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# Geography

## (*PRE-Mix*)

*April 2020 to March 2021*

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1. **BCIM Economic Corridor is a proposed multi-modal transport corridor that aims to connect:**

1. Kolkata
  2. Arkhangai
  3. Dhaka
  4. Mandalay
- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
  - B. 2, 3 and 4 only
  - C. 1, 3 and 4 only
  - D. 1, 2, 3 and 4 only

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- Bangladesh, China, India and Myanmar (BCIM) Economic Corridor is a multi-modal transport corridor with the aim to connect India (Kolkata) and china (Kunming) via Bangladesh (Dhaka) and Myanmar (Mandalay).
- The idea was given a shape in the form of BCIM forum in 1999 in the first 'Kunming Initiative'. It is intended to advance multi-modal connectivity, promote investment and trade and facilitate people-to-people contacts through a combination of road, rail, water and air linkages in the region.
- The multi-modal corridor will be the first expressway between India and China and will pass through Myanmar and Bangladesh.
- Arkhangai is a province in Mongolia.



2. **Which of the following is not a member of OPEC+?**

- A. Oman
- B. South Sudan
- C. Azerbaijan
- D. Iraq

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**



- **OPEC plus countries include** Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, Russia, South Sudan and Sudan.
- The current **OPEC members** are the following: Algeria, Angola, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, the Republic of the Congo, Saudi Arabia (the de facto leader), the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela.
- The **non-OPEC countries which export crude oil** are termed as **OPEC plus countries**.
- OPEC plus countries include Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, Russia, South Sudan and Sudan.

3. The term 'Sahyadri Megha' has been in news recently. It is a new variety of

- A. Paddy
- B. Sugarcane
- C. Tea
- D. Coffee

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

Sahyadri Megha is a red variety of paddy that is **resistant to blast disease and rich in nutrients**.

4. Recently the manufacture, sale and distribution of Colistin has been prohibited. It is a/an

- A. Antibiotic
- B. Insecticide
- C. Pesticide
- D. None of the above

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had issued an order prohibiting the manufacture, sale and distribution of Colistin and its formulations for food-producing animals, poultry, aqua farming and animal feed supplements.
- The ban has been imposed under the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.
- Colistin is an antibiotic for therapeutic purpose in veterinary.
- Also, colistin is a valuable, last-resort antibiotic that saves lives in critical care units but in recent years, there have been cases being resistance to the drug.
- This move is likely to reduce the antimicrobial resistance within the country.

5. Identify the basic objective of Earth Ganga programme.

- A. To provide to all households in rural India safe and adequate water through individual household tap connections by 2024.
- B. To accomplish the twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution, conservation and rejuvenation of National River Ganga and its tributaries.
- C. To promote economic activities related to Ganga .
- D. None of the above

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- During the first meeting of the National Ganga Council in Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh) in 2019, the Prime Minister urged for a holistic thinking process where 'Namami Gange' evolves to 'Arth Ganga'.
- In simple terms, 'Arth Ganga' implies a sustainable development model with a focus on economic activities related to Ganga.

6. Consider the following statements about Biorock Technology?

1. Biorock, refers to the substance formed by electro-accumulation of minerals dissolved in seawater.
2. This technology has recently been installed was installed in the Gulf of Khambat.

**Choose the correct one/ones.**

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

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- The **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)**, with help from Gujarat's forest department, is attempting for the first time a process to **restore coral reefs using biorock or mineral accretion technology**.
- Also called '**Biorock Technology**', it is a method that applies safe, **low voltage electrical currents** through seawater, causing **dissolved minerals to crystallize** on structures, **growing into a white limestone (CaCo<sub>3</sub>)** similar to that which naturally makes up coral reefs and tropical white sand beaches.
- Biorock, also known as Seacrete or Seament, refers to the substance formed by electro-accumulation of minerals dissolved in seawater.
- A biorock structure was **installed one nautical mile off the Mithapur coast in the Gulf of Kachchh** on 19th January, 2020. The scientists have **used solar panels** for power in this case.

7. Which of the following is matched incorrectly?

1. 38th Parallel : USA and Canada
  2. 49th Parallel : North Korea & South Korea
  3. Durand Line : India and Afghanistan
  4. Radcliffe line : India and Pakistan
- A. Only 1  
B. 1 and 2 only  
C. 2 and 3 only  
D. 1, 2 and 4 only

**Answer: B**

8. The African Great Lakes are a series of lakes constituting the part of the Rift Valley lakes in and around the East African Rift. They do not include

- A. Lake Victoria  
B. Lake Tanganyika  
C. Lake Malawi  
D. Lake Baikal

**Answer: D**

9. Identify the GIAHS sites in India among the following:

1. Kuttanad Below Sea Level Farming System of Kerala
  2. Koraput Traditional Agriculture of Odisha
  3. Pampore Saffron Heritage of Kashmir
- A. Only 1  
B. Only 2  
C. Only 3  
D. All of the above

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

Three recognised GIAHS sites in India:

- Kuttanad Below Sea Level Farming System of Kerala

- Koraput Traditional Agriculture of Odisha
- Pampore Saffron Heritage of Kashmir

**10. A layer in the Earth's atmosphere called Ionosphere facilitates radio communication. Why? (UPSC 2011)**

1. The presence of ozone causes the reflection of radio waves to Earth.
  2. Radio waves have a very long wavelength.
- A. 1 only  
B. 2 only  
C. Both 1 and 2  
D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: D**

**11. Which among the following is Endoheric?**

- A. Caspian Sea  
B. Arabian Sea  
C. Andaman Sea  
D. South China Sea

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**



**12. The lower Gangetic plain is characterized by humid climate with high temperature throughout the year. Which one among the following pairs of crops is most suitable for this region? (UPSC 2011)**

- A. Paddy and cotton

- B. Wheat and Jute
- C. Paddy and Jute
- D. Wheat and cotton

**Answer: C**

**13. Consider the following pairs (UPSC 2013)**

**National Park**

**River flowing through the Park**

- |                                |        |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| 1. Corbett National Park       | Ganga  |
| 2. Kaziranga National Park     | Manas  |
| 3. Silent Valley National Park | Kaveri |

**Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?**

- A. 1 and 2
- B. 3 only
- C. 1 and 3
- D. None

**Answer: D**

**14. Consider the following rivers. (UPSC 2014)**

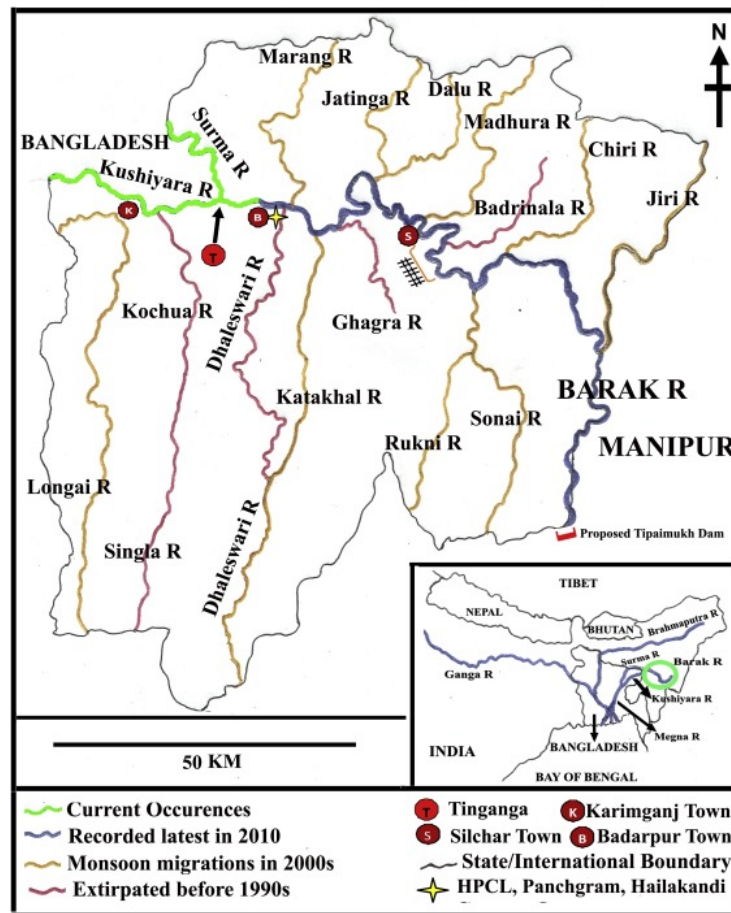
- 1. Barak
- 2. Lohit
- 3. Subansiri

**Which of the above flow(s) through Arunachal Pradesh?**

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**



15. Which one of the following pairs is correctly matched? (UPSC 2013)

Geographical Feature	Region
A. Abyssinian Plateau	Arabia
B. Atlas Mountains	North-Western Africa
C. Guiana Highlands	South-Western Africa
D. Okavango Basin	Patagonia

Answer: B

16. Which of the following has/have shrunk immensely/dried up the recent past due to human activities? (UPSC 2018)

1. Aral Sea
2. Black Sea
3. Lake Baikal

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 and 3

- C. 2 only  
D. 1 and 3

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- As per **NASA**, over the last 50 years, Aral Sea has shrunk by about 75% of its original size mainly because of water diversion for agricultural usages in surrounding areas. Also from a depth of 68 meters in the 1960s, today it stands at less than 10 meters.
- In Lake Baikal, water level has gone below the critical mark of 456 m eleven times since 1962.
- Thus, while Aral Sea has dried up immensely, Lake Baikal shows more of a fluctuating regime and shrinkage is not comparable to that of Aral Sea.

**17. Consider the following pairs: (UPSC 2018)**

Towns in news	Country
1. Aleppo	Syria
2. Kirkuk	Yemen
3. Mosul	Palestine
4. Mazar-i-sharif	Afghanistan

**Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?**

- A. 1 and 2  
B. 1 and 4  
C. 2 and 3  
D. 3 and 4

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

Aleppo is in Syria, Kirkuk and Mosul are in Iraq while Mazar-i-Sharif is in Afghanistan.

**18. Which one of the following is an artificial lake? (UPSC 2018)**

- A. Kodaikanal (Tamil Nadu)  
B. Kolleru (Andhra Pradesh)  
C. Nainital (Uttarakhand)  
D. Renuka (Himachal Pradesh)

**Answer: A**

### Explanation

Kodaikanal Lake, also known as **Kodai Lake** is a **manmade lake** located in the **Kodaikanal city in Dindigul district in Tamilnadu, India**. Sir Vere Henry Levinge, the then Collector of Madurai, was instrumental in creating the lake in 1863, amidst the Kodaikanal town which was developed by the British and early missionaries from USA

19. Consider the following statements: (UPSC 2018)

1. The Barren Island volcano is an active volcano located in the Indian Territory.
2. Barren Island lies about 140 km east of Great Nicobar.
3. The last time the Barren Island volcano erupted was in 1991 and it has remained inactive since then.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

### Explanation

Barren Island is **India's only active volcano**. It is located 140kms to the east of Port Blair (lies in South Andaman) while Great Nicobar is southernmost region of Andaman & Nicobar and lies further south of Port Blair. The **Barren Island volcano had been lying dormant for more than 150 years until it saw a major eruption in 1991**. Since then it has shown intermittent activity, including eruptions in 1995, 2005 and 2017

20. Consider the following statements

1. Most of the world's coral reefs are in tropical waters.
2. More than one-third of the world's coral reefs are located in the territories of Australia, Indonesia and Philippines.
3. Coral reefs host far more number of animal phyla than those hosted by tropical rainforests.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- Most coral reefs are located in tropical shallow waters less than 50 meters deep, in the western regions of the Indian ocean, Pacific Ocean and Greater Caribbean.
- Global distribution of corals Australia-17% Indonesia-16% Philippines-9% So, Australia, Indonesia and Philippines together host more than one-third of world's corals.
- 32 of the 34 recognised animal Phyla are found on coral reefs compared to only 9 Phyla in tropical rainforests.

**21. Snowline is the altitude in a particular place above which some snow remains on the ground throughout the year. This snow line is higher for Eastern Himalayas compared to that of Western Himalayas.**

**Choose the correct reasons in context with the same.**

1. The altitude of the Western Himalayas is higher than the Eastern Himalayas
2. Eastern Himalayas receive more precipitation from south-west monsoon in the summers than compared to Western Himalayas.

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

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- Eastern Himalaya's altitude as well as latitudinal location is lower compared to Western Himalayas. Due to higher altitude as well as latitude the temperature is much less in the Western Himalaya and as a consequence the snowline in the Western Himalaya is at a lower altitude than in the Eastern Himalaya.
- Southwest monsoon winds bring more rainfall to Eastern Himalayas than compared to Western Himalayas. Thus monsoon winds can have moderating effect on Eastern Himalayas and in turn increasing the altitude of snowline.

**22. From the ecological point of view, which one of the following assumes importance in being a good link between the Eastern Ghats and the Western Ghats? (UPSC 2017)**

- A. Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve  
B. Nallamala Forest  
C. Nagarhole National Park  
D. Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- Sathyamangalam forest range is a significant wildlife corridor in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve between the Western Ghats and the rest of the Eastern Ghats Located in the Erode district of Tamil Nadu
- With a forest area of 1,411.6 square kilometres, the reserve is a part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve and lies between the Western Ghats and the rest of the Eastern Ghats.
- The Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve was in news for increase in Bear population.

**23. Why are there more cyclones in the Bay of Bengal as compared to the Arabian Sea?**

1. The Arabian Sea is relatively cooler than this temperature range, which the Bay of Bengal offers.
2. Bay of Bengal being a closed and a smaller water body, it has higher surface temperature compared to Arabian sea.
3. Bay of Bengal receives the remnants of the typhoons originated in Northwestern Pacific ocean.

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

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

**Other Reasons**

- The cyclones originated in Bay of Bengal reach Arabian sea but only remnants of cyclones after shedding their energy while traversing over the peninsular landmass.
- Most of the cyclones in the Arabian Sea are local. They collapse a little after making landfall as there is no back-up supply.
- The hills along the eastern coasts are not high enough to stop cyclones making much inroad into the coastal states
- The Western Ghats prevents the cyclonic storms to go in the hinterland

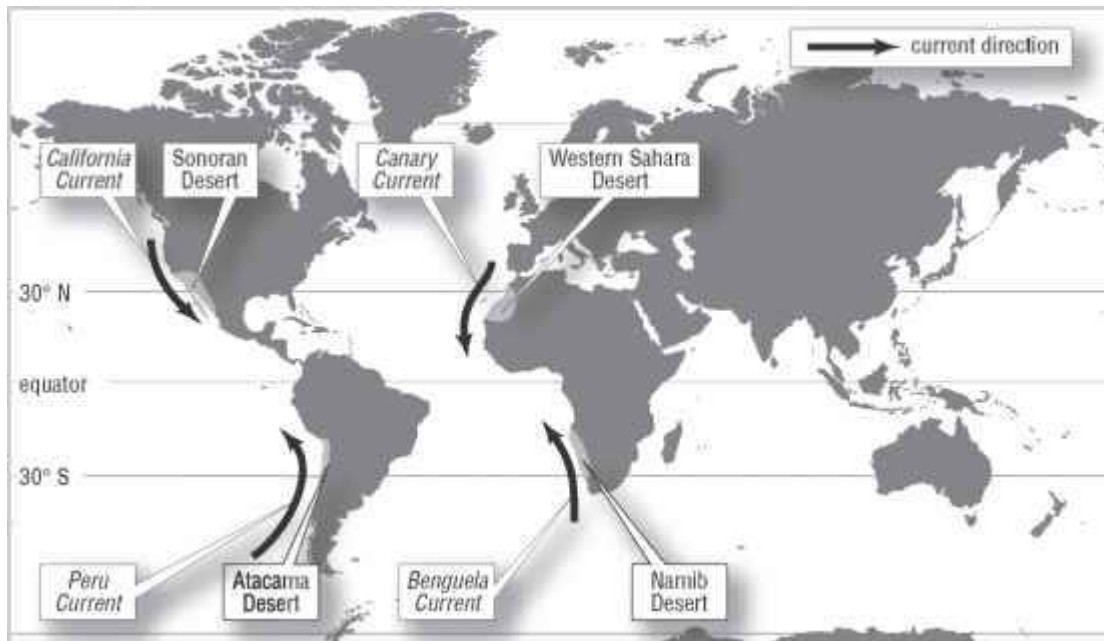
**24. The Atacama Desert is a desert plateau in South America covering a 1,000 km strip of land on the Pacific coast, west of the Andes Mountains. It is associated with:**

- A. Peru Current  
B. Canaries Current  
C. Kuroshio Current

D. Oyashio Current

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**



25. India's Vishnu Nandan was among 300 researchers to join the Multidisciplinary drifting Observatory for the Study of Arctic Climate (MOSAiC) expedition.

Find the incorrect one in context with the (MOSAIC) expedition?

- A. It is led by the Alfred Wegener Institute in Germany.
- B. It is a one-year-long expedition into the Central Arctic.
- C. The objective of the expedition is to measure the atmospheric, geophysical, oceanographic and all other possible variables in the Arctic, and use it to more accurately forecast the changes in our weather systems due to climate change in Arctic.
- D. None of the above

**Answer: D**

26. Which of the following is correct in the context of MSP for MFP Scheme?

- 1. The scheme was started by Centre in 2013 to ensure fair and remunerative prices for MFP gatherers.
  - 2. Bamboo is considered a minor forest produce
- A. 1 only
  - B. 2 only
  - C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- MSP for MFPs is announced by the Central government and is revised every 3 years. However, this year the authorities revised it earlier than 3 years, by the Pricing Cell constituted under Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- Union Environment ministry asked the states to treat bamboo as a minor forest produce in 2015.

**27. Which of the following statement(s) is/are true in the context of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs?)**

1. PVTG is recognised by the constitution of India
2. Dhebar Commission was responsible for the creation of the Primitive Tribal Groups which ultimately became PVTGs

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- PVTG is neither recognised by the Constitution of India nor is it mentioned in it. But the **Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (FRA)** has a special section regarding the 75 PVTGs and the Act recognises forest and habitat rights of PVTGs
- Dhebar Commission submitted its report in 1975 created this separate category of Primitive Tribal Groups which ultimately were renamed Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups in 2006. The report accounted for certain inequalities which existed in the development levels of the tribal communities.

**28. Which of the following communities is exempt by the Central government from obtaining licence for firearms?**

- A. Kodava  
B. Parivara  
C. Talwara  
D. Siddi

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

The Centre has decided to continue a **British-era rule of exempting the Kodavas of Coorg (a martial community of Karnataka)** from obtaining licence for firearms such as pistols, revolvers and double-barrelled shotguns. It is the only community in the country to get such an exemption.

29. Which of the following tribe is known as 'the Headhunters'?

- A. Nagas
- B. Konyaks
- C. Ao
- D. Sumi

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- North East India is home to many intriguing tribal people and cultures but perhaps the most fascinating are the Konyak Tribe, better **known as the headhunters**, the largest of 17 officially recognized tribes in Nagaland and infamous due to their tradition of **head hunting**.
- All Nagas were **headhunters and this only stopped with the advent of the Christian missionaries**.
- The Konyaks, who reside deep in the forests of Longwa village, were the last to be converted. They were eventually converted by the Ao tribe of Nagaland who were converted by the missionaries.
- The term "headhunting" was given by outsiders, the Konyak only see themselves as warriors

30. Which of the following is/are associated with the 'Denotified Tribes'?

1. Idate Commission
2. Criminal Tribes Act 1871
3. Habitual Offenders Act 1952

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. All of the Above

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- DNTs are a heterogenous group engaged in various occupations such as transport, key-making, salt trading, entertaining — acrobats, dancers, snake charmers, jugglers — and pastoralists. These **communities were branded 'born criminals' under the colonial-era Criminal Tribes Act, 1871**. Independent India repealed this act in 1952, but the **Habitual Offenders Act 1952** kicked in soon.

- **Renke Commission** submitted its report in 2008 highlighting that 50 per cent of DNTs lacked any kind of documents and 98 per cent were landless.
- **Idate commission** was constituted in 2015 which identified them state-wise and assessed their developmental status.

31. Ganga basin is the largest river basin in India in terms of catchment area. Identify the states associated with the same

1. Madhya Pradesh
2. Rajasthan
3. Uttar Pradesh

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

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

The basin covers 11 states viz., Uttarakhand, U.P., M.P., Rajasthan, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal and Delhi.



32. Which of the following passes connect Chumbi Valley to Sikkim?

1. Nathu La



2. Jalep La

3. Shipki La

4. Bomdi La

A. 1 Only

B. 1 and 2 only

C. 1, 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**



33. The annual range of temperature in the interior of the continents is high as compared to coastal areas. What is/are the reason/reasons? (UPSC - 2013)

1. Thermal difference between land and water

2. Variation in altitude between continents and oceans

3. Presence of strong winds in the interior

4. Heavy rains in the interior as compared to coasts

A. 1 only

B. 1 and 2 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- Land heats up and cool down very fast as compared to the water. Areas in the interior of India are far away from the moderating influence of the sea. Such areas have extremes of climate.

- Statement 2 is wrong as there may or may not be much difference between the altitudes of land and ocean.
- Statement 3 is wrong as winds do not contribute enough to the variations in temperature.
- Statement 4 is wrong as coastal region receive more rainfall.

**34. Which of the following is may be considered as criticism in context with Continental Drift Theory?**

1. The theory doesn't consider oceans.
2. It did not explain the formation of oceanic ridges and Island arcs.
3. Forces like buoyancy, tidal currents and gravity are too weak to be able to move continents.

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

**Answer: D**

**35. Which of the following are considered as Meteorite Crater/s in India?**

1. Lonar Lake
2. Dhala crater
3. Ramgarh crater

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

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- **Lonar Lake** (1.8 km in diameter) in Buldhana District of Maharashtra
- **Dhala crater** (14 km in diameter) in Shivpuri district, Madhya Pradesh and
- **Ramgarh crater** (3.5 km in diameter) is a potential meteorite crater in Kota plateau in Rajasthan

**36. The Sudan type climate has which of the following characteristics:**

1. It is transitional and spread majorly over temperate zones.
2. It is characterized by distinct wet and dry seasons.



3. It is mainly present below the Tropic of Capricorn.

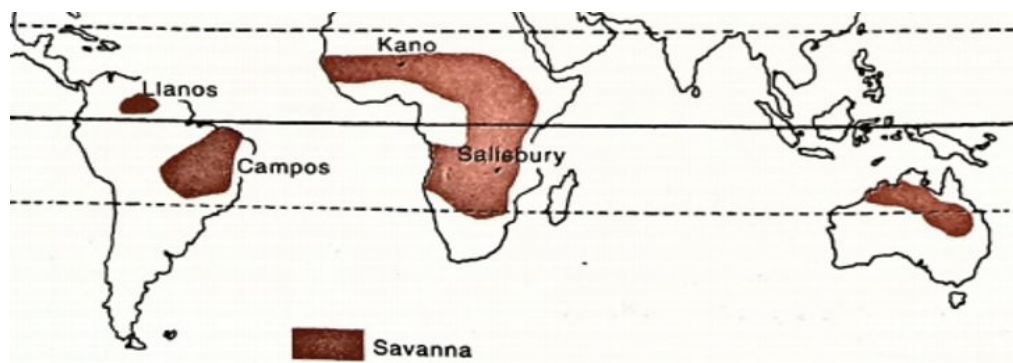
Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 2 only
- D. All of the above

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- It is the climate experienced in savanna or tropical grassland regions of the world. These **places are located near the equator, and they lie between the Southern and the Northern Tropics**. It shares some similar characteristics with the tropical monsoon climate, but it receives less annual rainfall as compared to the tropical monsoon climate.
- The savanna or Sudan is a transitional type of climate found between equatorial forest and desert.
- The tropical savanna climate is also called the tropical wet and dry climate. It is confined within the tropics and best developed at Sudan where the Dry and wet season are most distinct. Its rainfall is characterized by an alternative hot rainy season normally begins in May.



37. In India, the steel production industry requires the import of (UPSC 2015)

- A. saltpetre
- B. Rock phosphate
- C. Coking coal
- D. All of the above

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

**Saltpetre**

- Potassium nitrate is one of several nitrogen-containing compounds collectively referred to as **saltpeter** or **saltpetre**. Major uses of potassium nitrate are in fertilizers, tree stump removal, rocket propellants and fireworks. It is one of the major constituents of gunpowder (black powder).

### Rock Phosphate

- Phosphorite, phosphate rock or rock phosphate is a non-detrital sedimentary rock that contains high amounts of phosphate minerals.

