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Daily MCQs: 15-02-2025

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. 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.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All the three
- D. None of the above

3. Consider the following statements about the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure

- 1) It is an intergovernmental organization that aims to promote the resilience of infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks.
- 2) India is a member of CDRI.

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

4. Consider the following statements

Statement I:

The Sovereign Gold Bond scheme can contribute to reducing the Current Account Deficit.

Statement II:

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Importing huge amounts of gold might lead to appreciation of Indian Rupee.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II is the correct explanation for Statement I.
- Both Statement I and Statements II are correct and Statement II is not the correct explanation for Statement I.
- Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.
- Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct.

5. Consider the following statements about the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) UDAN scheme.

- It aims at providing connectivity to un-served and under-served airports of the country through revival of existing air-strips and airports.
- The scheme offers viability gap funding to companies in addition to waiver of certain statutory charges and taxes on jet fuel.
- The Airports Authority of India is designated as the Implementing Agency under this Scheme.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- Only one
- Only two
- All the three
- None of the above

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

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

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

3. Answer: B

Explanation

- Launched in 2019 under the leadership of the **Government of India**, the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) is an international collaborative platform, aiming to **promote the resilience of infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks**, thereby ensuring sustainable development.

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- At present, it is **not an intergovernmental organization**, which are ordinarily treaty-based organizations. Hence **statement 1 is incorrect**.
- CDRI envisions enabling **measurable reduction in infrastructure losses** from disasters, including extreme climate events.
- CDRI is a **multi-stakeholder global partnership** of national governments, UN agencies and programmes, multilateral development banks and financing mechanisms, the private sector, and academic and knowledge institutions.
- CDRI has also created a dedicated initiative **“Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS)”**, which will work to achieve sustainable development through a systematic approach to promote resilient, sustainable and inclusive infrastructure in **Small Island Developing States (SIDS)**.
- **Members of CDRI: 39 countries and 7 organizations.** (including India) Hence **statement 2 is correct**.



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Organizations



Asian Development Bank (ADB)



World Bank Group



United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)



The Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies



European Union



European Investment Bank

Governance

- Governance arrangements for CDRI Secretariat comprises **three principal bodies**, viz., the **Governing Council** (highest policy-making body), the **Executive Committee** (managerial body) and the **Secretariat** in **New Delhi** headed by a Director General appointed by the Governing Council.
- The **Government of India** will be a **permanent Co-Chair** of the Governing Council of CDRI and a **representative of another national government** nominated by rotation **every two years**.

4. Answer: C

Explanation

- **Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs)** are bonds that are issued **by the RBI on behalf of the Government** on payment of rupees but **denominated in grams of gold**.
- The **value of these bonds is tied to the value of gold**. On redemption, the **investor gets interest income and the prevailing price of gold**.
- These bonds are thus different from usual Government securities (G-secs) as the redemption value at the time of maturity is not a fixed sum, but linked to the price of an underlying commodity called gold.
- **It seeks to encourage people to buy gold bonds instead of actual gold**.

- Gold Monetization Scheme and Sovereign Gold Bond scheme are introduced to **reduce imports of gold** and to increase productive use of gold. Gold imports are the second biggest commodity imports into India after oil. As such, reduction in gold imports will positively affect the larger economy by **reducing the Current Account Deficit. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- Importing huge amounts of gold using foreign exchange reserves depreciates the value of the rupee which makes other essential imports costlier and thereby increases the country's Current Account Deficit (CAD). **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect**

5. Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** In 2017, the **Ministry of Civil Aviation** launched the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) "UDAN" (Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik) which aims at **providing connectivity to un-served and under-served airports** of the country through revival of existing air-strips and airports to make **flying affordable** to the common man who want to travel to and fro the Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities of the country.
- UDAN has a unique market-based model. Airline routes are allocated to operators selected through a **competitive bidding mechanism**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** UDAN scheme offers **viability gap funding** to companies in addition to waiver of certain statutory charges and taxes on jet fuel in order to offer affordable connectivity.
- Airlines have to set aside **50% of the total aircraft capacity** for cheaper fares to be offered at the rate of **Rs 2,500 per hour of flight**, in return for which airlines are given a subsidy by the Centre and the State government concerned.
- The airport that will be renovated under this scheme will be chosen after referring to the respective State government. Together with the State government the Central government will revive the dysfunctional and unserved airports of the country.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** is designated as the Implementing Agency under this Scheme.
- The scheme is now in its **fourth phase** with focus on bringing connectivity to priority areas like North East India, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, hilly states in other parts of the country, and islands.