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Daily MCQs: 24-02-2025

1. 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

2. For which specific reason is Pingali Venkayya remembered even today?

- A. He helped in the annexation of Hyderabad
- B. He helped in the annexation of Goa
- C. He designed the Indian National Flag
- D. He composed the music for the National Anthem

3. The Green India Mission (GIM) is one of the eight missions under which Indian Government initiative?

- A. Swachh Bharat Abhiyan
- B. National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)
- C. Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana
- D. National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA)

4. How many of the following are major threats to the coral reef ecosystem?

- 1) Ocean acidification
- 2) Bottom trawling
- 3) Vulnerability to predation
- 4) Decrease in river sedimentation

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All the four

5. The term 'Girmityas', sometimes seen in the news, is related to which of the following?

- a) Indentured Laborers

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- b) Women entrepreneurs
- c) Marginalized farmers
- d) Environmental activists

Solutions:

1. 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.

2. Answer: C

Explanation

- Pingali Venkayya was a **freedom fighter** and the **designer of the Indian National Tricolour** who went on to become synonymous with the spirit of free and independent India. The national flag that we see today was based upon his design. **Hence, option C is correct.**
- Born in 1876 in **Andhra Pradesh**, Venkayya served as a soldier in the British Army in South Africa during the Anglo Boer war in Africa.
- The flag designed by Venkayya was officially adopted by the **Indian National Congress in 1931.**

3. Answer: B

Explanation

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- **Green India Mission (GIM)** is one of the eight missions under the **National Action Plan on Climate Change**. Hence, **option B is correct**.
- It aims at protecting, restoring and enhancing India's diminishing forest cover and responding to climate change by a combination of adaptation and mitigation measures.
- It is driven by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC)**.

4. Answer: C

Explanation

Main threats to coral reefs

- **Climate change:** Warmer water temperatures can result in **coral bleaching**. When water is too warm, corals expel the algae (zooxanthellae) living in their tissues causing the coral to turn completely white. This is called **coral bleaching**. When a coral bleaches, it is not dead. Corals can survive a bleaching event, but they are under more stress and are subject to mortality.
- **Ocean acidification:** Ocean acidification is caused by rising levels of CO₂ in the atmosphere. Oceans absorb some of the CO₂. As CO₂ enters the ocean, it reacts with water increasing hydrogen ion concentration (thus decreasing ocean pH) and decreasing the carbonate ion concentration. A reduction in carbonate ions affects the **Calcification process** of Corals. Hence **statement 1 is correct**.
- *Calcification is the process by which corals form their skeletons by combining calcium ions and carbonate ions to create calcium carbonate.*
- **Pollution:** Urban and industrial waste, plastics, sewage, agrochemicals, and oil pollution are poisoning reefs. Some pollutants, such as sewage and runoff from farming, increase the level of nitrogen in seawater, causing an overgrowth of algae.
- **Sedimentation:** Erosion caused by construction, mining, logging, and farming is leading to increased sediment in rivers. This ends up in the ocean, where it can smother corals by depriving them of the light needed to survive. Hence **statement 4 is incorrect**.
- **Destructive fishing practices:** These include cyanide fishing, blast or dynamite fishing, bottom trawling, and muro-ami (banging on the reef with sticks). **Bottom-trawling** is one of the greatest threats to cold-water coral reefs. Hence **statement 2 is correct**.
- **Predators:** In addition to weather, **corals are vulnerable to predation**. Fish, marine worms, barnacles, crabs, snails and sea stars all prey on the soft inner tissues of coral polyps. Hence **statement 3 is correct**.

5. Answer: A

Explanation

- Girmityas were **generations of Indians who were taken to other countries** like Mauritius, Seychelles, Fiji, South Africa, East Africa, Malay Peninsula, Suriname, Guyana and the Caribbean islands, **in the middle and the late 19th century, by the British to serve as indentured laborers** in the British colonies.