### Metallurgical coal or coking coal

- Metallurgical coal or coking coal is a grade of coal that can be used to produce good-quality coke. Coke is an essential fuel and reactant in the blast furnace process for primary steelmaking.
- The coal found in **India** is mainly non coking quality and hence coking coal has to be **imported** 70% of the **steel produced** today uses coal coking coal is a vital ingredient in the **steel** making process.
- **Saltpetre and rockphosphate are not utilized by majority Steel companies in India.**
- Further, **India is a producer of saltpetre and usually does not import this product in large quantity.**

**38.The Mogao Caves, also known as the Thousand Buddha Grottoes or Caves of the Thousand Buddhas, forms a system of 500 temples are located in:**

- A. Cambodia
- B. Thailand
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. China

**Answer: D**

**39.Which of the following is true about Tropical Forest Alliance 2020?**

1. The Tropical Forest Alliance 2020 was founded in 2015 at Rio+20.
  2. The aim of the alliance is to halve deforestation by 2025 and end it by 2030.
- A. Only 1
  - B. Only 2
  - C. Both 1 and 2
  - D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: D**

**40.Which of the following state touches the boundaries of the maximum number of other Indian States?**

- A. Telangana

- B. Himachal Pradesh
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Uttar Pradesh

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**



#### 41. Identify the wind

1. It is a Mediterranean wind that comes from the Sahara and reaches hurricane speeds in North Africa and Southern Europe.
2. These winds carry red sand particles from Sahara due to which they cause red color rainfall in southern Europe and this rainfall is known as Blood Rain.
3. These winds are known as Levech in Spain and Leste in Morocco and Madeira, Gibli in Lybia, Chilli in Tunisia.

- A. Sirocco
- B. Chinook
- C. Khamsin

D. Mistral

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- Sirocco is the warm, dry, dusty local wind that blows from the Sahara Desert over the central Mediterranean, southern Italy and may even reach Spain, etc. Sirocco is a Mediterranean wind that comes from the Sahara and reaches hurricane speeds in North Africa and Southern Europe.
- As the Sirocco descend through the northern slope of the Atlas Mountain they become extremely warm and dry. These winds carry red sand particles from Sahara due to which they cause red color rainfall in southern Europe and this rainfall is known as Blood Rain.
- Sirocco is so much laden with sands and dust that the atmospheric visibility reduces almost to zero and they are much injurious to the Agriculture and fruit crops. Sirocco winds are known as Levech in Spain and Leste in Morocco and Madeira, Gibli in Lybia, Chilli in Tunisia.



**42. Volcanic eruptions do not occur in: (UPSC 1999)**

- A. Baltic Sea
- B. Black Sea
- C. Caribbean Sea
- D. Caspian Sea

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- In case of **Baltic sea**, the Baltic sea does not lie in between the tectonic plates but instead the basaltic rock found in Baltic sea is transported by glacier so volcanic eruptions do not occur in Baltic sea.



43. As per INDIA STATE OF FORESTS REPORT 2019; identify the state with maximum forest cover as percentage of total geographical area:

- A. Mizoram
- B. Arunachal Pradesh
- C. Meghalaya
- D. Manipur

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- Madhya Pradesh has the largest forest cover in the country followed by Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Maharashtra.
- In terms of forest cover as percentage of total geographical area, the top five States are Mizoram (85.41%), Arunachal Pradesh (79.63%), Meghalaya (76.33%), Manipur (75.46%) and Nagaland (75.31%).

44. Mahastupa of the Buddhist heritage site of Thotlakonda, which was reconstructed in 2016 by the State Archaeology department, collapsed recently in 2019. It is situated in:

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Telangana
- C. Karnataka
- D. Bihar

**Answer: A**

45. As per INDIA STATE OF FORESTS REPORT 2019; identify the state with maximum increase in forest cover:

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. Mizoram
- D. Karnataka

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- The top five States in terms of increase in forest cover are Karnataka (1,025 sq km), Andhra Pradesh (990 sq km), Kerala (823 sq km), Jammu & Kashmir (371 sq km) and Himachal Pradesh (334 sq km).
- States showing maximum loss in forest cover are Manipur (499 sq km), Arunachal Pradesh (276 sq km) and Mizoram (180 sq km).

- In terms of forest cover as percentage of total geographical area, the top five States are Mizoram (85.41%), Arunachal Pradesh (79.63%), Meghalaya (76.33%), Manipur (75.46%) and Nagaland (75.31%).

**46. Identify the correct ones:**

1. Khamsin : Egypt
2. Foehn : The Alps
3. Harmattan : West Africa
4. Purga : Russia

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

**Answer: D**

**47. Consider the following statements: (UPSC 2007)**

1. The annual range of temperature is greater in the Pacific Ocean than that in the Atlantic Ocean.
2. The annual range of temperature is greater in the Northern Hemisphere than that in the Southern Hemisphere.

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- The Pacific Ocean occupies a wider area when compared to other oceans in the world. This helps the ocean to dissipate the heat in the ocean to the atmosphere.
- The larger area acts as a sink, taking in the influence of temperature. As the air gazes above the surface, the **temperature reduces** and the ocean sees a drop in temperature.
- Atlantic Ocean records higher annual range of temperature than the Pacific Ocean because the size of Atlantic is smaller than that of Pacific.
- Southern Hemisphere has more Ocean than land. Water heats up and cools slowly as compared to land. Therefore Milder climates in southern hemisphere.

48. Which of the following are matched correctly?

1. Juang tribe : Odisha
2. Asur Tribe : Assam
3. Rabha : Jharkhand
4. Garo : Meghalaya

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

● Juang Tribe

✓ It is a particularly vulnerable tribal group found mainly in the Gonsaika hills of Keonjhar district of Odisha.

✓ Their major occupations include: shifting cultivation, hunting and food gathering.

● Asur Tribes

✓ Asur is among the nine Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) found in Jharkhand. Asur language figures in the list of UNESCO Interactive Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger.

● Rabha Tribes

✓ The Rabhas are one of nine Schedule Tribes from the districts on the plains of Assam.

● Garo Tribes

✓ Garos are one of the matrilineal societies living in Garo Hills of Meghalaya.

49. Which of the following are matched correctly?

1. Black Pagoda: Orissa
2. White Pagoda : Karnataka

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

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**



- Konark Temple : Black Pagoda
- Jagannath Puri Temple : White Pagoda

**50.Travel and Toursim Competitiveness Index is released by:**

- A. World Bank
- B. IMF
- C. World Economic Forum
- D. UNCTAD

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- It is produced by the World Economic Forum (WEF).
- It covers 140 economies, measures the set of factors and policies that enable sustainable development of travel and tourism sector which contributes to the development and competitiveness of a country.
- India has moved up six places to rank 34th on world TCI 2019.

**51.Natural growth of population is the outcome of which of the following?**

1. Crude Birth Rate
2. Crude Death Rate
3. Migration
4. Marriages

**Select the correct answer from the codes given below**

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 3
- C. 2 and 4
- D. 1 and 2

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- Births and deaths are natural causes of population change.
- The difference between the birth rate and the death rate of a country or place is called the natural increase.
- The natural increase is calculated by subtracting the death rate from the birth rate.



## 52. Match List -I and List -II

### List -I (States)

1. Kerala
2. Nagaland
3. Uttarakhand
4. Tamil Nadu

### List -II (Highest Peak)

1. Dodda Betta
2. Nand Devi
3. Anai Mudi
4. Saramati

Codes:

1 2 3 4

A. 1 3 4 2

B. 2 3 4 1

C. 3 4 2 1

D. 1 2 3 4

Answer: C

## 53. Which of the following pairs is not correctly matched?

### Desert

### Country

- |               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| A. Sonoran    | USA          |
| B. Taklamakan | China        |
| C. Karakum    | Turkmenistan |
| D. Gibson     | Brazil       |

Answer: D

### Explanation

#### Desert

#### Country

- Sonoran North America
- Taklamakan Northwest China
- Karakum Turkmenistan ( Central Asia)
- Gibson Brazil

## 54. At the mouth of which of the following rivers the 'bird's foot' type delta is formed?

- A. Huang Ho
- B. Danube

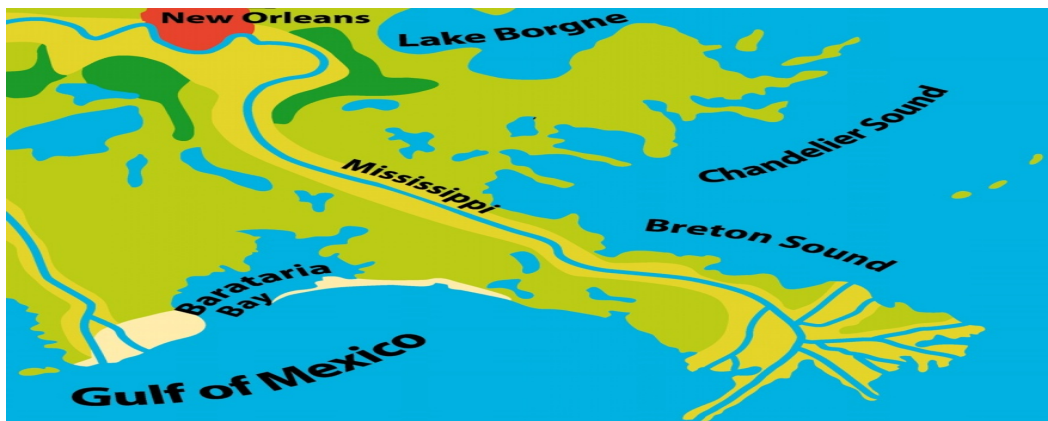
C. Nile

D. Mississippi

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- A bird-foot delta has few, widely spaced distributaries, making it look like a bird's foot. The Mississippi River forms a bird-foot delta as it empties into the Gulf of Mexico.



**55. Which of the following statements is not correct?**

- A. Black soil is locally called 'regur'
- B. According to Krabs the regur soil is essentially a mature soil
- C. Black soils are highly retentive to moisture.
- D. Black soil is found in Himalayan region

**Answer: D**

**56. Which one of the following gases is transparent to incoming solar radiation and opaque to outgoing terrestrial radiation?**

- A. Oxygen
- B. Helium
- C. Nitrogen
- D. Carbon Dioxide

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

Carbon dioxide is meteorologically a very important gas as it is transparent to the incoming solar radiation but opaque to the outgoing terrestrial radiation. It absorbs a part of terrestrial radiation and reflects back some part of it towards the earth's surface. It is largely responsible for the green house effect.

**57.Assertion: The amount of Moisture in the atmosphere is related to Latitude.**

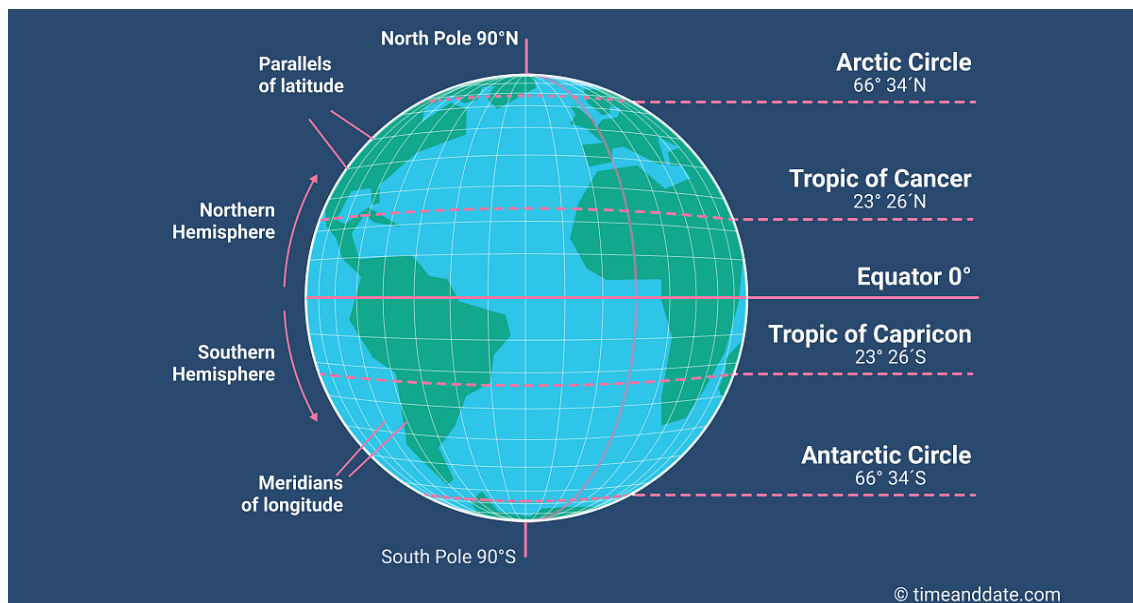
**Reason : The capacity to hold moisture in the form of water vapour is related to temperature.**

- A. Both A and R are individually true and R is the correct explanation of A.
- B. Both A and R are individually true and R is not the correct explanation of A.
- C. A is true but R is false.
- D. A is false but R is true.

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- Warm air holds more water vapor than colder air.
- The capacity of the Atmosphere to hold water vapour increases as the temperature increases. As air temperatures rise, there is an increase in the ability of the air to hold moisture.



**58.The westerlies, anti-trades, or prevailing westerlies, are prevailing winds from the west toward the east in the middle latitudes between 30 and 60 degrees latitude. Which of the following are most influenced by them throughout the year?**

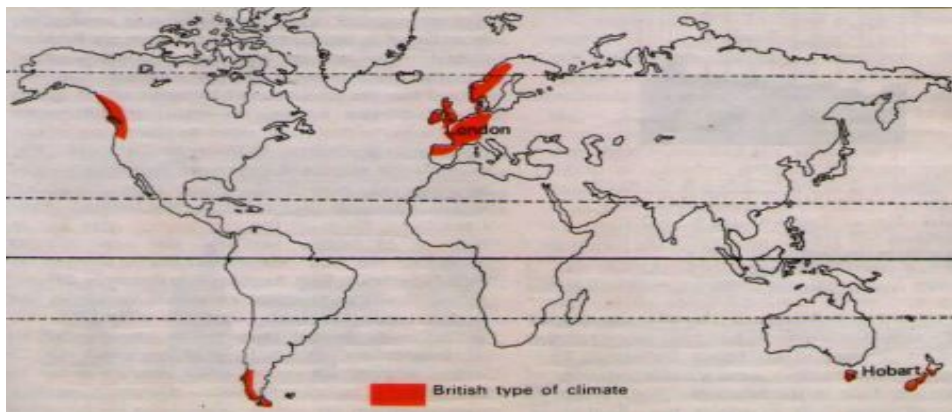
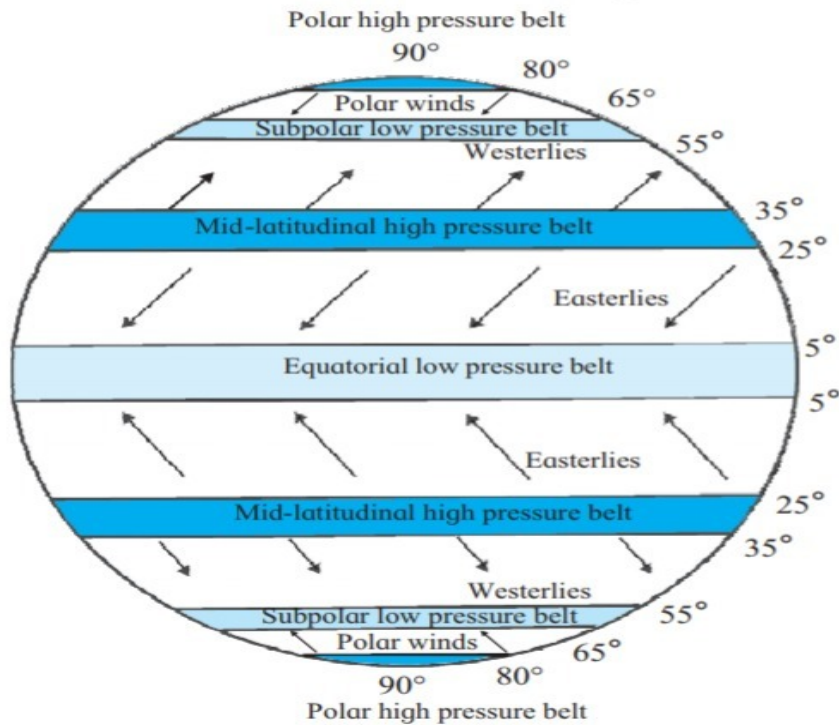
- A. British Climate
- B. Tundra Climate
- C. Taiga Climate
- D. Equatorial Climate.

**Answer: A**

### Explanation

British Type Climate

- Most Imp characteristics
  - ✓ Westerlies come all the year round



59. Which of the following is matched incorrectly?

1. Lake Huron : North America
2. Lake Chad : Africa
3. Lake Eyre : North America
4. Lake Erie : Australia

- A. Only 1 and 2
- B. Only 3 and 4

- C. Only 1,2 and 3
- D. 1,2,3 and 4 only

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- Lake Huron : North America
- Lake Chad : Africa
- Lake Eyre : Australia
- Lake Erie : North America

**60.In Geomorphology; Knickpoint refers to:**

- A. It is an aeolian sediment formed by the accumulation of wind-blown silt.
- B. It is part of a river or channel where there is a sharp change in channel slope.
- C. a sharp irregular ridge of sand lying in the direction of the prevailing wind in exposed desert regions.
- D. None of the above

**Answer: B**

**61.Identify the idea of Planetary Boundaries among the following:**

- A. The concept suggests that it is the range of orbits around a star within which a planetary surface can support liquid water given sufficient atmospheric pressure.
- B. The concept suggests that the world's societies need to set limits on human-caused disturbances to tightly linked Earth system processes.
- C. The concept suggests that it is an estimate of the range of distances from the Sun allowing the existence of liquid water.
- D. The concept explains a parameter  $\Lambda$  (lambda), expressing the likelihood of an encounter resulting in a given deflection of planet from the existing orbit.

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- The Planetary Boundaries concept is an effort to use this Earth system perspective to provide information on human-driven changes. The concept suggests that the world's societies need to set limits on human-caused disturbances to tightly linked Earth system processes.
- It is already a useful integrating framework for illustrating the risks of human interference with the Earth system through our patterns of consumption and production. It presents the idea of a safe zone for critical Earth system processes.

**62. Concept of Peak Water is related with –**

- A. Dependence on water
- B. Water from the highest peaks of the world
- C. The maximum amount of water a submarine can displace
- D. The amount of rise in sea-level following 1 degree Celsius rise in average global temperature

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- Peak water is a concept that underlines the growing constraints on the availability, quality, and use of freshwater resources. ... Much of the world's water in underground aquifers and in lakes can be depleted and thus resembles a finite resource. The phrase peak water sparks debates similar to those about peak oil.

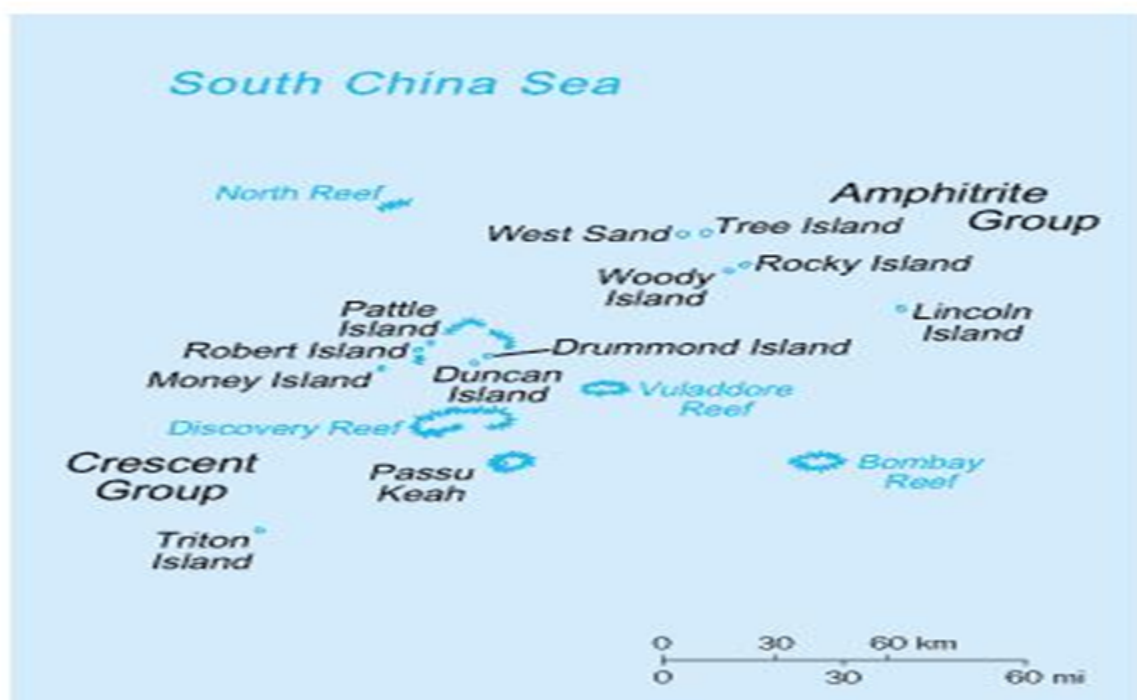
**63. Bombay reef is situated in:**

- A. Arabian Sea
- B. Bay of Bengal
- C. South China Sea
- D. East China Sea

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- Bombay Reef is in South China Sea
- Bombay Reef is an atoll of the Paracel Islands.



**64. Match list 1 with list 2:**

List-I (Volcanic Mountain)	List-II (Country)
a. Mt. Rainier	a. Italy
b. Etna	b. Mexico
c. Paricutin	c. Philippines
d. Taal	d. USA

- a b c d
- A. 4 2 1 3
- B. 4 1 2 3
- C. 2 1 4 3
- D. 4 3 2 1

**Answer: B**

**65. Survey of India is under the Ministry of: (UPSC QUESTION)**

- A. Ministry of Defence
- B. Ministry of Home Affairs
- C. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- D. Ministry of Science and Technology

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- The Surveyor General of India is the Head of Department of Survey of India, a Department under the Ministry of Science and Technology of Government of India.

**66. The Term "Aqua Alta" has been in news recently. Find the correct statement in context with the same:**

- A. It is the name given to exceptionally high tides in the Adriatic Sea.
- B. It is a landform created by deposition of sediment that is carried by a river as the flow leaves its mouth and enters slower-moving or stagnant water.
- C. It is a set of policy initiatives by the European Commission with the overarching aim of making Europe climate neutral in 2050.
- D. It is part of a river or channel where there is a sharp change in channel slope, such as a waterfall or lake



**Answer: A**

### Explanation

#### Venice and Adriatic Sea

- High tides in the Adriatic Sea have caused floods in the historic city of Venice. The mayor of Venice called for a state of emergency after the second-highest tide ever recorded swept through the Italian lagoon city.
- Acqua Alta” is the name given to exceptionally high tides in the Adriatic Sea
- It is a set of policy initiatives by the European Commission with the overarching aim of making Europe climate neutral in 2050 – European Deal.



67. Which of the following are matched correctly?

Ocean Deep      Ocean

1. Challenger deep : Pacific Ocean
  2. Horizon Deep : Indian Ocean
- A. Only 1  
B. Only 2  
C. Both 1 and 2  
D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: A**



## Explanation

### Pacific Ocean

- The deepest part of the ocean is called the Challenger Deep and is located beneath the western Pacific Ocean in the southern end of the Mariana Trench, which runs several hundred kilometres southwest of the U.S. territorial island of Guam.

### Tonga Trench

- Located in the south-west Pacific Ocean and at the Kermadec Tonga Subduction Zone's northern end, the Tonga Trench lies around 10.882 km below sea level. The deepest point in the Tonga trench, known as the Horizon Deep, considered to be the second deepest point on earth after the Challenger Deep and the deepest trench of the Southern Hemisphere.

68. Which of the following are matched correctly?

1. Uyghurs – East China
2. Baha'i – Japan
3. FARC – Colombia
4. Yazidis – West Asia

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Only 3
- D. Only 4

**Answer: C**

69. Tamil Nadu is a leading producer of mill-made cotton yarn in the country. What could be the reason? (UPSC Question)

1. Black cotton soil is the predominant type of soil in the State.
2. Rich pool of skilled labor is available.

Which of the above is/are the correct reasons?

