trees in the peat soil beneath. They store this carbon for thousands of years.
- The intricate root system of mangroves also makes these forests attractive to fish and other organisms seeking food and shelter from predators.
- Many people living in and around mangroves **depend on them for their livelihood.** The trees are a source of wood for construction and fuel. The ecosystem provides local fishermen with a rich supply of fish, crabs and shellfish. The ecosystem also supports tourism.

Distribution:

- Mangroves can be found in more than 120 countries and territories in the tropical and subtropical regions of the world. The **largest extent of mangroves is found in Asia (42%)** followed by Africa (20%), North and Central America (15%), Oceania (12%) and South America (11%).
- In India, the **deltas of the Ganges, Mahanadi, Krishna, Godavari, and the Cauvery rivers** contain mangrove forests.
- The **Sundarbans in West Bengal is the largest mangrove region in the world** and a **UNESCO World Heritage Site.** It spans from the Hooghly River in West Bengal to the Baleswar River in Bangladesh.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** **Gulf of Kachchh** harbours one of the major mangrove formations of India. **Pichavaram in Tamil Nadu** has a vast expanse of water covered with mangrove forests. It is home to many aquatic bird species.

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- The **backwaters in Kerala** also have a high density of mangrove forest.