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

**Answer: B**

**70. Identify the countries around Adriatic Sea:**

1. Italy
  2. Slovenia
  3. Croatia
- A. Only 1  
B. Only 1 and 2  
C. Only 2 and 3  
D. 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- ISC-MBA (Italia, Slovenia, Croatia, Montenegro, Bosnia, Albania)



**71. The term “Deep Ecology” is often in news. Identify the correct option in context with the same:**

- A. The concept suggests environmental movement and philosophy which regards human life as just one of many equal components of a global ecosystem.
- B. The concept suggests that the world’s societies need to set limits on human-caused disturbances to tightly linked Earth system processes.
- C. The concept upholds the importance of Deep Ocean Systems as Abyssal deep-sea ecosystems are huge and cover 54% of the Earth's surface.
- D. The concept refers to is the process of retrieving mineral deposits from the deep sea – the area of the ocean below 200 m.

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

Deep ecology is an environmental philosophy promoting the inherent worth of living beings regardless of their instrumental utility to human needs, plus a restructuring of modern human societies in accordance with such ideas.

**72. Which one of the following regions of India has a combination of mangrove forest, evergreen forest and deciduous forest?**

- A. North Coastal Andhra Pradesh
- B. South-West Bengal
- C. Southern Saurashtra
- D. Andaman and Nicobar Islands

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

Important types of forest include Tropical Evergreen vegetation, Moist Deciduous vegetation and mangrove vegetation.

**73. Which of the following is/are correctly matched?**

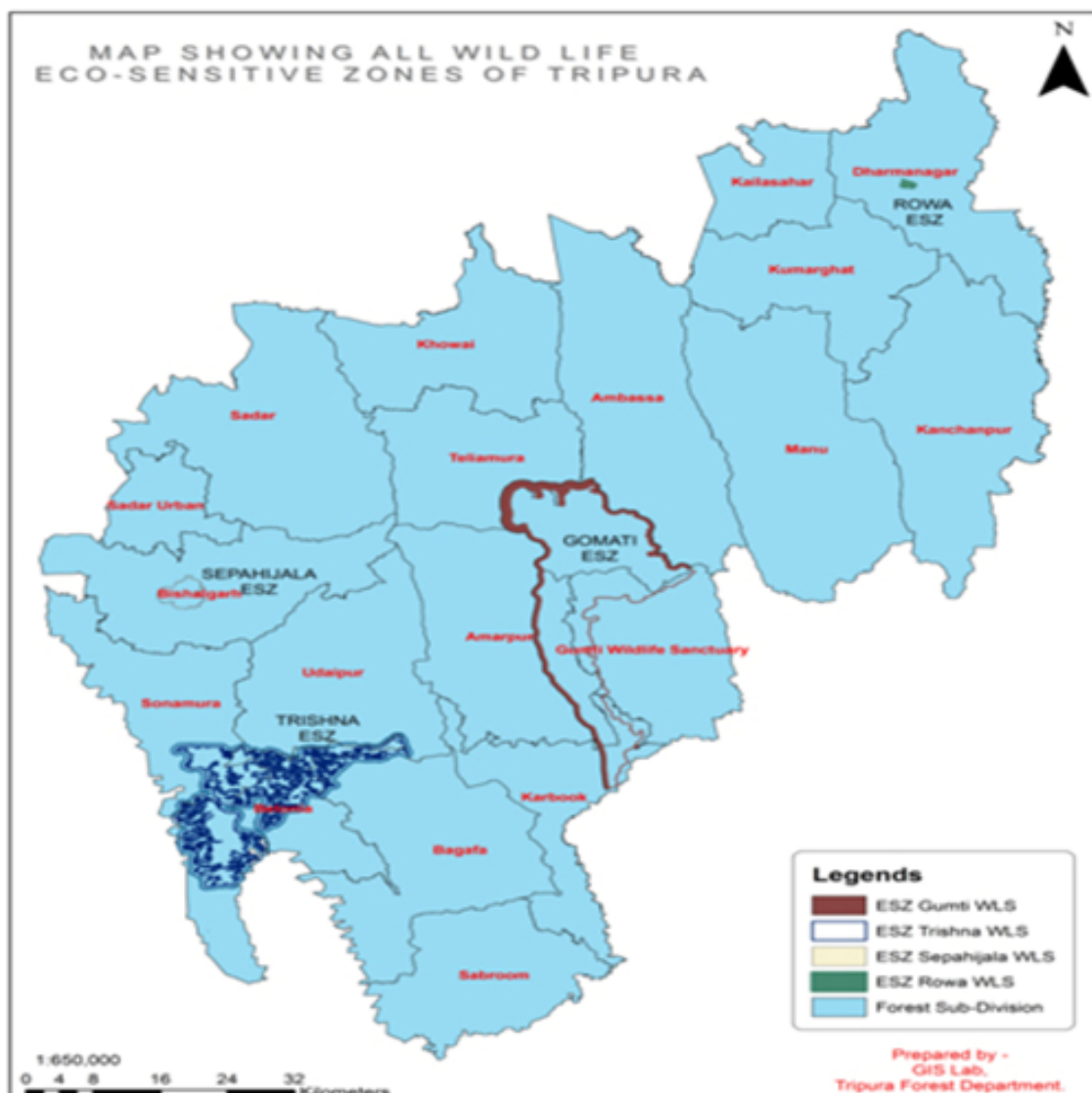
- 1. Dampa Tiger Reserve : Mizoram
- 2. Gumti Wildlife Sanctuary : Sikkim
- 3. Saramati Peak : Nagaland
- 4. Betla National Park : Karnataka

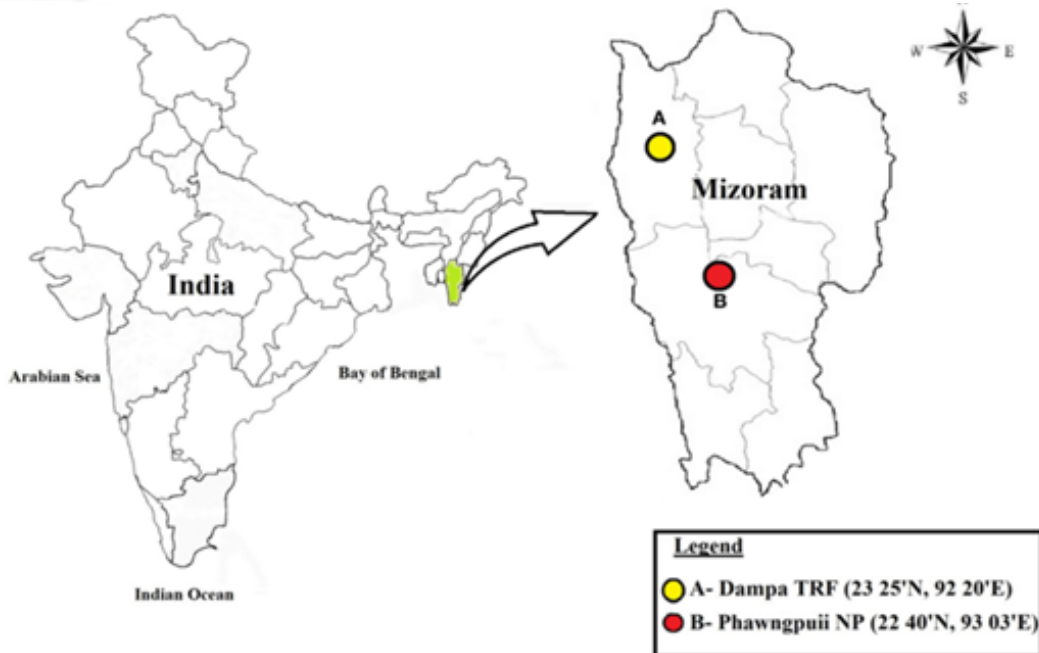
- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 only
- D. All of the above

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- Dampa Tiger Reserve : Mizoram
- Gumti Wildlife Sanctuary : Tripura
- Saramati Peak : Nagaland
- Betla National Park : Jharkhand



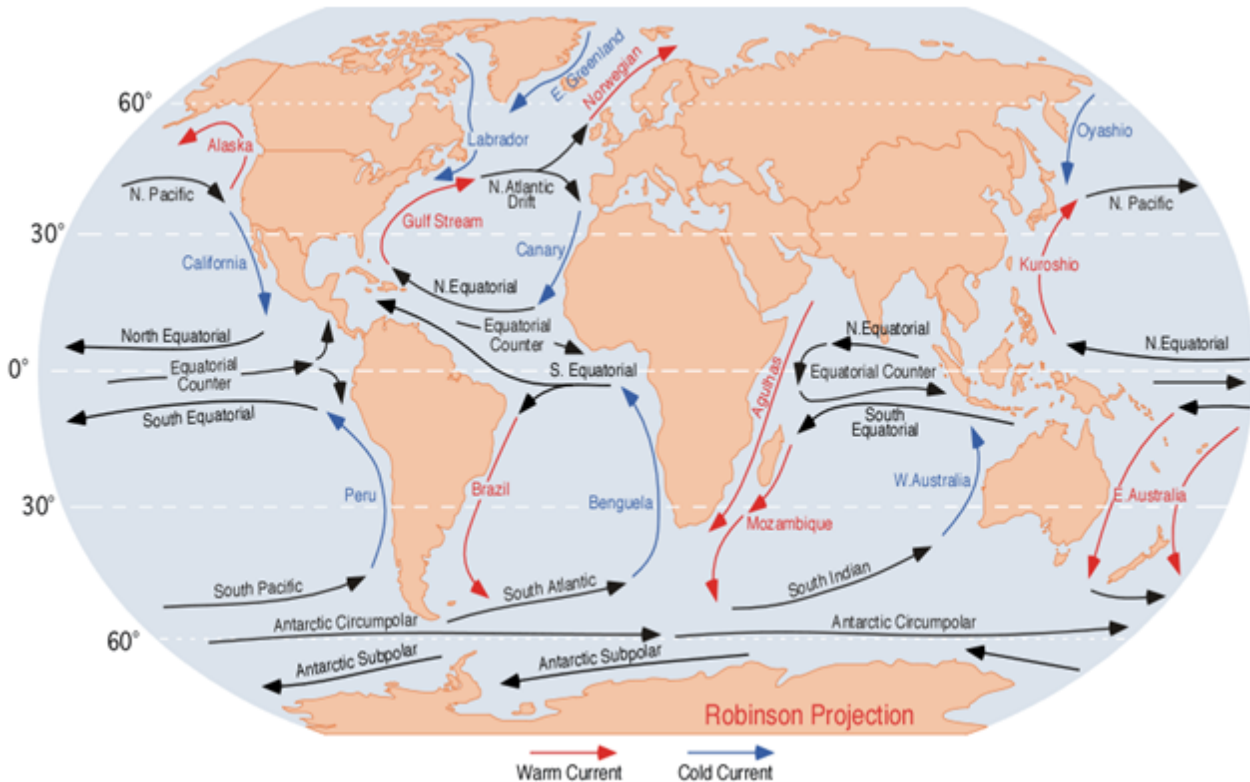


74. Barring the exceptions; if any; find the correct option in context with Ocean Currents:

1. In the lower latitudes, the warm currents flow on the eastern shores and cold on the western shores.
  2. In the higher latitudes, the warm currents move along the western shores and the cold currents along the eastern shores.
- A. Only 1  
 B. Only 2  
 C. Both 1 and 2  
 D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: C**

## Explanation



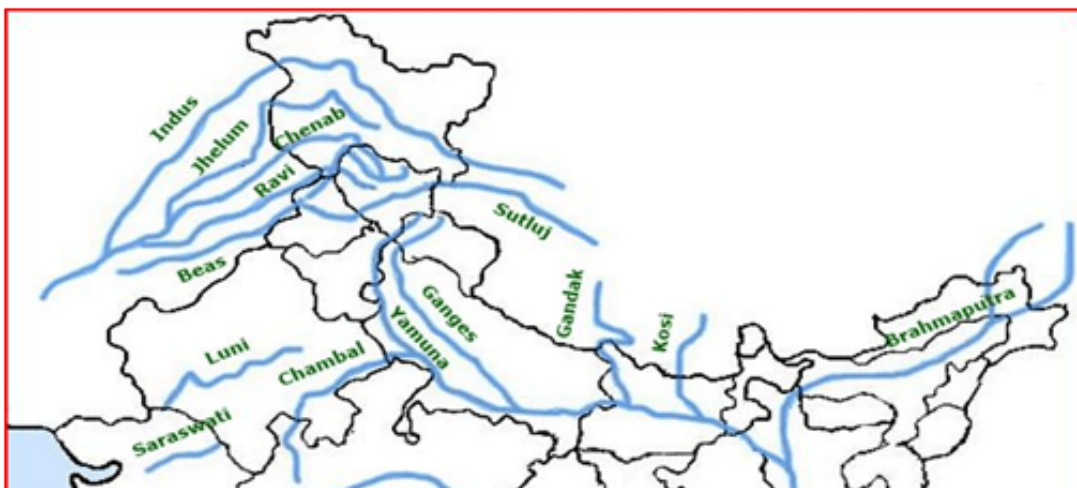
### 75. Identify the river:

The River has its source in Kullu hills near the Rohtang Pass in Himachal Pradesh. It drains the area between the Pir Panjal and the Dhaola Dhar ranges. After crossing Chamba, it takes a south-westerly turn and cuts a deep gorge in the Dhaola Dhar range.

- A. Satluj
- B. Jhelum
- C. Ravi
- D. Gori Ganga

**Answer: C**

## Explanation



**76. Which of the following best describes the term “Standing Crop”?**

- A. A standing crop is piece of land that is normally used for farming but that is left with no crops on it for a season in order to let it recover its fertility.
- B. The concept suggests that the world’s societies need to set limits on human consumption of crops to tightly linked Earth system processes.
- C. Standing crop is the amount of total biomass present in an ecosystem.
- D. None of the above

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

The total amount of living material in a specified population at a particular time, expressed as biomass (standing biomass) or its equivalent in terms of energy. The standing crop may vary at different times of the year; for example, in a population of deciduous trees between summer and winter.

**77. Which of the following is true in context with the term “Standing state” ?**

- 1. Standing state is amount of inorganic nutrients found in an ecosystem.
  - 2. It circulates between living and non-living components of the ecosystem.
- A. Only 1
  - B. Only 2
  - C. Both 1 and 2
  - D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- Standing state is amount of inorganic nutrients found in an ecosystem. It represents part of non-living matter.
- It circulates between living and non-living components of the ecosystem. It is being regularly depleted and replenished by the living matters.

**78. The Brahmaputra, Irrawaddy and Mekong rivers originate in Tibet and flow through narrow and parallel mountain ranges in their upper reaches. Of these rivers, Brahmaputra makes a “U” turn in its course to flow into India. This “U” turn is due to: (UPSC 2011)**

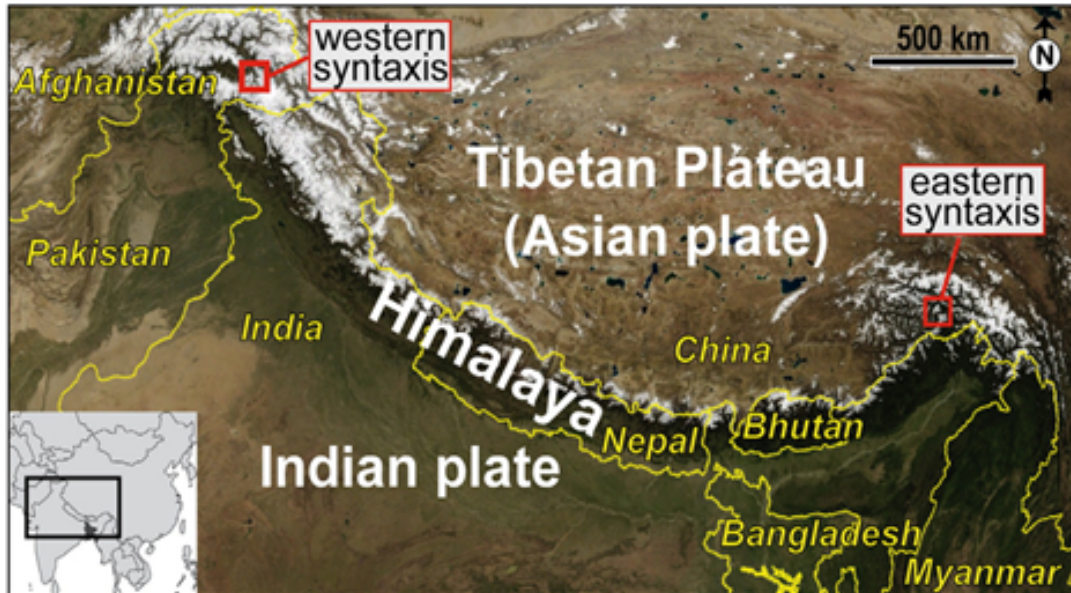
- A. Uplift of folded Himalayan series
- B. Syntaxial bending of geologically young Himalayas
- C. Geo-tectonic disturbance in the tertiary folded mountain chains
- D. Both (a) and (b) above



**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- Nanga Parbat : Western Bend
- Namcha Barwa : Eastern Bend



**79. Salinization occurs when the irrigation water accumulated in the soil evaporates, leaving behind salts and minerals. What are the effects of salinization on the irrigated land? (UPSC - 2011)**

- A. It greatly increases the crop production
- B. It makes some soils impermeable
- C. It raises the water table
- D. It fills the air spaces in the soil with water

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- Salinization on the irrigated land makes some soils impermeable.
- Salinization occurs when the irrigation water accumulated in the soil evaporates, leaving behind salts and minerals.
- It makes some soils impermeable which is the effect of salinization on the irrigated land.

**80. Island Development Agency is chaired by:**

- A. Union Home Minister
- B. Union Environment Minister
- C. Union Defence Minister



D. Prime Minister

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- The Union Government constituted the Island Development Agency on 1st June, 2017 for the development of islands.
- The meetings of the Agency are chaired by the Union Home Minister.
- The Island Development Agency reviews the progress made towards the program —Holistic development of islands.

**81.Graded Response Action Plan has been in news recently. Choose the correct statement for the same:**

- A. It includes the measures which will be taken by different government agencies to prevent worsening of Air Quality of Delhi-NCR (National Capital Region).
- B. It includes the measures which will be taken by different government agencies to prevent the spread of Naxalism in North East States.
- C. It includes the measures which will be taken by different government agencies to access the mining affect areas and use the District Mineral Funds for the same.
- D. It includes the measures which will be taken by different government agencies to achieve SDG's by stipulated timeline.

**Answer: A**

**82.The “Asian Elephant Specialist Group (AsESG)” has been in news recently. Which of the following is/ are correct in context with the same?**

1. It is a global network of voluntary specialists concerned with the study, monitoring, management, and conservation of Asian elephants all over the world.
2. Gajah is the bi-annual journal of the group.

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- The International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) 10th Asian Elephant Specialist Group (AsESG) Meeting started on December 5, 2019, at Kota Kinabalu in Sabah, Malaysia.
- It is a global network of voluntary specialists concerned with the study, monitoring, management, and conservation of Asian elephants in 13 range states.

- Asian elephants across the current 13 range states: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Laos PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar (Burma), Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam.

**83. Consider the following statements: (UPSC QUESTION)**

The nation-wide 'Soil Health Card Scheme' aims at

1. Expanding the cultivable area under irrigation.
2. Enabling the banks to assess the quantum of loans to be granted to farmers on the basis of soil quality.
3. Checking the overuse of fertilizers in farmlands.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Answer: B**

**84. Which of the following bacteria have recently been found effective for carrying out Arsenic Bioremediation?**

- A. Thiobacillus and Acidithiobacillus
- B. Oil Zapper and Oilivorous-S
- C. Bacillus flexus and Acinetobacter junii
- D. None of the above

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- Using two indigenous strains of bacterium isolated from arsenic-contaminated field, researchers from CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute (CSIR-NBRI) and the University of Lucknow have shown that arsenic can be effectively removed from contaminated soil with the help of microbes.
- The strains are named as Bacillus flexus and Acinetobacter junii.

**85. Which of the following is/are correct in context with "Fisheries Sector in India"? [ECONOMIC SURVEY]**

1. The sector accounts for 6.58 percent of GDP from agriculture, forestry and fishing.
2. The total fish Production in the country is more from Marine Fisheries than Inland Fisheries.

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

**Answer: A**

### **Explanation**

Fisheries Sector

- The sector provides livelihood to about 16 million fishers and fish farmers at the primary level and almost twice the number along the value chain.
- The sector accounts for 6.58 percent of GDP from agriculture, forestry and fishing.
- The total fish production in the country was 13.42 million metric tonnes (MMT) during 2018-19. (Marine fisheries- 3.71 MMT and Inland fisheries- 9.71 MMT)
- Fish production or fish farming is a form of aquaculture in which fish are raised in enclosures to be sold as food.”

**86. World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) has released the first-ever global assessment of forest biodiversity. The findings were based on the Forest Specialist Index. Which of the following best describes it?**

- A. An index that tracks wildlife that lives only in forests.
- B. An index that tracks diversity of flora and fauna in forests.
- C. An index that differentiates between Forest area and Forest Cover to arrive at the biodiversity data in the area.
- D. None of the above

**Answer: A**

### **Explanation**

- World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) has released the first-ever global assessment of forest biodiversity.
- The new findings were based on the Forest Specialist Index, developed following the Living Planet Index methodology – an index that tracks wildlife that lives only in forests.

### **Key findings**

- There has been a 53% decline in the number of forest wildlife populations since 1970.
- Of the 455 monitored populations of forest specialists, more than half declined at an annual rate of 1.7 per cent, on average between 1970 and 2014.
- While the decline was consistent in these years among mammals, reptiles and amphibians (particularly from the tropical forests), it was less among birds (especially from temperate forests).

**87. The Term “Global Stocktake” has been in news recently. It is directly associated with:**

- A. Sustainable Development Goals
- B. Paris Agreement
- C. Montreal Protocol
- D. Millennium Development goals

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- GST refers to proposed five-yearly-review of the impact of climate change action undertaken by countries.
- Under the Paris Agreement, each country has to present a climate action plan every five years.
- Under the Paris Agreement, the first global stock take will happen in 2023.
- It will help world to determine whether it needs to do more and how much more.

**88. Consider the following statements: (UPSC Question)**

1. The Sustainable Development Goals were first proposed in 1972 by a global think tank called the ‘Club of Rome’.
2. The Sustainable Development Goals have to be achieved by 2030.

**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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- The ‘Club of Rome’ is a global think tank which in its 1972 book “Limits to Growth” talked about sustainability; however, they didn’t propose Sustainable Development Goals.
- As per the resolution of UN General Assembly in September, 2015 the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been adopted by 193 member nations.

**89. Find the correct statements in context of South Asian Climate Outlook Forum (SASCOF):**

1. The main activity of SASCOFs is the preparation and issuing of a consensus outlook for the southwest monsoon rainfall over South Asia.
2. It was established in 2010 and is coordinated by India Meteorological Department (IMD).

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

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- It is a regional forum to forecast for South West Monsoon Season rainfall.
- It was established in 2010 and is coordinated by India Meteorological Department (IMD).
- It covers Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- The main activity of SASCOFs is the preparation and issuing of a consensus outlook for the southwest monsoon rainfall over South Asia

**90. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) proclaimed 2021–2030 as the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. This endeavour builds on regional efforts such as:**

1. Initiative 20×20 in Latin America that aims to restore 20 million hectares of degraded land by 2020.
2. AFR100 African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative that aims to bring 100 million hectares of degraded land under restoration by 2030.

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

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- UN Environment and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) will lead the implementation.

**91. The term “AKRUTI-KRUTIK-FORCE” has been in news recently. Which of the following is true in context with the same?**

- A. It is an informal term used to refer to all the Corona warriors in Kerala.
- B. It is a force specially deployed for countering Naxals in North East India.
- C. It is associated with for techno-economic growth of the rural sector.
- D. It is an informal term used to refer to all the disaster management Teams active in a Pandemic.

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- The structured program called “AKRUTI-KRUTIK-FORCE” has been formulated by BARC, Mumbai.
- It is implemented through technically oriented NGOs for techno-economic growth of the rural sector.
- AKRUTI is an acronym for Advanced Knowledge and Rural Technology Implementation Initiative.

**92. Often in news, what is Skymet**

- A. An artificial satellite poised to go beyond Solar System
- B. A private Indian company that provides weather forecast
- C. A supercomputer built to track movements of heavenly bodies affecting Earth's gravitation
- D. None of the above

**Answer: B****Explanation**

- Skymet Weather Services is a private Indian company that provides weather forecast and solutions to Indians.
- Skymet was the first private sector entity to provide weather forecasts and weather graphics to the Indian media in 2003. Sky met was founded in 2003 and is headquartered in Noida, India.

**93. Recently, Carbon more than 8,000 years old was found in World's deepest blue hole is Yongle Blue Hole. Which of the following is/are true in context with Blue Holes?**

1. Blue holes are deep, circular columns of water, inside oceans, that form when rainwater dissolves a sink hole through limestone rock.
  2. Its waters are mostly isolated from the surrounding ocean and receive little fresh water from rainfall, making it a spot to study the chemistry of oxygen-deprived marine ecosystems
- A. Only 1
  - B. Only 2
  - C. Both 1 and 2
  - D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: C****Explanation**

- The deepest known marine cavern is the Yongle blue hole, which measures roughly 300 meters from top to bottom.
- Blue holes are marine caverns filled with water and are formed following dissolution of carbonate rocks, usually under the influence of global sea level rise or fall.

- Its waters are mostly isolated from the surrounding ocean and receive little fresh water from rainfall, making it a rare spot to study the chemistry of oxygen-deprived marine ecosystems.
- What distinguishes them from other aquatic caverns is that they are isolated from the ocean and don't receive fresh rainwater.
- They are generally circular, steep-walled and open to surface.

**94. In the South Atlantic and South-Eastern Pacific regions in tropical latitudes, cyclone does not originate. What is the reason?**

- A. Sea surface temperatures are low
- B. Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone seldom occurs
- C. Coriolis force is too weak
- D. Absence of land in those regions

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- The most proximate reasons for the lack of cyclone formation in the South Atlantic are sea surface temperatures that tend to run a shade cooler than ideal for tropical cyclone formation even in the southern summer

**95. Algal Bloom Information Service (ABIS) has been in news recently. It provides near-real time information on spatio-temporal occurrence and spread of phytoplankton blooms over the North Indian Ocean, which are detrimental to coastal fisheries and induce respiratory problems within the coastal population. In addition, four regions have been identified as bloom hotspots. Identify them:**

1. North Eastern Arabian Sea
2. coastal waters off Kerala
3. Gulf of Mannar
4. Coastal waters of Gopalpur

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

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

Algal Bloom Information Service (ABIS): [PIB]

- It provides near-real time information on spatio-temporal occurrence and spread of phytoplankton blooms over the North Indian Ocean, which are detrimental to coastal fisheries and induce respiratory problems within the coastal population.
- For this, four regions have been identified as bloom hotspots

**96. Which of the following statements with respect to Kaveri River are correct?**

1. It flows through the states of Karnataka and Telangana.
  2. It is the basis for the Ranganthittu Bird Sanctuary.
  3. The Stanley water reservoir has been built over it
  4. The water of the river is shared between Karnataka, Kerala, Puducherry and Tamil Nadu.
- A. 1 and 2 only  
B. 1, 2 and 3 only  
C. 2, 3 and 4 only  
D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Answer: C**

**97. Identify the correct statements regarding coral reefs?**

1. Corals are in fact animals, not plants.
  2. Coral reefs are the largest structures on earth of biological origin.
  3. Coral reefs are naturally colorful because of algae, which lives inside of the coral, providing them with food.
  4. The three main types of coral reefs are fringing reefs, barrier reefs, and coral atolls.
- A. 1, 2 and 3 only  
B. 1, 3 and 4 only  
C. 2, 3 and 4 only  
D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Answer: D**

**98. Which of the following statements regarding Atal tunnel are correct?**

1. It is built by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) and is the longest high-altitude highway tunnel in the world.
2. The Atal Tunnel will have all-weather connectivity between Manali to Lahaul-Spiti valley which was earlier cut off for six months of the year due to excessive snowfall in the region



3. It is built under the Lipu lekha pass in the eastern Pir Panjal range of the Himalayas.
4. The Moravian Mission was the basis for Atal tunnel.

- A. 1, 2, 3, 4
- B. 2, 3, 4 only
- C. 1, 3, 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 4 only

**Answer: D**

99. Which of the following passes are matched correctly with the states they are in?

1. Jelep la - Sikkim
2. Bara lacha-la - Uttarakhand.
3. Bum la- Himachal Pradesh
4. Mana pass - Arunachal Pradesh

Choose the correct code.

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

**Answer: A**

100. Match the rivers and the dams built on them.

- |                   |             |
|-------------------|-------------|
| 1. Hirakund       | a. Tapi     |
| 2. Bhakhra nangal | b. Indus    |
| 3. Nimoo bazgo    | c. Mahanadi |
| 4. Ukai           | d. Sutlej   |

Select the correct code

- A. 1-c, 2-d, 3-b, 4-a
- B. 1-b, 2-d, 3-c, 4-a
- C. 1-c, 2-a, 3-b, 4-d
- D. 1-b, 2-a, 3-c, 4-d

**Answer: A**

**101. Noumea Accord recently heard in news is related to which of the following?**

- A. It is the first Arab-Israeli peace deal.
- B. French Republic's deal to grant increased political power to New Caledonia.
- C. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) announced a global set of principles for space exploration.
- D. Ending the Waziristan war.

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**



**102. Global hunger index is released by**

- A. The world food program
- B. Food and agriculture organization
- C. Welhunger Life and Concern Worldwide
- D. UN System Standing Committee on Nutrition

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- The Global hunger index was launched on October 16 2020. It has been jointly prepared by Welhunger life and Concern Worldwide.
- This year, India has been ranked 94th Out of 107 countries. In 2018 was India ranked 103 while in 2019 India was ranked 102.
- The report ranked the countries on the basis of four indicators – undernourishment, child wasting, child stunting and child mortality.
- The report has put India under “serious category” and has given the score of 27.2.
- The child stunting rate, for age group 0-5 years, in India was reported as 37.4 %.
- Wasting in child was reported as 17.3 %. Undernourishment rate of India is 14%. As per the report, child mortality rate is 3.7 %.

- Nepal has been ranked 73rd, Bangladesh has been ranked 75th while Pakistan has been ranked 88th this year.

**103. Which of the following are true about Indo – Srilankan accord?**

1. It sought to collectively address all the three contentious issues between India and Sri Lanka: strategic interests, people of Indian origin in Sri Lanka and Tamil minority rights in Sri Lanka.
2. This accord saw the induction of the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) in Sri Lanka.
3. According to the terms of the accord, Sri Lankan forces would withdraw from the north and the Tamil rebels would disarm.
4. The accord was expected to resolve the Sri Lankan Civil War by enabling the thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution of Sri Lanka and the Provincial Councils Act of 1987.

**Select the correct code**

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

**Answer: D**

**104. MACS-6478 recently seen in news is**

- A. A newly tested missile from the k- family series
- B. A new discovered satellite of Pluto.
- C. A new genome coding sequence for deadly viruses.
- D. A new wheat variety

**Answer: D**

**105. Which of the following statement are correct?**

1. The Jhelum River rises from the Sheshnag Lake near Verinag at the foot of Pir Panjal range.
2. The Jhelum River is the largest tributary of Indus.
3. Beas rises from Bara-lacha la pass

**Select the correct code**

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 1 and 2 only

D. 2 and 3 only

**Answer: A**

**106. On the basis of the statements given below, identify the pass?**

1. It is a boundary pass between Tibet's Cona county and India's Tawang district in Arunachal Pradesh.
2. Recently a war memorial has been inaugurated at this pass.

**Select the correct option**

- A. Marpo la
- B. Zelep la
- C. Bum la
- D. Hpungan pass

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**



**107. Which of the following statements regarding e-Dharti geo portal are correct?**

1. It was launched by Ministry of Earth sciences.
2. The portal will make the maps and lease plans geographic information system (GIS)-enabled.

**Select the correct code.**

- A. 1 only

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

**Answer: B**

**108. Which of the following statement (s) is/ are correct regarding 'Caspian Sea'?**

- 1. It lies to the west of the Caucasus Mountains.
- 2. It is located between Europe and Asia.
- 3. The Caspian Sea is the largest inland body of water

**Select the correct code using the statements given above.**

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

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**



**109. Which Indian states/UTs share border with Pakistan?**

- 1. Himachal Pradesh
- 2. Haryana
- 3. Jammu and Kashmir
- 4. Gujarat
- 5. Punjab

Select the correct answer using the codes given

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

**Answer: D**

**110.** The lighter silicates, SIAL i.e. SILICA + ALUMINIUM are abundant in?

- A. Core
- B. Mantle
- C. Ocean floor
- D. Earth's Crust

**Answer: D**

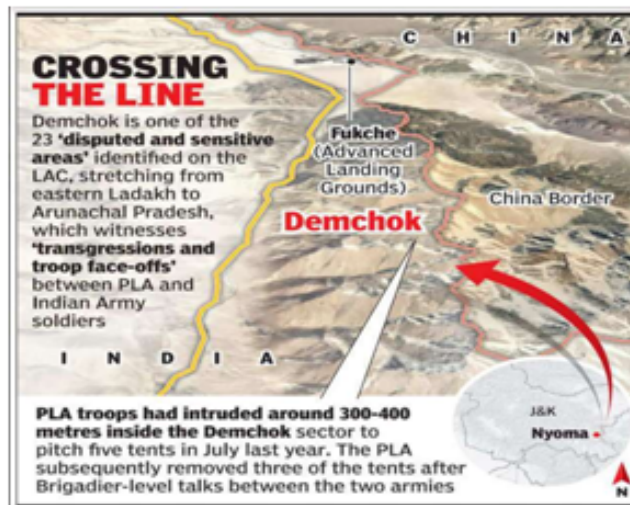


**111.** Where does the Demchok sector lie?

- A. Sikkim
- B. Jammu and Kashmir
- C. Arunachal Pradesh
- D. Himachal Pradesh

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**



112. Which of the following statements are correct about Pangong Lake?

1. It is a long narrow, littoral lake situated at a height of more than 14,000 ft in the Ladakh Himalayas.
2. It has saline water.
3. An Inner Line Permit is required to visit the lake as it lies on the Sino-Indian Line of Actual Control.
4. It is controlled by both India and China.

Select the correct code

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- Pangong Tso is a long narrow, deep, landlocked lake situated at a height of more than 14,000 ft in the Ladakh Himalayas.
- During winter the lake freezes completely, despite being saline water.
- It is not a part of the Indus river basin area.
- One-third of the water body, its 45 km stretch is in Indian control while the rest of the 90 km is under Chinese control.



- In the 1990s, when the Indian side laid claims over the area, the Chinese army built a metal-top road contending that it was part of the Aksai Chin.
- The brackish water lake freezes over in winter and becomes ideal for ice skating and polo.
- An Inner Line Permit is required to visit the lake as it lies on the Sino-Indian Line of Actual Control.

**113. Pelagornithids recently heard in news are**

- A. An extinct species of smallest ever dinosaur.
- B. A new process of coal gasification.
- C. Fossil of a giant bird.
- D. Species of blue caterpillar found in Western Ghats.

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- Scientists have identified the fossil of a giant bird that lived about 50 million years ago, with wingspans of up to 21 feet that would dwarf today's largest bird, the wandering albatross.
- The fossils recovered from Antarctica in the 1980s represent the oldest giant members of an extinct group of birds that patrolled the southern oceans.
- By comparison, today's largest bird, the wandering albatross has a wingspan of 11 and-a-half-feet.
- Called Pelagornithids, the birds filled a niche much like that of today's albatrosses and travelled widely over Earth's oceans for at least 60 million years.

**114. Which of the following statements in regard to Feni Bridge are correct?**

1. Feni River originates in the South Assam district.
2. Feni Bridge is also known as Maitree Setu in Chattogram.
3. It is being built by BRO.
4. It was first taken up between India and Pakistan in 1958.

**Select the correct code**

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 4 only
- D. 2 and 4 only

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- The Feni River forms part of the India-Bangladesh border.



- It originates in the South Tripura district.
- The river passes through Sabroom town on the Indian side, and meets the Bay of Bengal after it flows into Bangladesh.
- According to the Indian government, there has been no water-sharing agreement between the countries on the Feni previously.
- The dispute over the sharing of the river water has been long-standing.
- It was taken up between India and Pakistan (before the independence of Bangladesh) in 1958 during a Secretary-level meeting in New Delhi.
- Constructed by: National Highways Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd of Ministry of Road and Transport highways, Government of India.
- It is being developed as a corridor for trade and commerce between India's North-East and Bangladesh.
- It will also promote tourism and people-to-people ties.
- It will provide direct road connectivity between South Tripura and Chittagong allowing India to use Chittagong as a port of call.
- The bridge will facilitate carrying heavy machines and goods to and from the north-eastern states and the rest of India via Bangladesh through Chattogram.
- Feni Bridge is also known as Maitree Setu in Chattogram.

**115. On the basis of the following statements identify the dam?**

1. It is a concrete gravity dam on the Narmada River.
2. The project took form in 1979 as part of a development scheme funded by the World Bank to increase irrigation and produce hydroelectricity, using a loan of US\$200 million.
3. The foundation stone of the project was laid out by then PM Jawaharlal Nehru on 5 April 1961.
4. Four Indian states, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan, receive water and electricity supplied from the dam

**Select the correct code**

- A. Sardar Sarovar Dam
- B. Omkareshwar Dam
- C. Indirasagar Dam
- D. Bargi Dam

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- The Sardar Sarovar Dam is the second largest in the world in terms of volume and size. It comes second to the Grand Coulee Dam in the United States, which is considered the largest going by its volume of concrete used.
- The foundation stone of the Sardar Sarovar Dam on Narmada River was laid on April 5, 1961, by the country's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.
- The Sardar Sarovar Dam has been dubbed as Gujarat's lifeline as it is credited for increasing the agricultural output and revenue of the region.
- The 1.2-km-long dam, which is 163 meters deep, will irrigate over 18 lakh hectares of land in the state, according to officials; the water from Narmada will flow into over 9,000 villages through a canal network.
- The Sardar Sarovar Dam has a capacity to produce 4,141 crore units of electricity from its two powerhouses -- the river bed powerhouse and canal head powerhouse -- with an installed capacity of 1,200 MW and 250 MW, respectively.
- Fifty-seven percent of the electricity produced from the dam goes to Maharashtra, while Madhya Pradesh gets 27 per cent and 16 per cent goes to Gujarat.
- In 1996, construction on the dam was suspended following a stay by the Supreme Court later allowing work to resume, four years after, but with conditions.

**116. Which state has topped the 'best state' category under the National Water Awards 2019?**

- A. Sikkim
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Gujrat
- D. Kerala

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- The ministry confers the award based on various parameters, including implementation of irrigation water supply schemes such as check dams, performance under micro irrigation, increase in irrigation coverage, performance in roof top rain water harvesting and status of implementation of water accounting and auditing.
- It also takes into consideration the total number of water bodies created, reuse of waste water from farms/industry/sewage, management and utilisation of data/IT technology in water conservation and irrigation.
- Maharashtra and Rajasthan bagged second and third prizes respectively in the best state (normal) category.
- Mizoram topped the best state (special) category.
- Vellore and Karur districts bagged the first and second prizes respectively under the best district for revival of river category.

- Perambalur district won the second prize under water conservation category.
- The Madurai Municipal Corporation bagged the second prize in the best urban local body category.
- Madurai district received the first prize last year for rejuvenating and creating new water bodies.

**117. Consider the following statements with respect to zooids.**

1. Zooids are the single-cellular organisms.
2. Siphonophore is a colonial organism that comprise of zooids.

**Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?**

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2.
- D. None of the above

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- Zooids are the multicellular organisms.
- This organism allows the colony to float, reproduce and move through water.
- The scientists have discovered a 500 metre high coral reef in the Great Barrier Reef of Australia.
- This is the first Coral Reef that has been discovered in 120 years.
- Out of total length, only 40 metres of the reef is under the sea surface.
- This reef is an addition to seven other tall detached reefs of the world including the Raine Island.
- The newly discovered detached reef has great potential for the new species to evolve there.
- The reason for this is, because there is a lot of deep water in between the discovered reef and the next coral community.
- One of the discovered specie is a 45-metre long Siphonophore.
- Siphonophore is a colonial organism that comprise of zooids.

**118. Which of the following are Nordic countries?**

1. Denmark
2. Estonia
3. Finland
4. Iceland

**Select the correct code.**

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 2, 3 and 4 only
- C. 1, 3 and 4 only
- D. All are Nordic countries

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- The first India-Nordic-Baltic Conclave was held virtually on November 5, 2020
- The Conclave was hosted by Ministry of External Affairs and Confederation of Indian Industry jointly.
- The primary focus of the Conclave was on Artificial Intelligence, clean technologies, renewable energies, supply chain logistics and block chain led transformation.
- The Nordic Baltic includes eight countries namely, Norway, Estonia, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Latvia, Iceland and Lithuania
- Among these eight countries, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia are the Baltic countries.
- These three fast growing economies are located in the Baltic Sea.
- While the countries like Norway, Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Iceland are called the Nordic countries.



**119. Which of the following statements are correct about Ganga Utsav 2020?**

1. It is being organised by Sankat Mochan Foundation (SMF).
  2. It is being celebrated and observed in the light of 12th anniversary of Ganga being declared as National River.
- A. 1 only
  - B. 2 only
  - C. Both 1 and 2
  - D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- The Ganga Utsav begun virtually on November 2, 2020 and concluded on November 4, 2020.
- Ganga Utsav is being organised by the National Mission for Clean Ganga and the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- The Ganga Utsav is being celebrated and observed in the light of 12th anniversary of declaring River Ganges as National River.
- This year, as a part of the celebration, The Ganga Task Force conducted afforestation drives with NCC cadets.
- The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG):
  - ✓ NMCG was implemented by the National Council for Rejuvenation, Protection and Management of River Ganga on August 12, 2011 under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 as a registered society.
  - ✓ This programme under the National Ganga Council is supported by the State level Programme Management Groups (SPMGs) in the state such as Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.
  - ✓ This initiative was started by the Government of India to address the pollution of river Ganga by providing financial and technical assistance.

**120. CARAT is the joint defense exercise between?**

- A. India and France
- B. India and Qatar
- C. USA and Bangladesh
- D. Singapore and Thailand

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- The Navies of Bangladesh and United States held a joint Naval Exercise called CARAT on November 4, 2020.
- The bilateral exercise was held at Chittagong, Bangladesh.
- The United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) will provide education on technical assistance to combat maritime crime and smuggling of migrants to the navies.
- The Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) is a series of annual bilateral naval exercise.
- It is conducted by the US Pacific fleet with countries including Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Brunei, Philippines, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Singapore.

- The Primary focus of the exercise is on the ASEAN members. However, it also held exercises with non-ASEAN members like Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.
- The CARAT exercise is held with objectives of enhancing regional cooperation, building friendships and strengthening the professional skills.

**121. Which of the following statements are correct about Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ)?**

1. It is a specialized agency of WTO.
2. It is elected for a period of 4 years.
3. Members serve in a personal capacity and not as representatives of Member States.

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

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- Advisory Committee is an expert Committee of sixteen Members elected by the General Assembly (UN) for a period of three years, on the basis of a broad geographical representation.
- Members serve in a personal capacity and not as representatives of Member States.
- The Committee holds three sessions a year with total meeting time between nine and ten months per year.
- The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee are elected by the Members of the Advisory Committee.
- Functions:
  - ✓ To examine and report on the budget submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly.
  - ✓ To advise the General Assembly concerning any administrative and budgetary matters referred to it.
  - ✓ Examines, on behalf of the General Assembly, the administrative budgets of the specialised agencies and proposals for financial arrangements with such agencies.
  - ✓ To consider and report to the General Assembly on the auditors' reports on the accounts of the United Nations and of the specialised agencies.
- Indian diplomat Vidisha Maitra recently got elected to U.N. ACABQ.

**122. Which of the following statements regarding Food Coalition are correct?**

1. It is launched by FAO- UN.
2. It was proposed by India.

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

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- Due to food crisis caused by Covid 19 Pandemic and the urgency to tackle it, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations has launched a Food Coalition.
- It was Proposed by Italy and led by Food and Agriculture Organization.
- The alliance aims to increase resilience of agricultural food systems and ensure global food access.
- Italy and the Netherlands have already pledged and delivered financial resources and technical support to the coalition.
- The alliance would work as a network of networks and a multi-stakeholder coalition for a unified global action to ensure food access and increase the resilience of agricultural food systems in response to COVID-19.
- The alliance involves a devoted trust fund and a web-based hub allowing participants to access a basket of project-focused information and data, as well as the funding and types of assistance needed for many on-the-ground projects.
- Objectives of the alliance:
  - ✓ Mobilising resources, expertise and innovation
  - ✓ Advocating for a joint and coordinated COVID-19 response.
  - ✓ Promoting dialogue and exchange of knowledge and expertise among countries.
  - ✓ Working towards solution-oriented plans and programmes.
  - ✓ Expanding international cooperation and partnership for a longer term impact.
  - ✓ FAO recently released Food Price Index.

**123. Which of the following constitute OPEC+ countries?**

1. Azerbaijan
2. Bahrain
3. Brunei

4. Kazakhstan

5. Ecuador

6. Mexico

7. Qatar

A. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 7

B. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6

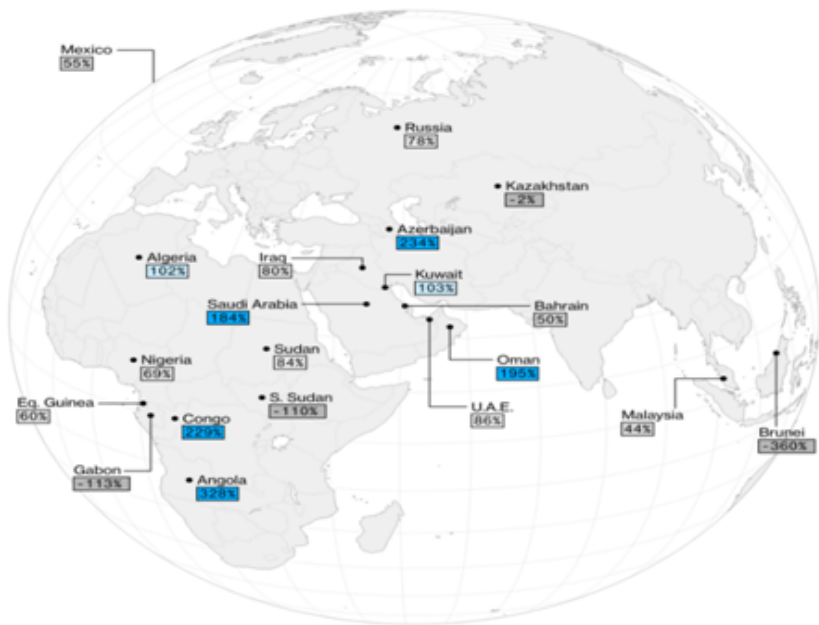
C. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7

D. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6

**Answer: D**

### Explanation

- OPEC+ refers to the alliance of crude producers, who have been undertaking corrections in supply in the oil markets since 2017.
- OPEC plus countries include Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, Russia, South Sudan and Sudan.
- The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was founded in Baghdad, Iraq, with the signing of an agreement in September 1960 by five countries namely Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.
- They were to become the Founder Members of the Organization.
- It is a permanent, intergovernmental organization.
- Its objective is to co-ordinate and unify petroleum policies among Member Countries, in order to secure fair and stable prices for petroleum producers; an efficient, economic and regular supply of petroleum to consuming nations; and a fair return on capital to those investing in the industry.
- It is headquartered in Vienna, Austria.
- Its membership is open to any country that is a substantial exporter of oil and which shares the ideals of the organization.
- After news of Pfizer vaccine against Covid-19 and Saudi Arabia's assurance that an OPEC+ oil output deal could be adjusted to balance the market, Oil prices have risen.





124. Which of the following statements regarding Protocol for Inland Water Trade & Transit (PIWT&T) are correct?

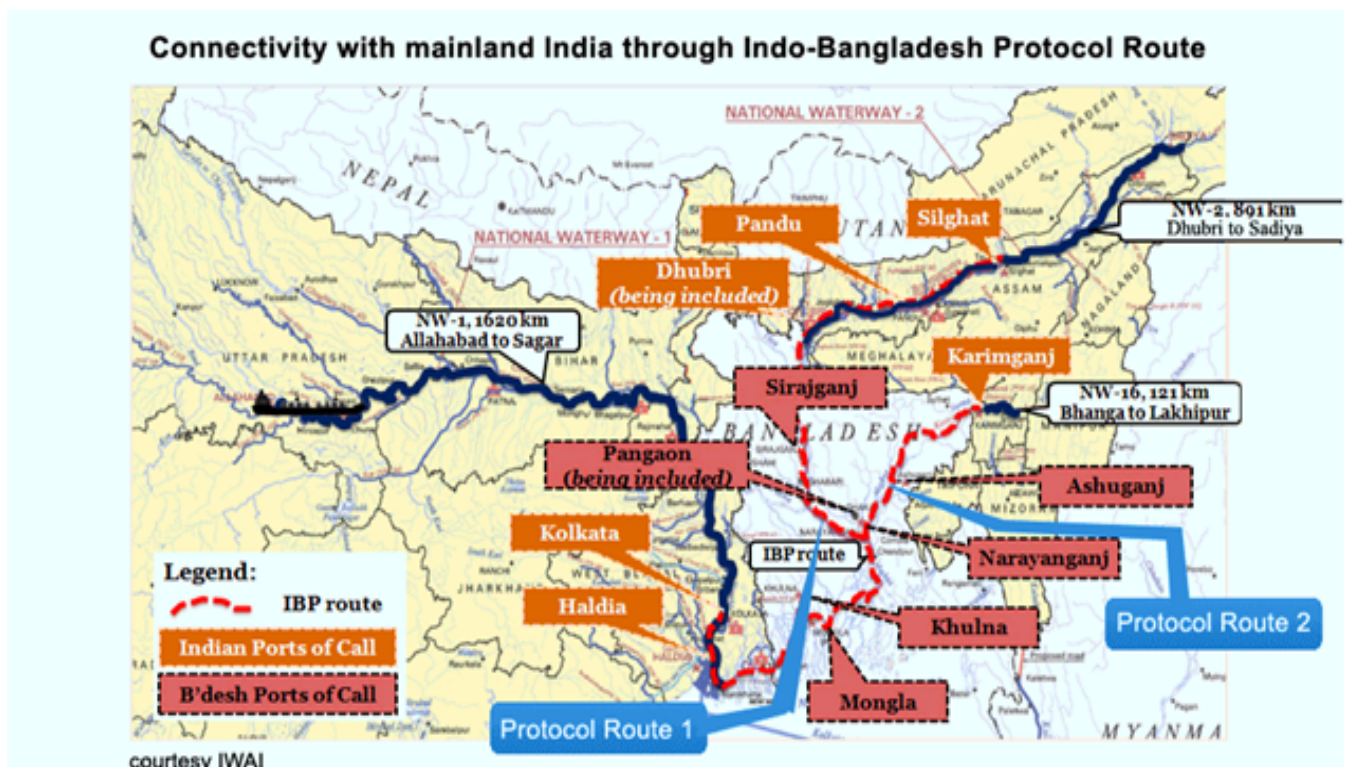
1. India recently received its first shipment from Port of Colombo, Sri Lanka to Port of Chennai, under PIWT&T.
2. The Protocol for Inland Water Trade & Transit (PIWTT) was signed in 1972 first.
3. There is inclusion of Sonamura - Daudkhandi stretch of Gumti River as a new route in the Protocol.

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- The Protocol for Inland Water Trade & Transit (PIWTT) was signed between India and Bangladesh in 1972 to provide inland waterways connectivity between the two countries, particularly with the North Eastern Region of India and also to enhance bilateral trade.
- The scope of PIWTT has been further expanded by the signing of the 2nd Addendum to PIWTT on May 20, 2020 with the inclusion of additional routes and ports of calls.
- The inclusion of Sonamura - Daudkhandi stretch of Gumti river (93 km) as a new route in the Protocol will improve the connectivity of Tripura and the adjoining States with Indian and Bangladesh's economic centers and will help the hinterland of both the countries.



**125. Which of the following statements are correct about WHO?**

1. WHO recently declared 2020 as International year of health care workers?
2. It began functioning on April 7, 1948 – a date now being celebrated every year as World Health Day.
3. Its headquarters are situated in Geneva, Switzerland.

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 1 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- World Health Organization (WHO) is United Nations' specialized agency for Health was founded in 1948.
- It began functioning on April 7, 1948 which is now celebrated every year as World Health Day.
- Its headquarters are situated in Geneva, Switzerland.
- There are 194 Member States, 150 country offices, six regional offices.
- It is an inter-governmental organization and works in collaboration with its member states usually through the Ministries of Health.
- The WHO provides leadership on global health matters, shaping the health research agenda, setting norms and standards, articulating evidence-based policy options, providing technical support to countries and monitoring and assessing health trends.
- It acts as the directing and coordinating authority on international health work.
- It establishes and maintains effective collaboration with the United Nations, specialized agencies, governmental health administrations, professional groups and such other organizations as may be deemed appropriate.
- It provides assistance to the Governments, upon request, in strengthening health services.
- It promotes cooperation among scientific and professional groups which contribute to the advancement of health.
- Member States at the resumed virtual, 73rd World Health Assembly, recognizing the dedication and sacrifice of the millions of health and care workers at the forefront of the Covid-19 pandemic, unanimously designated 2021 as the International Year of Health and Care Workers (YHCW).

126. Which of the following statements regarding (APEC) Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation are correct?

1. It is a regional Economic forum established in 1989 to leverage the growing interdependence of the Asia-Pacific.

2. India is a founding member of APEC.

A. 1 only

B. 2 only

C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- Recently Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum was held online.
- It is a regional economic forum established in 1989 to leverage the growing interdependence of the Asia-Pacific.
- Its aim is to create greater prosperity for the people of the region by promoting balanced, inclusive, sustainable, innovative and secure growth and by accelerating regional economic integration.
- APEC works to help all residents of the Asia-Pacific participate in the growing economy. APEC projects provide digital skills training for rural communities and help indigenous women export their products abroad.
- Recognizing the impacts of climate change, APEC members also implement initiatives to increase energy efficiency and promote sustainable management of forest and marine resources.
- The forum adapts to allow members to deal with important new challenges to the region's economic well-being. This includes ensuring disaster resilience, planning for pandemics, and addressing terrorism.
- APEC's 21 member economies are Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; Chile; People's Republic of China; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; Republic of Korea; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; Peru; The Philippines; The Russian Federation; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; United States of America; Viet Nam.
- India has requested membership in APEC, and received initial support from the United States, Japan, Australia and Papua New Guinea. Officials have decided not to allow India to join for various reasons, considering that India does not border the Pacific Ocean, which all current members do.



**127. Consider the following statements with respect to The Bonn Challenge.**

1. The Bonn Challenge is a global goal to bring 150 million hectares of degraded and deforested landscapes into restoration by 2030 and 350 million hectares by 2050.
2. India has joined the voluntary Bonn Challenge and pledged to restore 13 million hectares of degraded and deforested land by the year 2020, and additional 8 million hectares by 2030.

**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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- The Bonn Challenge is a global effort to bring 150 million hectares of the world's deforested and degraded land into restoration by 2020, and 350 million hectares by 2030.
- India at the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP) 2015 in Paris joined the voluntary Bonn Challenge pledge to bring into restoration 13 million hectares of degraded and deforested land by the year 2020, and additional 8 million hectares by 2030. India's pledge is one of the largest in Asia.
- The 2020 target was launched at a high level event in Bonn in 2011 organised by the Government of Germany and IUCN, and was later endorsed and extended to 2030 by the New York Declaration on Forests of the 2014 UN Climate Summit. To date, 74 governments, private associations and companies have pledged over 210 million hectares to the Challenge.

**128. Which of the following statements regarding hurricanes are correct?**

1. Tropical cyclones use warm, moist air as fuel whereas hurricanes are a result of cold currents.
  2. Hurricanes that reach category three or higher are called 'major hurricanes' because of their potential to cause devastating damage to life and property.
- A. 1 only
  - B. 2 only
  - C. Both 1 and 2
  - D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- Hurricane Iota has made landfall in Nicaragua in Central America and has developed into a category five storm.
- The Atlantic Hurricane season is from June to November and covers the Atlantic Ocean, the

Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico, while the Eastern Pacific Hurricane season runs from May 15 to November 30.

- Hurricanes are categorised on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale
- It rates them on a scale of 1 to 5 based on wind speed.
- Hurricanes that reach category three or higher are called 'major hurricanes' because of their potential to cause devastating damage to life and property.
- Tropical cyclones or hurricanes use warm, moist air as fuel, and therefore form over warm ocean waters near the equator.
- There is no difference between a hurricane and a tropical storm
- Depending on where they occur, hurricanes may be called typhoons or cyclones.
- As per NASA, the scientific name for all these kinds of storms is tropical cyclones.

**129.The Five Eyes is a/an**

- A. UNCLOS classification
- B. Satellite mission by NASA
- C. Intelligence Alliance
- D. None of the above

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- The Five Eyes (FVEY) is an intelligence alliance comprising Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States.
- The origins of the Five Eyes alliance can be traced back to the Atlantic Charter, which was issued in August 1941 to lay out the Allied goals for the post-war world.
- These countries are parties to the multilateral UK-USA Agreement, a treaty for joint cooperation in signals intelligence.
- India is among seven countries to back a UK-led campaign against end-to-end encryption of messages by social media giants such as Facebook, which they say hinder law enforcement by blocking all access to them.

**130.Which of the following statements about UN Peace Keeping missions are correct?**

1. Every peacekeeping mission is authorized by the Security Council.
  2. Peacekeeping forces are contributed by member states on a mandatory basis.
- A. 1 only
  - B. 2 only

- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- With China significantly scaling up its troop contribution for United Nations Peace Keeping (UNPK) missions, India and the U.S. are looking to undertake training of military personnel for the missions from Southeast Asian countries on the lines of the ongoing initiative for African countries.
- Peacekeeping by the United Nations is a role held by the Department of Peace Operations as "a unique and dynamic instrument developed by the organization as a way to help countries torn by conflict to create the conditions for lasting peace"
- United Nations Peacekeeping is a joint effort between the Department of Peace Operations and the Department of Operational Support.
- Every peacekeeping mission is authorized by the Security Council.
- The financial resources of UN Peacekeeping operations are the collective responsibility of UN Member States.
- According to the UN Charter, every Member State is legally obligated to pay their respective share for peacekeeping.
- UN peacekeepers (often referred to as Blue Berets or Blue Helmets because of their light blue berets or helmets) can include soldiers, police officers, and civilian personnel.
- Peacekeeping forces are contributed by member states on a voluntary basis.
- Civilian staffs of peace operations are international civil servants, recruited and deployed by the UN Secretariat.
- UN Peacekeeping is guided by three basic principles:
  - ✓ Consent of the parties.
  - ✓ Impartiality.
  - ✓ Non-use of force except in self-defence and defence of the mandate

**131. Shahtoot dam, recently heard in news, is in**

- A. Pakistan
- B. Afghanistan
- C. India
- D. Bhutan

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**



- India will be constructing the Shahtoot Dam on Kabul River in Afghanistan and that the Governments of two nations have recently concluded an agreement for the same.
- The dam's construction would provide safe drinking water to two million residents of Kabul city which is the Afghan capital.
- The dam would come upon the Maidan River, tributary of Kabul River.
- The conversations for construction of the Shahtoot Dam had begun in 2016.



132. Which of the following have been correctly matched?

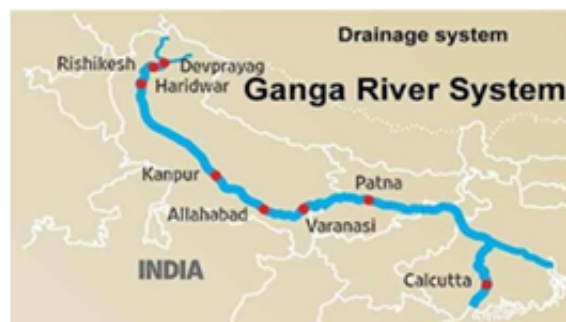
1. Ganga – Gangotri
2. Yamuna – Yamunotri
3. Rangeet – Rathong
4. Chambal – Janapav

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

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- Ganga originates from DevPrayag.



133. Which of the following statements regarding cyclones are correct?

1. Tropical cyclones originate and intensify over warm tropical oceans.
2. Presence of the Coriolis force is an essential condition for cyclone formation.
3. Nivar was a tropical cyclone which brought severe impacts to portions of Indonesia and Thailand.

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

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- Very Severe Cyclonic Storm Nivar was a tropical cyclone which brought severe impacts to portions of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.
- The seventh depression and fourth named storm of the 2020 North Indian Ocean cyclone season, Nivar originated from a disturbance in the Intertropical Convergence Zone.
- Tropical cyclones are violent storms that originate over oceans in tropical areas and move over to the coastal areas bringing about large scale destruction caused by violent winds, very heavy rainfall and storm surges.
- Tropical Cyclones are one of the most devastating natural calamities in the world.
- Tropical cyclones originate and intensify over warm tropical oceans. The conditions favourable for the formation and intensification of tropical storms are:
  - ✓ Large sea surface with temperature higher than 27° C.
  - ✓ Presence of the Coriolis force.
  - ✓ Small variations in the vertical wind speed.
  - ✓ A pre-existing weak low- pressure area or low-level-cyclonic circulation.
  - ✓ Upper divergence above the sea level system.

**134. Which of the following statements regarding Trenches are correct?**

1. Trenches are elevations in the deepest parts of the ocean.
  2. These are formed when old ocean crust from one tectonic plate is pushed beneath another plate, raising mountains, causing earthquakes, and forming volcanoes on the seafloor and on land.
- A. 1 only
  - B. 2 only
  - C. Both 1 and 2
  - D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

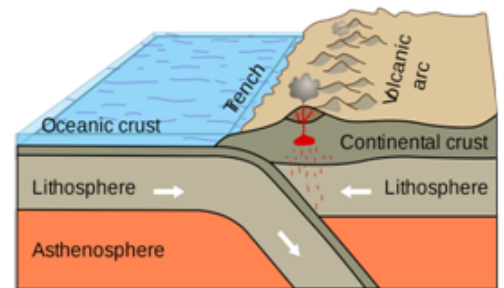
- Recently China broke its own record for deepest manned dive into the world's oceans, sinking an estimated 10,909 meters (35,790 feet) into the Mariana Trench.



- Ocean trenches are steep depressions in the deepest parts of the ocean [where old ocean crust from one tectonic plate is pushed beneath another plate, raising mountains, causing earthquakes, and forming volcanoes on the seafloor and on land.
- The deepest parts of a trench, however, represent only about 1 percent or less of its total area.
- The vast submarine slopes and steep walls of trenches make up much of the hadal zone, where unique habitats extending across a range of depths are home to diverse number of species, many of which are new or still unknown to science.

#### How are trenches formed?

- Trenches are formed by subduction, a geophysical process in which two or more of Earth's tectonic plates converge and the older, denser plate is pushed beneath the lighter plate and deep into the mantle, causing the seafloor and outermost crust (the lithosphere) to bend and form a steep, V-shaped depression
- This process makes trenches dynamic geological features—they account for a significant part of Earth's seismic activity—and are frequently the site of large earthquakes, including some of the largest earthquakes on record.
- Subduction also generates an upwelling of molten crust that forms mountain ridges and volcanic islands parallel to the trench. Examples of these volcanic "arcs" can be seen in the Japanese Archipelago, the Aleutian Islands, and many other locations around this area called the Pacific "Ring of Fire."



#### 135. BOGOR GOALS, recently heard in news, are related to

- BRICS
- SCO
- UNICEF
- APEC

**Answer: D**

#### Explanation

- Recently, a virtual meeting of the 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum was held.
- The meeting was hosted by Malaysia.
- New Zealand will also host next year's APEC meetings virtually due to the pandemic.
- Growth in the Asia-Pacific region expected to decline by 2.7% this year, from a 3.6% growth in 2019.
- APEC's focus was on accelerating economic recovery and developing an affordable vaccine.
- Focus Areas: Trade and investment, Digital Economy and Technology, Structural Reform, Economic and Technical Cooperation and Thematic and institutional matters.

- APEC leaders adopted the Putrajaya Vision 2040, a new 20-year growth vision to replace the Bogor Goals named after the Indonesian town where leaders agreed in 1994 to free and open trade and investment.
- Recognised the importance of a free, open, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable trade and investment environment to drive economic recovery at such a challenging time (Covid-19).
- Discussed the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) agenda and the APEC Internet and Digital Economy Roadmap (AIDER).

**136. MARCOS recently heard in news is a part of which branch**

- A. Navy
- B. Army
- C. Airforce
- D. Territorial Army

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- The government has deployed the Marine Commandos (MARCOS) of the Indian Navy in the Pangong lake area in eastern Ladakh.
- The deployment comes after the stationing of Indian Air Forces Garud commandos and Indian Army Para Special Forces in the conflict zone for over more than past six months.
- The deployment of the MARCOS is to enhance the integration of the three services and provide the naval commandos exposure to extreme cold weather conditions.
- The Indian Navy has deployed teams of its MARCOS in the Wular lake area of Jammu and Kashmir to tackle terrorism there.
- MARCOS have also undertaken several operations against the LTTE in the 1990s ensuring India's dominance in the unpredictable Sri Lankan zone is kept under control.
- They were also deployed in Somalia in 1993 and they were deployed along with the Indian Army during the Kargil war in 1999.
- The commandos are trained to undertake anti-piracy operations which they have carried out with clinical precision in the Gulf of Aden which is the hotbed of pirates.
- It is the Special Forces unit of the Indian Navy that is responsible for conducting special operations.
- MARCOS was founded in February 1987.
- MARCOS are capable of operating in all types of environments; at sea, in air and on land.

**137. Recently conducted Passex 2020 in IOR is an exercise between the navies of India and**

- A. USA

- B. Russia
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. Thailand

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- The navies of India and Russia began a two-day Passage Exercise (PASSEX) in the East Indian Ocean Region (IOR) on Friday, coinciding with Navy Day on December 4.
- The exercise is aimed at enhancing interoperability, improving understanding and imbibing best practices between both the friendly navies, and would involve advanced surface and anti-submarine warfare exercises, weapon firings, seamanship exercises and helicopter operations.
- Two warships from India and three ships from Russia are taking part in the PASSEX.
- This year, the Indian Navy has so far participated in 13 bilateral and multilateral exercises.
- In the first bilateral exercise since all such engagements were suspended due to COVID-19, India and Russia held Indra 2020 in the North Indian Ocean in September.
- The Navy has held a series of passage exercises in the IOR with major Navies since the COVID-19 lockdown
- In July, frontline warships of the Indian Navy conducted a passage exercise with US Navy's USS Nimitz carrier strike group near the Andaman and Nicobar (A&N) islands as it was transiting the Indian Ocean after conducting freedom of navigation operations in the South China Sea.
- A PASSEX was also held with the Japanese Navy.

**138. Which of the following statements are correct about Oman?**

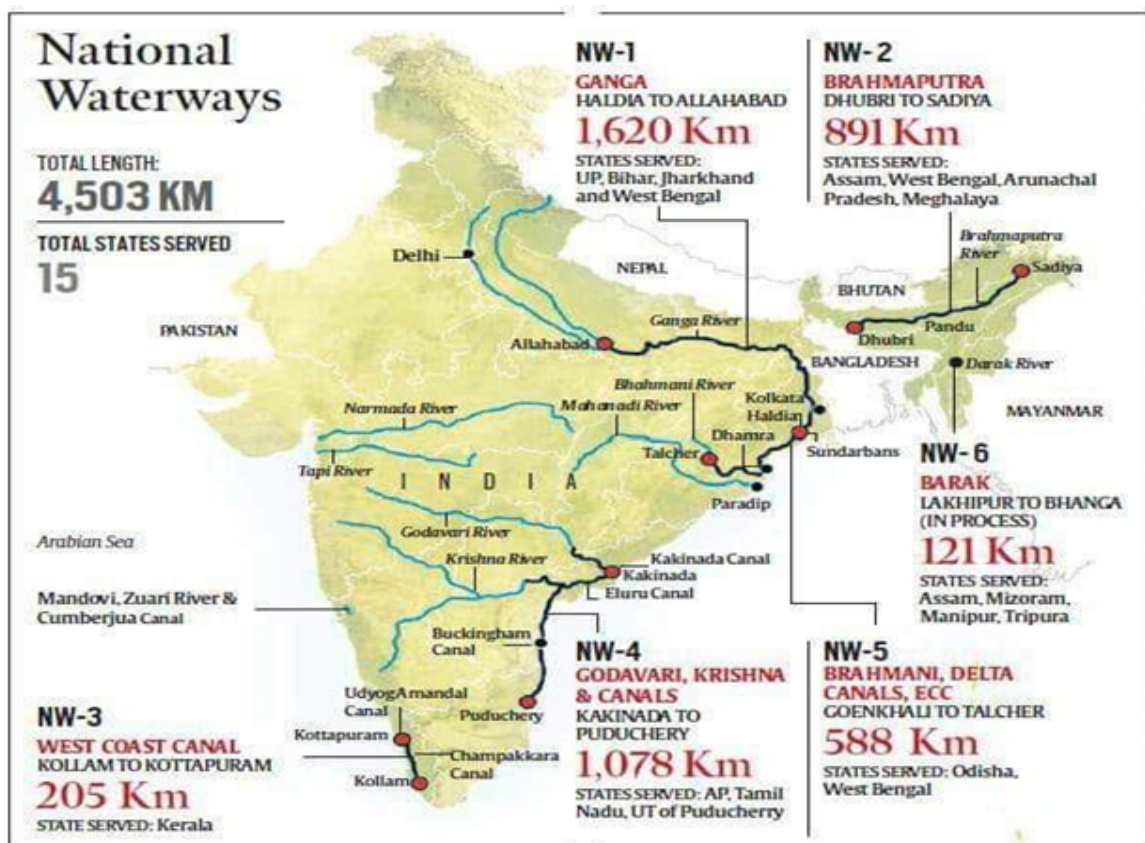
1. It is located in Arabian Peninsula.
  2. It borders UAE, Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Qatar.
  3. The country holds four sea ports facing the Indian Ocean
- A. 1 and 2 only
  - B. 2 and 3 only
  - C. 1 and 3 only
  - D. 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- Oman borders Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen;
- It shares maritime borders with Iran and Pakistan.

- The country is bounded by the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Oman; at the Musandam Peninsula it borders the Strait of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf.
- The country holds four industrial free zones and four sea ports facing the Indian Ocean.
- Oman recently announced to establish Friendship association with India.
- This will be the first of such initiative in West Asia.
- It was announced during a bilateral discussion held between the foreign ministers of the country.
- During the bilateral discussion, the countries reviewed their economic cooperation, consular issue, capacity building and training programmes.
- The association will aim to provide a platform to promote matters of mutual interest, understanding between the business and social communities of the countries.



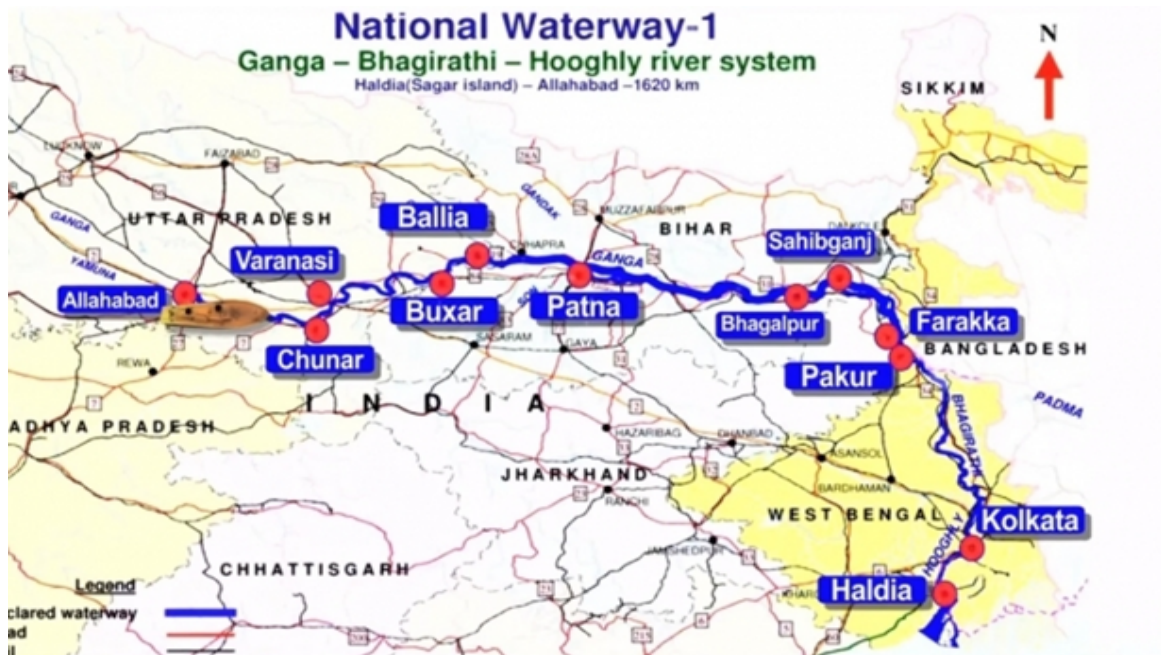
139. Which one of the following is National Waterway 1?

- A. Sadiya-Dhubri
- B. Kottapuram – Kollam
- C. Prayagraj – Haldia
- D. Kakinada–Puducherry

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has eased tender terms for privatising multi-modal terminals (MMT) at Varanasi, Haldia and Sahibganj on National Waterway (NW) 1.
- MMTs are being privatised on Equip, Operate and Transfer (EOT) basis. EOT model is used where infrastructure already exists and there is no need of capital investment.
- NW 1 is from Allahabad to Haldia that falls on Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system. It passes through UP, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.
- MMT use combination of at least two or more different modes (rail, road, waterways) to move cargo from a place to another place.
- MMTs are being built as part of Jal Marg Vikas Project that aims to develop stretch of River Ganga between Varanasi to Haldia for navigation of large vessels upto 1500-2000 tonnes weight.





**140. Boko Haram, recently heard in news, is present in which country?**

- A. Burkina Faso
- B. Gabon
- C. Libya
- D. Nigeria

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- An attack by the extremist group Boko Haram has left 110 farmers dead in Nigeria, according to the UN resident and humanitarian coordinator in Nigeria. The search for many missing victims is currently on, and the death toll is further expected to rise.
- Boko Haram, a jihadist group that has been operating in the region since 2009 to carve out a caliphate in north-east Nigeria, has claimed responsibility for the killings.
- Boko Haram, a Hausa term which loosely translates to 'Western education is forbidden', is infamous for its 2014 abduction of 276 schoolgirls from Chibok.
- It is vehemently opposed to Westernization of Nigeria and adheres to strict Sharia law. The killings were in retaliation for the capture of a jihadist soldier by the villagers.
- Fearing further retaliation, farmers have stopped going to their fields which is affecting Nigeria's grain stocks.
- Nigeria is soon likely to face food crisis.
- It is also reported that Nigeria's stocks have declined to less than 30,000 metric tons, which is a fraction of what the country of 200 million people needs to sustain themselves.
- It is also fuelling food inflation and vastly undermining the President's plans for making Nigeria's food security.

**141. Which of the following statements are correct about The Lebanon Reform, Recovery and Reconstruction Framework (3RF) recently heard in news?**

1. It is part of a comprehensive response to the massive explosion on the Port of Afrin in 2020.
  2. It is European Union, United Nations and World Bank Group launched an 18-month Reform Project.
- A. 1 only
  - B. 2 only
  - C. Both 1 and 2
  - D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- Afrin is in northwestern Syria, where also bombings took place.
- The Lebanon Reform, Recovery and Reconstruction Framework (3RF) is part of a comprehensive response to the massive explosion on the Port of Beirut on August 4, 2020.
- It is a people-centered recovery and reconstruction framework focusing on a period of 18 months that will bridge the immediate humanitarian response and the medium-term recovery and reconstruction efforts to put Lebanon on a path of sustainable development.
- The 3RF aims to help Lebanon achieve three central goals in response to the Beirut port explosion.
- First, a people-centered recovery that returns sustainable livelihoods to the affected population; improves social justice for all, including women, the poor, and other vulnerable groups; and ensures participatory decision making.
- Second, the reconstruction of critical assets, services, and infrastructure that provides equal access for all to quality basic services and enables sustainable economic recovery.
- Third, the implementation of reform to support reconstruction and to help restore people's trust in governmental institutions by improving governance.

**142. Which Union Territory has been recently given 100% organic status?**

- A. Jammu and Kashmir
- B. Ladakh
- C. Lakshadweep
- D. Puducherry

**Answer: C**

#### **Explanation**

- Entire Lakshadweep group of islands has been declared as an organic agricultural area under the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) of India.
- Lakshadweep is the first Union Territory to become 100% organic as all farming is carried out without the use of synthetic fertilisers and pesticides, providing access to safer food choices and making agriculture a more environmentally-friendly activity
- Earlier in 2016, Sikkim became India's first "100 percent organic" State.
- The entire 32 square kilometre geographical land area of the UT was declared as organic after receiving required certifications and declarations under Centre's Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (organic farming improvement programme).
- Earlier, the UT administration had imposed a formal uniform ban on sale, use and entry of synthetic chemicals for agriculture purposes from October 2017 onwards to make the islands a chemical-free zone.

#### **Benefits**

- Better marketing of organic products such as desiccated coconut and coconut milk.

- The organic tag will allow farmers to realize a premium for the farm produce.
- The island's coconut farmers are also expected to benefit from the Union government's One District One Product programme of food processing.
- Under it the entire island is being considered as a single district and coconut oil has been identified as the product.

### Cropping Pattern

- Coconut is the only major crop on the islands and remains idle for six months.
  - ✓ The coconut processing industry works only for about six months. The period between May and December sees the industry come to a standstill.
  - ✓ The island administration plans to introduce dryers and other machinery to utilise the nuts even during this standstill period.

**143. Northern Ireland Protocol recently heard in news is related to which of the following?**

- A. Brexit
- B. Referendum regarding independence from UK
- C. Drug Expiry Standards
- D. Tackling Inequality- UN

**Answer: A**

### Explanation

- Following Brexit, Northern Ireland's 310-mile border with the Republic of Ireland is the only land border between the UK and the European Union (EU).
- Under an arrangement known as the Northern Ireland protocol, goods will not need to be checked along the Irish border when the new UK-EU relationship begins, on 1 January
- The border is a sensitive issue because of the history of Northern Ireland and the agreements made to bring peace, which included the removal of visible signs of the border.
- The fear is if any infrastructure were to be installed, such as cameras or border posts, it could become a target and lead to political instability.

### What's the plan to avoid checks?

- The Northern Ireland protocol, negotiated by UK Prime Minister last October, is part of the withdrawal agreement (which some called the "divorce deal") that saw the UK leave the EU on 31 January 2020.
- Under the protocol, Northern Ireland will continue to enforce the EU's customs rules and follow its rules on product standards (known as the single market on goods).
- And this will make checks on goods travelling from Northern Ireland (a non-EU country) into the Republic of Ireland (an EU country) unnecessary.





- The protocol is due to come into force on 1 January 2021 – the first day of the new EU-UK relationship.
- Until then, the UK remains in a transition period with the EU, meaning its trading relationship stays the same as before.
- While Northern Ireland will continue to follow these EU rules, the rest of the UK will stop doing so after 31 December.
- And that means, in order to comply with EU requirements, some checks will be needed on certain goods entering Northern Ireland from Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales) – creating a regulatory and customs border in the Irish Sea.

144. Which of the following are South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) member states?

1. India
  2. Afghanistan
  3. Maldives
  4. Pakistan
  5. Bangladesh
  6. Myanmar
- A. 2, 3, 4 and 5  
B. 1, 3, 5 and 6  
C. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

D. 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- 36th Charter Day anniversary of SAARC observed recently.
- The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is the regional intergovernmental organization and geopolitical union of states in South Asia.
- Its member states are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- The Charter establishing the Association was signed on December 8, 1985 by the SAARC Heads of States/Governments during first Summit meeting in Dhaka.
- Afghanistan became the newest member of SAARC at the 13th annual summit in 2005.
- The Headquarters and Secretariat of the Association are at Kathmandu, Nepal.

**Importance of SAARC:**

- SAARC comprises 3% of the world's area, 21% of the world's population and 3.8% (US\$2.9 trillion) of the global economy.
- It is the world's most densely populated region and one of the most fertile areas.
- SAARC countries have common tradition, dress, food and culture and political aspects thereby synergizing their actions.
- All the SAARC countries have common problems and issues like poverty, illiteracy, malnutrition, natural disasters, internal conflicts, industrial and technological backwardness, low GDP and poor socio-economic condition.

**145. Which of the following statements are correct about 'Jagananna Jeeva Kranthi' scheme.?**

1. It is launched by the state Govt Of Telengana.
  2. It is a women empowerment initiative.
  3. Under this Govt will distribute sheep and goat units at the budget outlay of total Rs.1,869 crore.
- A. 1 and 2 only  
B. 2 and 3 only  
C. 1 and 3 only  
D. 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- Chief Minister Of Andhra Pradesh launched 'Jagananna Jeeva Kranthi' scheme to distribute 2,49,151 sheep and goat units.

- A total 1,869 crore is being spent for the purpose.
- The objective of scheme is to help the women stand on their own feet and support their families.
- Dairy and animal husbandry is an important avenue, which supports the farmers' families at the time of drought and famine and helps them sustain.
- Each unit will have 5-6 months old 14 ewe lambs and one breeding ram or 14 weaned does (female goats) and one breeding buck.
- Since it will take time to procure such a large number of sheep and goats, they will be provided in three phases.
- Till March 2021, 20,000 units will be distributed and in the second phase, which will be from April 2021 to August 2021, 1.3 lakh units will be distributed and the remaining 99,151 units will be distributed in the third phase from September 2021 to December 2021.
- The women from SC, ST, BC and minorities, are being provided Rs. 75,000 over a period of four year for free, are being shown a way to use the amount as a capital investment for a stable recurring income source, he explained.
- The State government has also entered into an MoU with Allana Group to procure sheep and goats and market the meat products, so as to provide a stable market for the beneficiaries of the Jagananna Jeeva Kranthi

146. Pratas Island, recently heard in news, is located in

- South China Sea
- Bering Sea
- East Sea
- Sea of Okhotsk

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**



- The Pratas Islands are located in the northern part of the South China Sea under the jurisdiction of the Republic of China (Taiwan), closer to China's mainland coast than to the island of Taiwan.
- They are also known as the Dongsha Islands or Tungsha Islands and are a group of atolls, coral reefs and sea banks.
- If China controlled the Pratas Islands, the islands could function as a gatekeeper to monitor U.S. and other countries' ships and aircraft entering the South China Sea from the Pacific Ocean.

147. Which of the following pairs have been incorrectly matched?

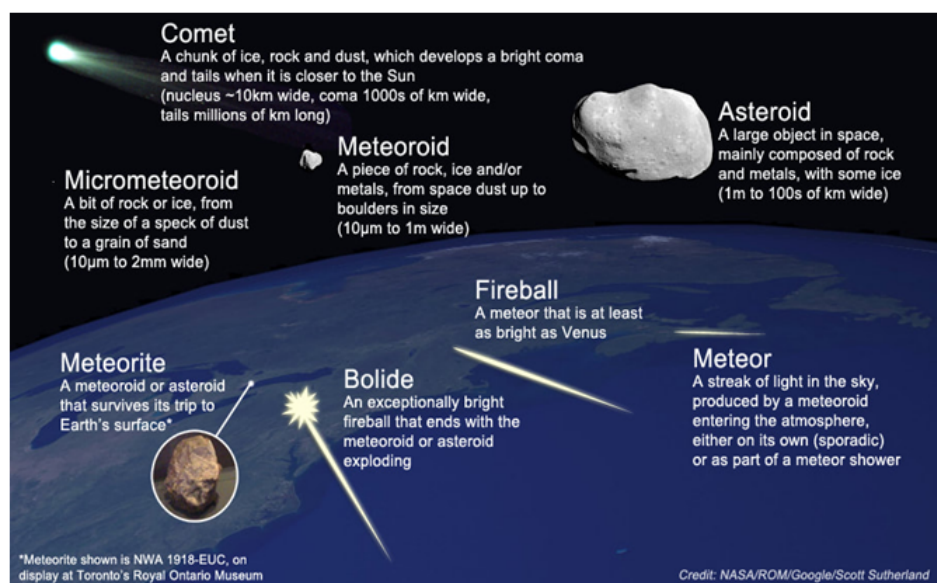
1. Bolide - A meteoroid that survives its passage through the Earth's atmosphere and lands upon the Earth's surface.
2. Meteoroid: A small particle from a comet or asteroid orbiting the Sun.
3. Comet: A relatively small, at times active, object whose ices can vaporize in sunlight forming an atmosphere (coma) of dust and gas and, sometimes, a tail of dust and/or gas.
4. Umbra: A half-shadow that occurs when a light source is only partly covered by an object

- A. 1 and 2
- B. 2 and 3
- C. 1 and 4
- D. 3 and 4

**Answer: C**

### Explanation

- The penumbra is a half-shadow that occurs when a light source is only partly covered by an object—for example, when the Moon obscures part of the Sun's disk. The other 2 areas are: Umbra - the shadow's dark center portion.
- Asteroid: A relatively small, inactive, rocky body orbiting the Sun.
- Comet: A relatively small, at times active, object whose ices can vaporize in sunlight forming an atmosphere (coma) of dust and gas and, sometimes, a tail of dust and/or gas.
- Meteoroid: A small particle from a comet or asteroid orbiting the Sun.



- Meteor: The light phenomena which results when a meteoroid enters the Earth's atmosphere and vaporizes; a shooting star.
- Meteorite: A meteoroid that survives its passage through the Earth's atmosphere and lands upon the Earth's surface.

148. Which of the following share a border with Uzbekistan?

1. Kyrgyzstan
  2. Aral Sea
  3. Caspian Sea
  4. Turkmenistan
  5. Tajikistan
  6. Russia
  7. Kazakhstan
- A. 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7  
B. 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6  
C. 1, 4, 5, 6 and 7  
D. 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- Recently the first virtual bilateral summit between Uzbekistan and India was held.
- The main emphasis was on closer connectivity, with Covid, culture and a personal declaration of intent to start more Ayurvedic practitioners.
- The summit was aimed to "further strengthen" strategic ties between the two countries.
- Nine MoUs have been signed including on solar energy, standardization of weights and measures as well as between police academics.





- India is also hoping to work out high impact community development projects in Uzbekistan.

**149. Which of the following statements are correct about LOON, recently heard in news?**

1. These are manufactured by Google.
2. These balloons reach up to 20 km above the Earth into the Mesosphere
3. The balloons are powered by solar panels and are controlled by software on the ground.

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

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

**What is Loon?**

- Loons are high altitude balloons that provide internet to remote areas.
- It is the third layer of connectivity ecosystem to help places with minimum reach receive connectivity with the rest of the world.
- These balloons that reach the stratosphere and provide internet connections to regions that were once thought unservable.

**Why in News?**

- Loon's internet-beaming balloon has recently set a new flight duration record.
- It made the longest balloon flight in the Stratosphere for 312 days.
- Loon earlier held the record for the longest balloon flight in the Stratosphere which was for 223 days in 2018 – 2019.
- In May 2019, Loon's HBAL703 balloon took off from Puerto Rico (South America) and finally landed in Baja, Mexico, in March 2020 after taking one round of the planet. It also flew across the Pacific Ocean in its journey.
- These are manufactured by Alphabet, Google's parent company.
- These balloons reach up to 20 km above the Earth into the stratosphere
- They are the size of a mini aircraft when inflated
- The balloons are made from sheets of polyethylene and are the size of tennis courts.
- The balloons are powered by solar panels and are controlled by software on the ground
- The attachments include solar panels, antennas and various other electronics
- The balloons beam internet down to the earth to provide connectivity to remotest of areas

- It delivers 4G LTE and 5G connectivity to the areas it is assigned to and is capable of covering 200 times more areas than land cell towers.

**150. Which of the following statements are correct about Chabahar Port?**

1. It is located on the Gulf of Oman
2. It is the only oceanic port of Iran.

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

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- The first trilateral Working Group meeting between India, Iran and Uzbekistan on the joint use of Chabahar port was held virtually, wherein participants held discussions on the use of the port for trade, transit and enhanced regional connectivity.
- All three sides also noted the significant role of the port to deliver humanitarian assistance during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- India proposed to hold "Chabahar Day" on the sidelines of the International Maritime Summit scheduled to be hosted by India in January 2021.
- In 2018, Iran and India had signed an agreement worth USD 85 million to develop the Chabahar Port in south-eastern Iran.
- The port is located in the Gulf of Oman, and provides an alternative route for trade between India and Afghanistan.
- The United States has provided a "narrow exemption" to India from sanctions on the Chabahar project in Iran as it plays a vital role in transporting India's humanitarian supplies to war-torn Afghanistan.



**151. The highest meteorological centre in India has been which has been recently inaugurated is situated in**

- A. Jammu and Kashmir
- B. Ladakh

- C. Himachal Pradesh
- D. Sikkim

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- Context: Union Minister of Earth Sciences, Science and Technology and Health and Family Welfare, inaugurated the India Meteorological Department's centre at Leh in Ladakh via video conferencing.
- Ladakh region has lofty mountains with high slopes and no vegetation and a lot of loose soil and debris making the region vulnerable to various kinds of natural hazards like cloud burst (of 2010), flash floods, avalanches and glacial lake outbursts, among other things.
- To avert losses due to such weather events in future, the Government felt the need to establish a state of the art Meteorological (Met) Centre at Leh in 2020 to strengthen weather-related early warning system in Ladakh.
- Located at a height of 3500 meters, Meteorological Centre Leh will be the highest meteorological centre in India.
- To help the administration and the people of Ladakh, IMD will provide a range of weather forecast services, ranging from short (three days) and medium (twelve days) to extended (one month) period to all the stakeholders on a daily basis for both the districts (Leh and Kargil).
- Apart from district level forecast, IMD will provide a forecast for important tourist places like Nubra, Changthang, Pangong Lake, Zaskar, Kargil, Drass, Dha-Baima (Aryan valley), Khalsi, among other places.
- Some of the important services to be made available are highway forecast, forecast for mountaineering, trekking, agriculture, flash flood warning, low and high temperatures among others.
- The Met Center will be a world-class facility for high altitude meteorology and will cater to the various kinds of weather and climate needs of the people and the administration of Ladakh.

**152. 'Pedalandariki Illu' – housing for poor scheme has been recently launched by the state government of**

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Karnataka
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Kerala

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister launched the flagship programme of Navaratnalu 'Pedalandariki Illu,' (housing for poor)



- About 30.75 lakh beneficiaries have been identified across the State, of which 28.30 lakh houses will be given under 17,000 YSR Jagananna layouts and another 2.62 lakh are of Township and Infrastructure Development Corporation (TIDCO) flats.
- The government will take up the construction of 28.30 lakh houses at a total cost of ₹50,940 crore.
- In the first phase 15.60 lakh houses will be taken up at a cost of ₹28,000 crore and the work on the remaining 12.70 lakh house will commence from next year.
- The Chief Minister said that the government had acquired 68,361 acres of land worth ₹23,535 crore, where each beneficiary will receive a land costing around ₹4 lakh.
- Referring to the TIDCO housing, he said that for the first time in the country, a house site patta is being given for just one rupee to the beneficiaries.
- The entire TIDCO housing burdens the government of ₹4,237 crore and another ₹3,000 crore for creating basic infrastructure facilities.

**153. 'Duare Sarkar' and 'Paray Paray Samadhan' are the grievance redressal programme of which state?**

- A. Odisha
- B. Uttar Pradesh
- C. Jharkhand
- D. West Bengal

**Answer: D**

#### **Explanation**

- Context: Through 'Duare Sarkar', the West Bengal government aims to enable left-out eligible beneficiaries to avail 11 state-run schemes.
- West Bengal Chief Minister announced a new initiative 'Paray Paray Samadhan', under which local neighbourhood grievances will be redressed.
- The programme will be launched on January 2 and will continue till February 15.
- This will not address major infrastructural gaps but will address municipal, local or service gaps through specific mission mode to reach out to the neighbourhood.
- This will be supplementary of 'Duare Sarkar' which has reached out to crores of people.
- While 'Duare Sarkar' is an individual-oriented programme, neighbourhood problems will be addressed by this scheme.
- A separate task force comprising a principal secretary and a secretary has been appointed for 'Paray Paray Samadhan'."
- 'Duare Sarkar', 'Paray Paray Samadhan' will also operate on real-time mode and applicants will be able to track their applications.

- Through 'Duare Sarkar', the West Bengal government aims to enable left-out eligible beneficiaries to avail 11 state-run schemes.
- The programme has started on December 1 and will continue till January 30.

**154.E-Sampada web portal has been recently launched by**

- A. Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- B. Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare
- C. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- D. Ministry of Culture

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on December 25, 2020, launched a new web portal and mobile app, e-Sampada to boost transparency and accountability while ensuring ease of living for the citizens of India.
- The website and mobile app were inaugurated by Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs on the birth anniversary of former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee on December 25 which is celebrated annually as Good Governance Day.
- Launch of e-Sampada is a significant step towards the promotion of e-governance for boosting transparency and accountability in providing different estate services such as regularization, retention, allotment, no dues certificate, etc.
- E-Sampada aims to provide 'One Nation, One System', the four websites (eawas.nic.in, grpa.nic.in, holidayhomes.nic.in and states.gov.in) and the two mobile apps (m-Awas and m-Ashoka5) of the Directorate of Estates have been integrated into one paving the way for all the services on the same platform.
- The new application will be providing a single window for all the services which includes office space allotment to government organizations in 45 office complexes in 28 cities, allotment for over one lakh government residential accommodations, booking of 5, Ashoka Road, and 1,176-holiday homes for the social functions, etc.
- The web portal and mobile app have been developed by NIC.
- E-Sampada mobile app will be available for Android as well as iOS platforms.

**155.Which of the following statements regarding Proxima Centauri are correct?**

1. It is the nearest star to the sun.
2. Red dwarfs like Proxima Centauri burn their fuel at a much lower rate and can therefore exist far longer.
3. The star Proxima Centauri was discovered in 1915 by the Scottish born astronomer Robert Innes.

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

**Answer:D**

### **Explanation**

- Context: Scientists studying archival data collected by the Parkes radio telescope in Australia found a radio signal that came from the direction of Proxima Centauri, the closest star to Earth.
- Proxima Centauri has at least one planet that may be habitable to life as we know it. There is a slim chance that the signal came from extraterrestrial beings, though other explanations are far more likely.
- Proxima Centauri is a red dwarf, these stars have less than half the mass of our sun.
- At 4.2 light years away Proxima Centauri is the nearest star to the sun, but as it is so small and dim it cannot be viewed with the naked eye.
- The star can be found in the Centaurus constellation, a centaur is a Greek mythological half man half horse creature, proxima is Latin for next or nearest.
- The red dwarf Proxima Centauri is part of the three star Alpha Centauri system, the other two stars, Alpha Centauri A and B, are similar to our own sun.
- Proxima Centauri is extremely distant from its two companions, orbiting them at a distance of around 1.2 trillion miles (1.9 trillion km).
- Stars like our sun exist for a few billion years, red dwarfs like Proxima Centauri burn their fuel at a much lower rate and can therefore exist far longer.
- In August 2016 it was announced that an Earth sized planet had been discovered orbiting the habitable zone around Proxima Centauri, the planet named Proxima b could possibly have liquid water on its surface.
- Proxima b is the closest known planet outside our solar system.
- The star Proxima Centauri was discovered in 1915 by the Scottish born astronomer Robert Innes.

**156.Find the incorrect statement in context with “Debt-for-Nature Swap”?**

1. Agreement that reduces a developed country’s debt stock or service in exchange for a commitment to protect nature from the debtor Govt.
  2. It is a voluntary whereby donor(s) cancel the debt owned by developing country’s government.
  3. The savings from reduced debt service are invested in conservation projects.
- A. Only 1
  - B. Only 2

- C. Only 3
- D. None of the above

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- Agreement that reduces a developing country's debt stock or service in exchange for a commitment to protect nature from the debtor Govt.
- It is a WEF mandated transaction whereby donor(s) cancel the debt owned by developing country's government.
- The savings from reduced debt service are invested in conservation projects to seep into the ground in many areas, leading to increased run-off.

**157. Lake Kivu, a deep lake, is situated in which of the following continents?**

- A. Asia
- B. Africa
- C. Antarctica
- D. Australia

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- Lake Kivu is one of Africa's strangest bodies of water. Kivu doesn't behave like most deep lakes. Typically, when water at the surface of a lake is cooled – by winter air temperatures or rivers carrying spring snowmelt, for example – that cold, dense water sinks, and warmer, less dense water rises up from deeper in the lake. This process, known as convection, generally keeps the surfaces of deep lakes warmer than their depths.
- But at Lake Kivu, circumstances have conspired to block this mixing, giving the lake unexpected qualities – and surprising consequences.
- Straddling the border between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kivu is one of a string of lakes lining the East African Rift Valley where the African continent is being slowly pulled apart by tectonic forces. The resulting stresses thin the Earth's crust and trigger volcanic activity, creating hot springs below Kivu that feed hot water, carbon dioxide and methane into the lake's bottom layers.

**158. Which of the following are included in Cryosphere?**

1. Sea Ice
2. Glaciers
3. Ice Shelves

**4. Frozen Ground****5. Lake Ice**

**Choose the correct option.**

- A. 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. All of the above

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- The cryosphere is the frozen water part of the Earth system.
- “According to the 5th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the cryosphere, comprising snow, river and lake ice, sea ice, glaciers, ice shelves and ice sheets, and frozen ground, plays a major role in the Earth’s climate system through its impact on the surface energy budget, the water cycle, primary productivity, surface gas exchange and sea level and is a fundamental control on the physical, biological and social environment over a large part of the Earth’s surface.

**159.Which of the following is the longest National Highway (NH) in India?**

- A. NH 44
- B. NH 27
- C. NH 52
- D. NH 30

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- National Highway 44 – It is the longest national highway in India with a length of 3,745 kilometers running from Srinagar in the north to Kanyakumari in the South.
- National Highway 27 – This longest national highway of India is 3,507 Km long and connects the eastern part of India with the western part easily. It is also considered as the financial pulse of India as it connects 7 states and 47 cities with each other.

**160.The Term “20CD3” is associated with :**

- A. COP- Conference of Parties
- B. Coalition for Disaster Resilience Infrastructure
- C. Asteroid Orbiting Earth – Mini Moon





**Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare**

# **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)**

**Scheme of direct income support for all landholder farmer families (subject to some exclusion criteria)**

**Transfer of benefit of Rs. 6000 per annum per family payable in three equal installments, every four months.**

**Total beneficiaries till now 8,35,89,420**

## **Central Sector Scheme**

**01**

to augment the income of land holder Farmer families.

## **Empowering farmers**

**02**

to procure resources to ensure proper crop health and appropriate yields

## **Safeguarding farmers**

**03**

from falling prey to malicious moneylenders for meeting agricultural and domestic expenses

## **NEW INITIATIVES**

**24 x7 IVRS Based Help-line Operational**

**Dial**

**1800115526**

**or**

**155261**



**On-boarding of Common Services Centers**

• Self-registration & Data Correction through CSCs

• Beneficiary status

• Well-established rural outreach for promotional activities



**Farmers' Corner**  
(in pmkisan.gov.in)

• Beneficiary status

• Edit name in pmkisan data base as per aadhar

• Self Registration

• Beneficiary List



**Website: [www.pmkisan.gov.in](http://www.pmkisan.gov.in) | PM-KISAN Help-line: 1800 115526 / 155261**

D. UNCCD

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- Astronomers have observed a small object orbiting Earth, which they have dubbed a “mini-moon” or the planet’s “second moon”. It is actually an asteroid, about the size of a car; its diameter is about 1.9-3.5 m.
- And unlike our permanent Moon, the mini-moon is temporary; it will eventually break free of Earth’s orbit and go off on its own way.

**161. Which of the following statements are correct about PM- KISAN?**

1. It was first implemented as the Rythu Bandhu scheme by the Government of Telangana.
2. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
3. Under this scheme, all small and marginal farmers will be provided with income support of Rs.3,000 per year in three instalments which will be deposited directly to their bank accounts.

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

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- News: A right to information (RTI) query has revealed that crores of rupees credited into farmers’ accounts under PM Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) scheme were reversed within a few hours.
- PM-KISAN scheme was first implemented as the Rythu Bandhu scheme by the Government of Telangana where a certain amount was handed directly to the eligible farmers.
- During the 2019 Interim Union Budget the implementation of this scheme was announced as a nationwide project.

**162. Which of the following pairs have been incorrectly matched?**

1. Mackenzie – Canada
2. Niger- Liberia
3. Volga- Romania
4. Meghna- Bangladesh

- A. 1 and 4 only  
B. 2 and 3 only

C. 1 and 3 only

D. 2 and 4 only

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- The Volga is the longest river in Europe. Flowing through Central Russia to Southern Russia and into the Caspian Sea.
- The Niger River is the principal river of West Africa. Its source is in the Guinea Highlands in southeastern Guinea.
- The Mackenzie River is a river in the Canadian boreal forest. It is the longest river system in Canada.
- The Meghna River is one of the major and holiest rivers in Bangladesh, one of the three that form the Ganges Delta.

**163. The vertical stretching and horizontal compression of objects into long thin shapes in a very strong non-homogeneous gravitational field caused by extreme tidal forces is known as**

A. Doppler shift

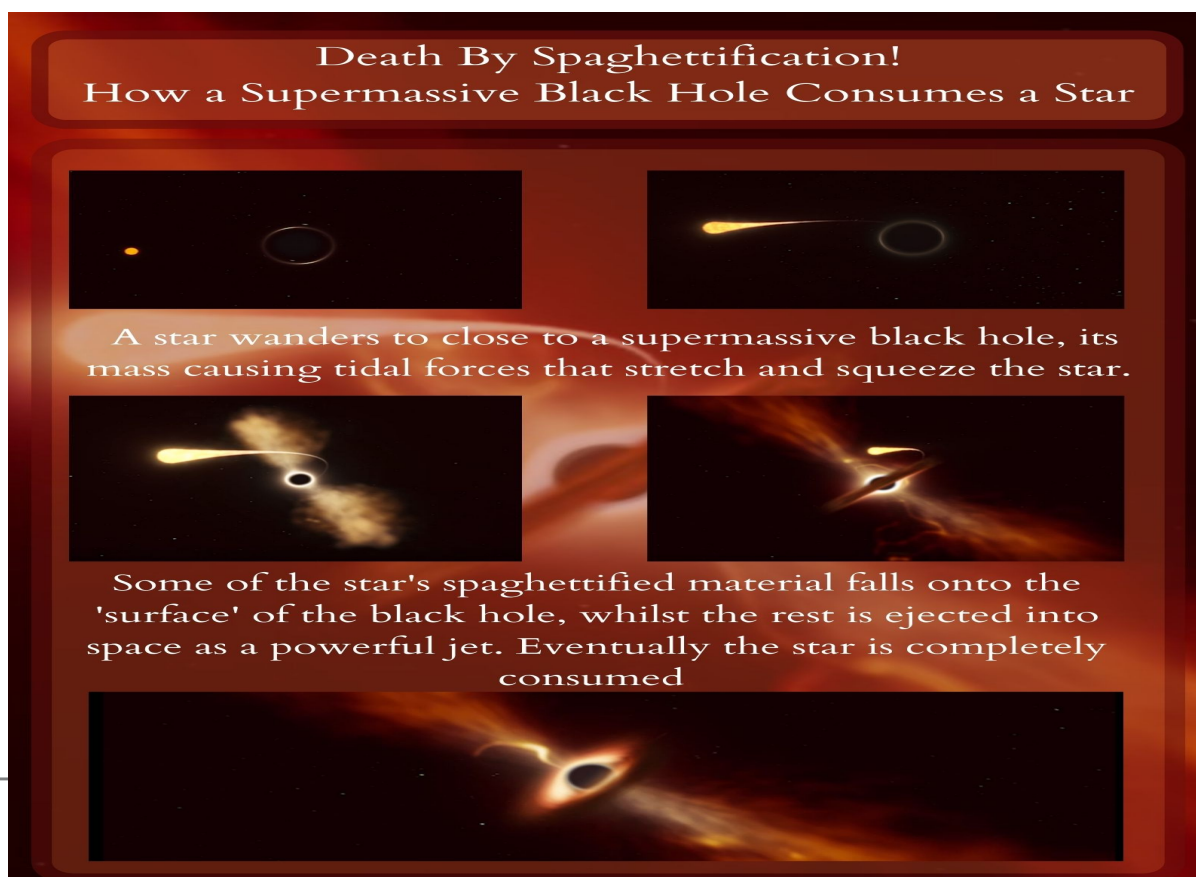
B. Helium flash

C. Spaghettification

D. Spectroscopic binar

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**





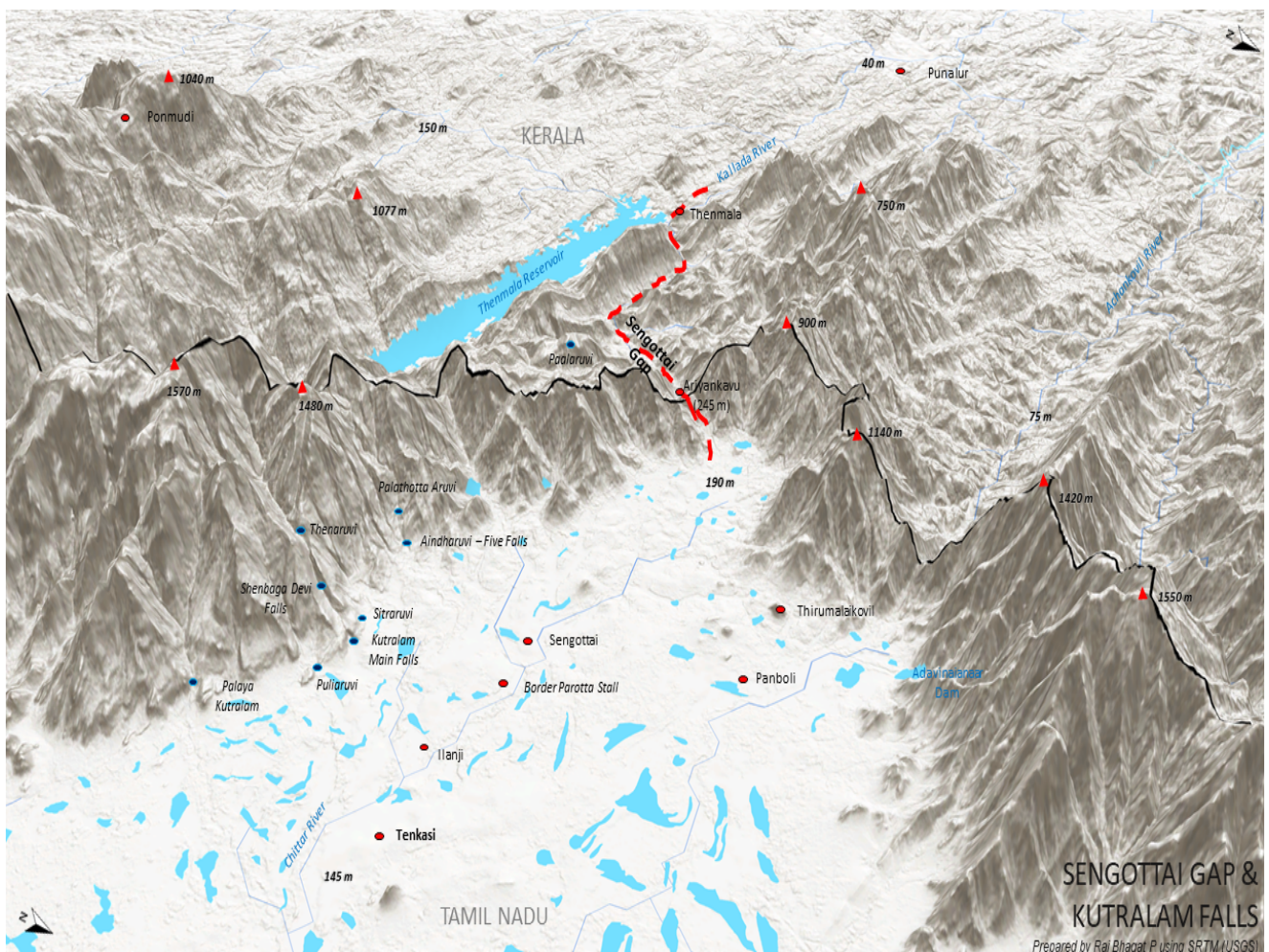
- A rare blast of light, emitted by a star as it is sucked in by a supermassive black hole, was spotted by scientists.
- The phenomenon, known as a tidal disruption event, is the closest flare of its kind yet recorded, occurring just 215 million light-years from Earth.
- It is caused when a star passes too close to a black hole and the extreme gravitational pull from the black hole shreds the star into thin streams of material — a process called 'spaghettification'.
- During this process some of the material falls into the black hole, releasing a bright flare of energy which astronomers can detect.

**164. Sengottai Gap connects which of the two following states?**

- A. Karnataka – Tamil Nadu
- B. Karnataka- Kerela
- C. Tamil Nadu- Andhra Pradesh
- D. Tamil Nadu- Kerela

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**



- Sengottai Gap is a major mountain pass connecting Kerala and Tamil Nadu
- Before 1956, Sengottai was part of Travancore
- It is located in the Western Ghats. It joins the Madurai city in Tamil Nadu with the Kottayam district in Kerala.

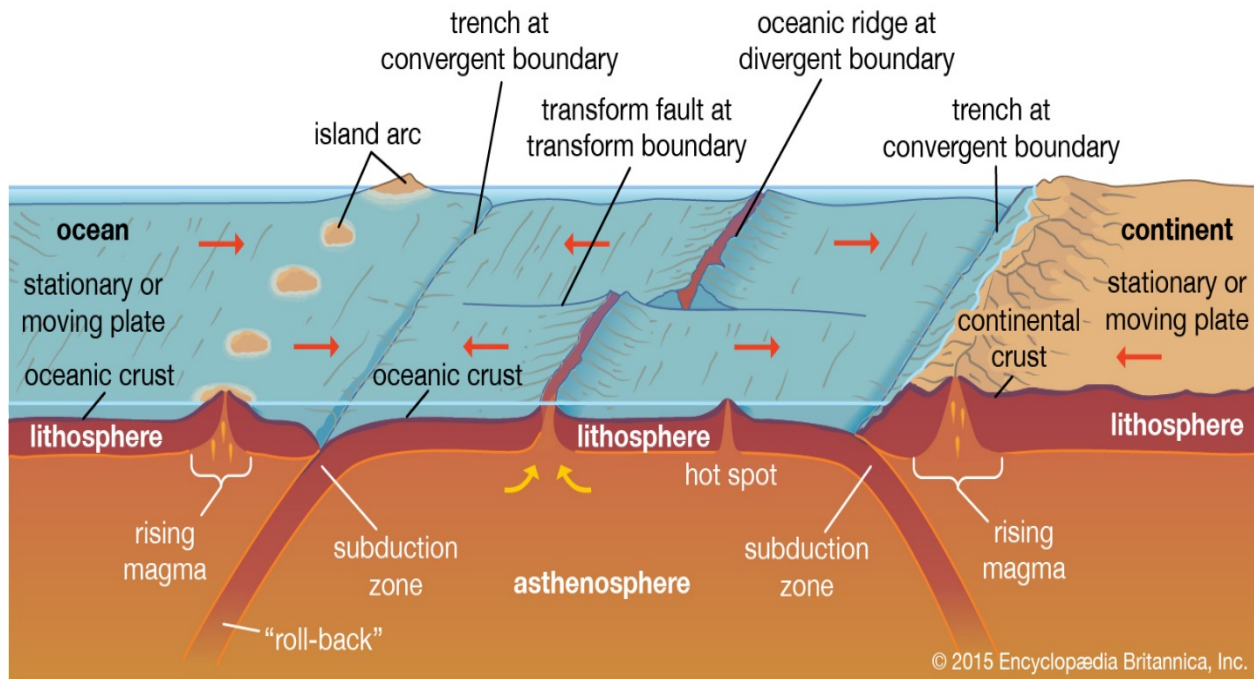
**165. Which of the following statements are correct about Mid Oceanic Ridges?**

1. This uplifting of the ocean floor occurs when convection currents rise in the mantle beneath the oceanic crust and create magma where two tectonic plates meet at a divergent boundary.
  2. The mid-ocean ridges of the world are connected and form a single global mid-oceanic ridge system that is part of every ocean, making the mid-oceanic ridge system the longest mountain range in the world.
- A. 1 only  
B. 2 only  
C. Both 1 and 2  
D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- A mid-ocean ridge or mid-oceanic ridge is an underwater mountain range, formed by plate tectonics.
- This uplifting of the ocean floor occurs when convection currents rise in the mantle beneath the oceanic crust and create magma where two tectonic plates meet at a divergent boundary.
- The mid-ocean ridges of the world are connected and form a single global mid-oceanic ridge system that is part of every ocean, making the mid-oceanic ridge system the longest mountain range in the world, with a total length of about 60,000 km.
- There are two processes, ridge-push and slab-pull, thought to be responsible for the spreading seen at mid-ocean ridges, and there is some uncertainty as to which is dominant.
- Ridge-push occurs when the weight of the ridge pushes the rest of the tectonic plate away from the ridge, often towards a subduction zone.
- At the subduction zone, "slab-pull" comes into effect.
- This is simply the weight of the tectonic plate being subducted (pulled) below the overlying plate dragging the rest of the plate along behind it.
- The other process proposed to contribute to the formation of new oceanic crust at mid-ocean ridges is the "mantle conveyor".
- However, there have been some studies which have shown that the upper mantle (asthenosphere) is too plastic (flexible) to generate enough friction to pull the tectonic plate along.



166. Which of the following are true about Ocean Currents?

1. Patagonia Desert is the result of the cold Falkland current.
2. Ocean Currents act as major ocean routes which are followed by the navigating ships.
3. The continuous flow of ocean currents is a natural effort to bring a horizontal heat balance.
4. A thriving fishing ground along the Peruvian coast is due to the Humboldt Current.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- Some deserts are found on the western edges of continents. They are caused by cold ocean currents, which run along the coast. They cool the air and make it harder for the air to hold moisture. For example, Kalahari Desert is the result of cold Benguela current, whereas the Patagonia Desert is the result of the cold Falkland current.

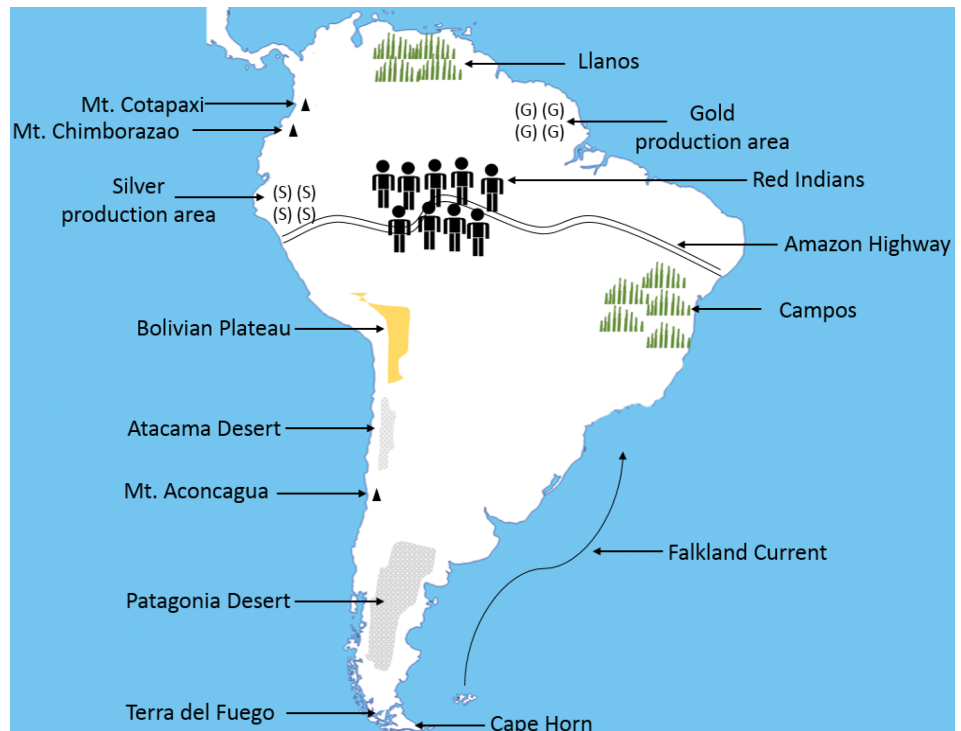




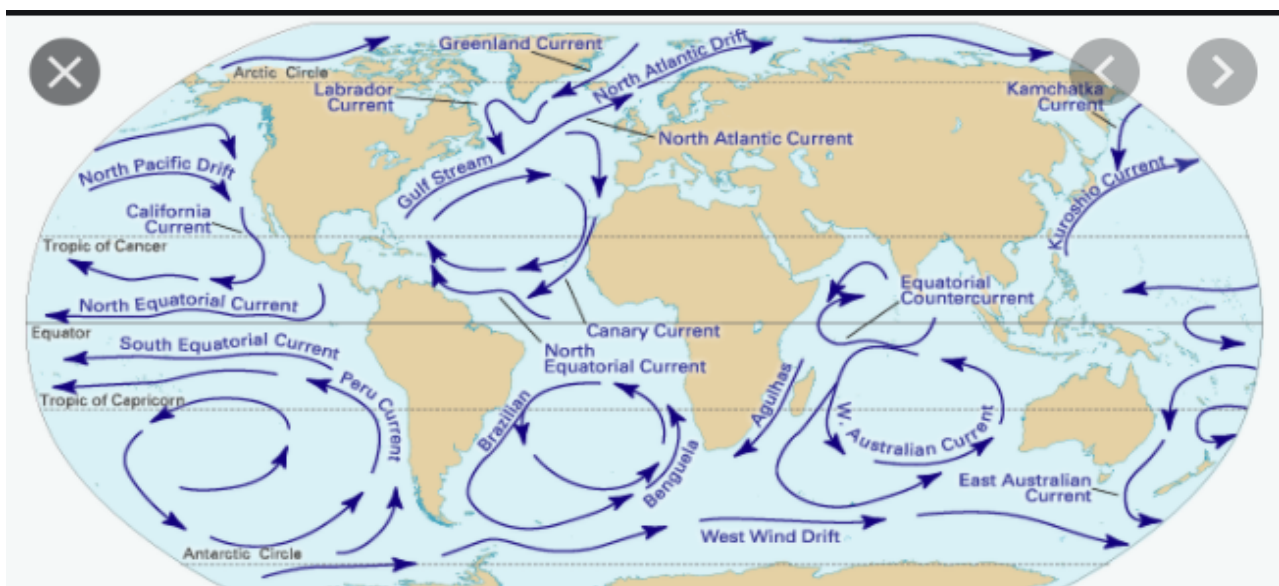
- Knowledge of ocean currents is essential in reducing costs of shipping, since travelling with them reduces fuel costs. In the wind powered sailing-ship era, knowledge of wind patterns and ocean currents is even more essential. For Example- Agulhas Current prevented Portuguese sailors from reaching India.

- In recent times, around-the-world sailing competitors make good use of surface currents to build and maintain speed.

- Ocean currents act as the distributing agents of nutrients. Oxygen and other elements necessary for the existence and survival of fishes. Ocean currents transport planktons from one area to the other. The planktons are useful food for the fishes



- Upwelling is a process in which deep, cold water rises toward the surface. Upwelling brings abundant nutrients close to the surface, and the beneficial effects of sunlight, which allow for rich plankton growth, make the waters off Peru, Chile, and Ecuador one of the world's greatest fishing grounds for anchovies and the larger fish (e.g., tuna) that feed upon them.
- The favorable conditions for growth of planktons develop where the cold current and warm current meet. For Example- the cold Labrador Current and the warm Gulf Stream current met near Newfoundland where world famous fishing banks like Grand Bank and George's bank have developed. The distribution of the anchovy's fishes on the Peruvian coast is too related with the cold Peru or Humboldt Current because it brings planktons for these fishes.



**167. Which of the following are known as “Genetic Express Highway” in our country?**

- A. Nilgiri Biosphere reserve
- B. Panchmarhi Biosphere Reserve
- C. Sundarbans Biosphere Reserve
- D. Gulf of Manner Biosphere Reserve

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- Pachmarhi Biosphere Reserve area, which constitutes the Central part of India, is one of the highly biodiversity rich areas with high floristic diversity and unique plant life forms.
- Pachmarhi BR is often recognized as “Genetic Express Highway” linking two biodiversity hot spots of the country, viz., Eastern Himalaya and Western Ghats, also as confluence of northern and southern type of vegetation.

**168. The term “Dhrians” in India refers to :**

- A. The shifting Sand Dunes in Thar Desert .
- B. Streams which disappear after flowing for some distance and present a typical case of inland drainage by joining a lake or playa.
- C. A waterless lakebed, typically covered in fine-grained rocks that contain salt.
- D. An accumulation of sediment or silt that are joined together by calcium carbonate.

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- In Thar desert the shifting sand dunes are locally known as Dhrians.
- loess - an accumulation of sediment or silt that are joined together by calcium carbonate ( China ).

**169. Which of the following are true for “Footloose Industries”?**

1. Footloose industry is a general term for an industry that can be placed and located at any location without effect from factors of production.
  2. Diamonds, computer chips, and mobile manufacturing are some examples of footloose industries.
  3. These are generally non-polluting industries.
- A. 1 and 2 only
  - B. 2 and 3 only
  - C. 1 and 3 only
  - D. 1,2 and 3

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- Footloose industry is a general term for an industry that can be placed and located at any location without effect from factors of production such as resources, land, labour, and capital.
- These industries often have spatially fixed costs, which means that the costs of the products do not change despite where the product is assembled. Diamonds, computer chips, and mobile manufacturing are some examples of footloose industries. These are generally non-polluting industries.
- Non-footloose industries generally require raw material availability within a time limit to make products.
- Sugar industry, jute industry and tea industry are the examples of non-footloose industries.

**170. Micro elements needed to increase soil fertility are**

- A. Nitrogen, Hydrogen, Calcium
- B. Nitrogen, Phosphorous and Potassium
- C. Iron, Calcium and Potassium
- D. Manganese, Copper and Zinc

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- Carbon, hydrogen and oxygen, three of the essential plant nutrients, are taken up from the atmosphere and from water. The other essential nutrients come from the soil.
- The major nutrients, or macronutrients, supplied by the soil are nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, Sulphur, magnesium and calcium.
- The minor nutrients, also referred to as micronutrients or trace elements, supplied by the soil are molybdenum, copper, zinc, manganese, iron, nickel, boron and chlorine.

**171. The Sinai Peninsula is surrounded by which of the following water bodies?**

1. Mediterranean Sea
2. Gulf of Aqaba
3. Gulf of Suez
4. Red Sea

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

D. 2 and 4 only

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**



172. With reference to the term 'Pesticide Treadmill', consider the following statements:

1. It means increasing the doses of pesticides to prevent the resurgence of the earlier controlled pest.
2. It yields counterproductive results as repeated spraying increase the vulnerabilities of the farming communities to debt and poor health.
3. It involves targeted spraying on pests so that no other insects which are harmless or beneficial to the crops get killed.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 Only
- B. 1 and 3 Only
- C. 2 and 3 Only
- D. All of the Above

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- The pesticide treadmill is a term indicating a situation in which it becomes necessary for a farmer to continue using pesticides regularly because they have become an indispensable part of an agricultural cycle.
- An even more severe aspect of the pesticide treadmill is when it escalates. It can happen that the effective elimination of one target insect pest allows other insect pests to thrive, resulting in the farmer having to use other insecticides to eliminate the new pest problem.



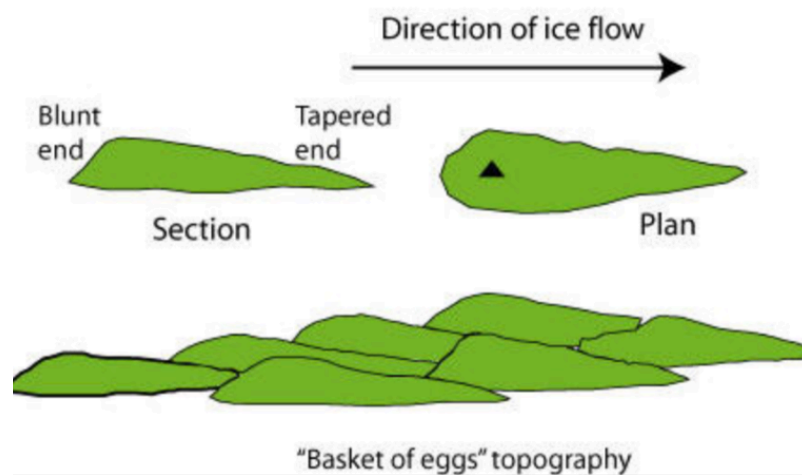
- This can lead to more pests and the need for yet more insecticide types to deal with the additional problems. In starting to use any agricultural insecticide, the farmer should be aware of the danger of unintentionally ending up in a treadmill situation, which becomes self-perpetuating.

**173. The terms “basket of eggs” topography is :**

- Depositional landform formed by Glaciers
- Erosional landforms by Winds
- Depositional landforms by Water
- Erosional landforms by River

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**



**174. Which of the following pairs have been incorrectly matched?**

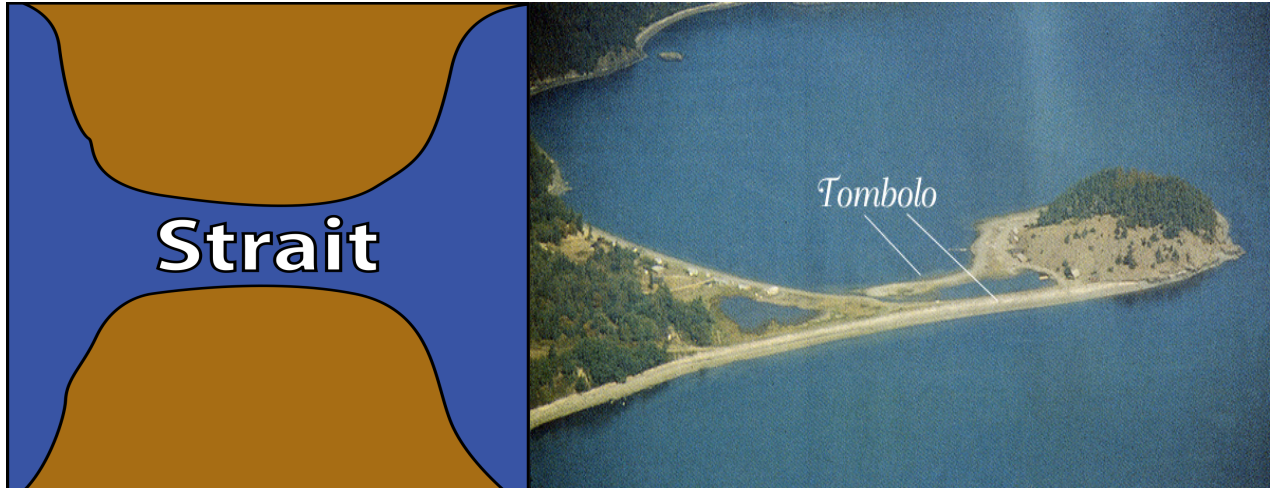
- Tombolo: a narrow piece of land that connects a larger piece of land to a smaller piece of land.
  - Isthmus : a narrow strip of land with sea on either side, forming a link between two larger areas of water bodies.
  - Strait : a narrow channel of water connecting two larger bodies of land
  - Peninsula : a piece of land that is almost surrounded by water but connected to mainland
- 1, 2 and 3 only
  - 1 and 3 only
  - 2 and 3 only
  - 1 and 4 only

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- Isthmus is a narrow strip of land connecting two larger land areas, usually with water on either side.

- A peninsula is a piece of land that is almost surrounded by water but connected to mainland (via an isthmus). So a peninsula is often defined as land surrounded by water on three sides.
- Tombolo is a bar of sand or shingle joining an island to the mainland.
- Strait is a narrow passage of water connecting two seas or two other large areas of water.



- Peninsula



**175. The Term “Bonn Challenge “ has been in news recently. It is associated with:**

- Convention on Migratory Species
- Landscape Restoration
- Elimination of non-biodegradable waste
- Reduce the Green House Gases to half by 2030

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- The Bonn Challenge is a global goal to bring 150 million hectares of degraded and deforested landscapes into restoration by 2020 and 350 million hectares by 2030.

**176. Which of the following best describes the word 'Possibilism' in context with Human Geography?**

- A. The Environment sets certain constraints or limitations, but culture is otherwise determined by social conditions.
- B. It explains how the physical environment predisposes societies and states towards particular development trajectories.
- C. It explores the new-found possibilities of Origin of Universe.
- D. None of the above

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- Possibilism in Human geography is the theory that the environment sets certain constraints or limitations, but culture is otherwise determined by social conditions.

**177. Which of the following is/are the possible consequence(s) of heavy sand mining in riverbeds?**

1. Decreased salinity in the river
2. Pollution of groundwater
3. Lowering of the water-table

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- Excessive in-stream sand and gravel mining causes the degradation of rivers. Instream mining lowers the stream bottom, which may lead to bank erosion. Depletion of sand in the streambed and along coastal areas causes the deepening of rivers and estuaries and the enlargement of river mouths and coastal inlets.
- It may also lead to saline-water intrusion from the nearby sea.
- Instream sand mining results in the destruction of aquatic and riparian habitat through large changes in the channel morphology. Impacts include bed degradation, bed coarsening, lowered water tables near the streambed and channel instability.

- Excessive in-stream sand mining is a threat to bridges, river banks and nearby structures. Sand mining also affects the adjoining groundwater system and the uses that local people make of the river.

178. Which of the following statements regarding Char Piya island recently heard in news are incorrect?

1. It is a remote uninhabited island located in the Bay of Bengal.
2. It is formed due to washing down and deposition of Himalayan silt.

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

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- The Bhashan Char Island is a remote uninhabited island of Bangladesh, located in the Bay of Bengal. It is also known as Char Piya.
- Around thousands of Rohingyas from Cox's Bazar refugee camp are being shifted to the newly developed facility in the island.
- The Bhashan Char Islands are also called the Floating Islands.
- They are formed from the Himalayan silt washed down from the Himalayas.
- The island was formed recently within 10 year of span. But according to the environmentalists, it is already eroding at the rate of half a kilometre per year. The environmentalists believe that the island is prone to cyclones and erosion.



179. Which of the following belong to Quinary Activities?

1. Trade and Commerce.
2. Financial Banking
3. Consultants
4. Communication
5. Specialists

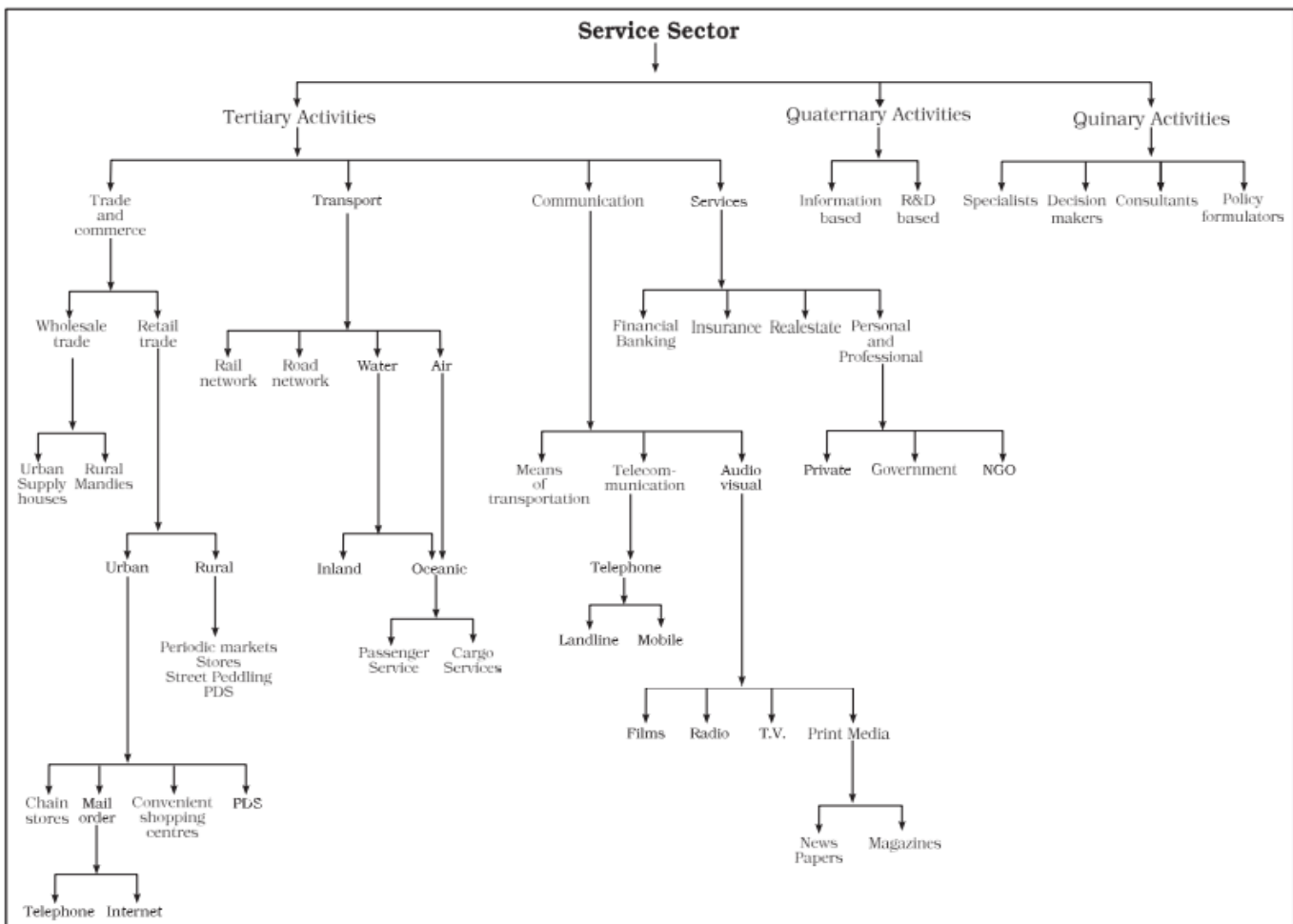
**Select the correct code**

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

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- Quinary activities are services that focus on the creation, re-arrangement and interpretation of new and existing ideas; data interpretation and the use and evaluation of new technologies.



**180. Which of the following is not a closed Sea ?**

- 1. Aegean Sea
  - 2. Aral Sea
  - 3. Red Sea
- A. 1 and 2 only
  - B. 2 and 3 only



C. 1 and 3 only

D. 1,2 and 3

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

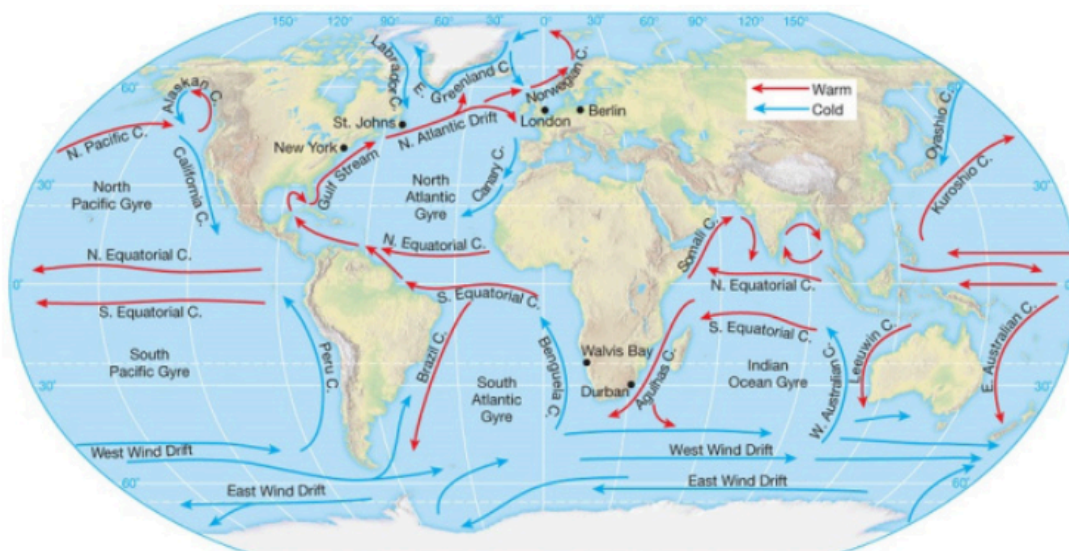


**181. Mixing zones of Cold and Warm Ocean Currents are the most productive fishing grounds on earth. In context with the same, which of the following mixing zones can be considered as "Fishing Grounds"?**

1. Kuroshio Current - Oyashio Current
  2. Brazilian Current - Falkland Current
  3. Labrador Current - Gulf Stream
- A. 1 and 2 only  
B. 2 and 3 only  
C. 1 and 3 only  
D. 1, 2 and 3 only

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**



**182. Which of the following is true for North-east Gas Pipeline Grid Project?**

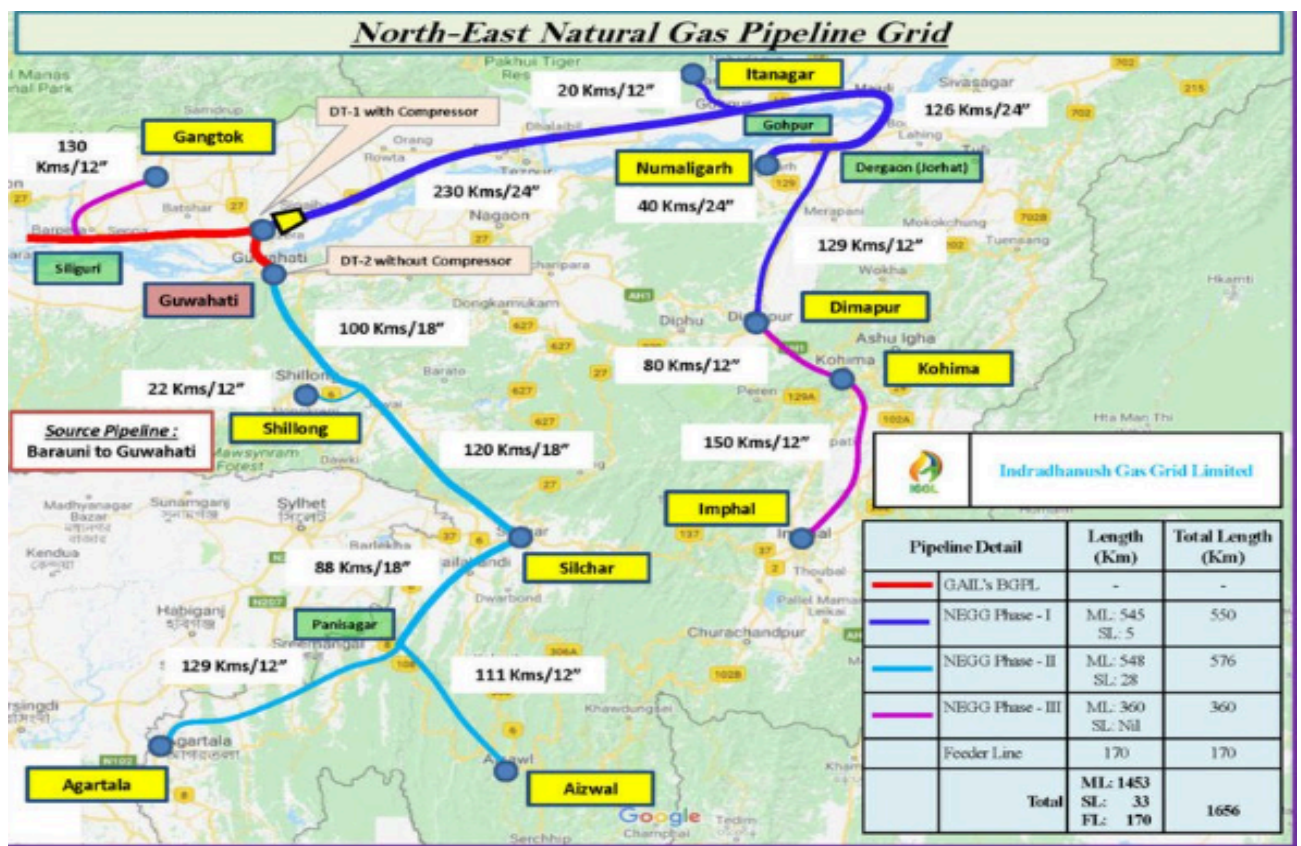
1. It will be developed in North East in collaboration with Bangladesh and Myanmar.
  2. The pipeline will enable the supply of piped cooking gas to households and CNG to automobiles, besides fuel to industry.
- A. Only 1  
B. Only 2  
C. Both 1 and 2  
D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**



- The 1,656-km North-East Natural Gas Pipeline Grid will connect Guwahati in Assam to major cities in the region such as Itanagar, Dimapur, Kohima, Imphal, Aizwal, Agartala, Shillong, Silchar, Gangtok, and Numaligarh.
- The pipeline will enable the supply of piped cooking gas to households and CNG to automobiles, besides fuel to industry.
- The North-East pipeline grid is to be implemented by Indradhanush Gas Grid, a joint venture of state-owned GAIL India, Indian Oil Corp (IOC), Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC), Oil India Ltd (OIL) and Numaligarh Refinery Ltd (NRL).
- The consortium had pitched for a 60 per cent funding support from the government and would raise the rest via equity and debt.



183. Consider the following statements with respect to The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB).

1. It focuses on the economic cost of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation.
2. It is an initiative of UNDP.

Which of the above statements is/are not correct?

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- Its objective is to highlight the growing cost of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation and to draw together expertise from the fields of science, economics and policy to enable practical actions.
- The TEEB study was launched by Germany and the European Commission in response to a proposal by the G8+5 Environment Ministers in Potsdam, Germany in 2007, to develop a global study on the economics of biodiversity loss.
- The second phase of the TEEB study is hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) with support from a number of organizations, including the European Commission, German Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

**184. Consider the following statements with regard to Extra-Tropical Cyclones?**

1. They generally develop in the lower latitudes.
2. They can originate over both land and in sea.
3. They are formed along the polar front.
4. They move from west to east.

**Which of the following are true ?**

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- They generally develop in the mid-latitudes in the regions extending between 35-65° latitudes in both the hemispheres due to the convergence of two contrasting air masses- warm tropical and cold polar air masses.

**185. Which of the following best defines a Ghost Net?**

- A. Dead zones are hypoxic areas in the world's oceans.
- B. They are the fishing nets that have been abandoned by fishermen or lost in the ocean.
- C. They are the fishing nets laced with poisons to kill the marine species.
- D. None of the above

**Answer: B**

## Explanation

- Ghost nets are fishing nets that have been left or lost in the ocean by fishermen. These nets, often nearly invisible in the dim light, can be left tangled on a rocky reef or drifting in the open sea. They can entangle fish, dolphins, sea turtles, sharks, dugongs, crocodiles, seabirds, crabs, and other creatures, including the occasional human diver. Acting as designed, the nets restrict movement, causing starvation, laceration and infection, and suffocation in those that need to return to the surface to breathe.

186. Arrange the ports from North to South as per their "Geographical Location "

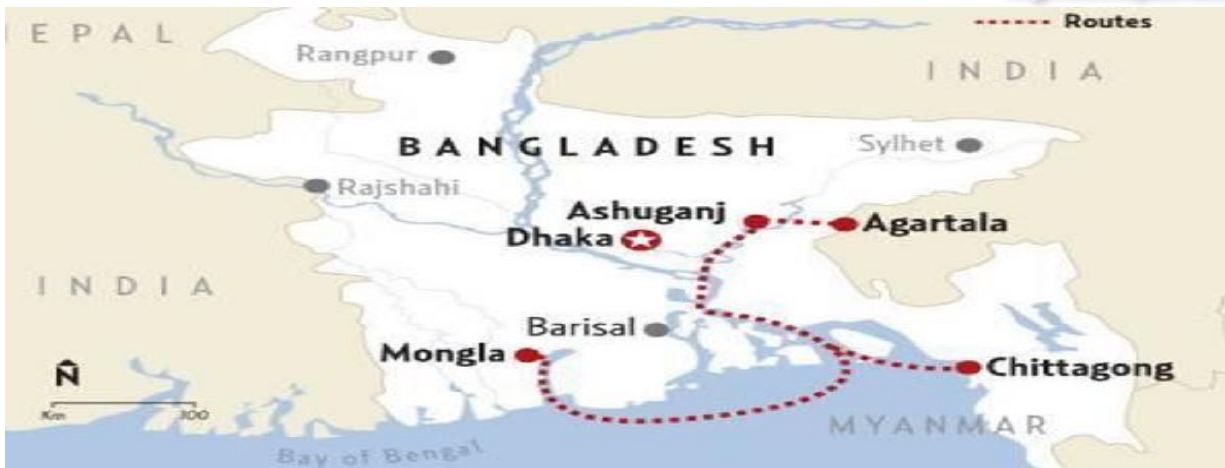
1. Chittagong Port
2. Sittwe Port
3. Kyaukpyu Port

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

Answer: A

## Explanation





187. Consider the following statements:

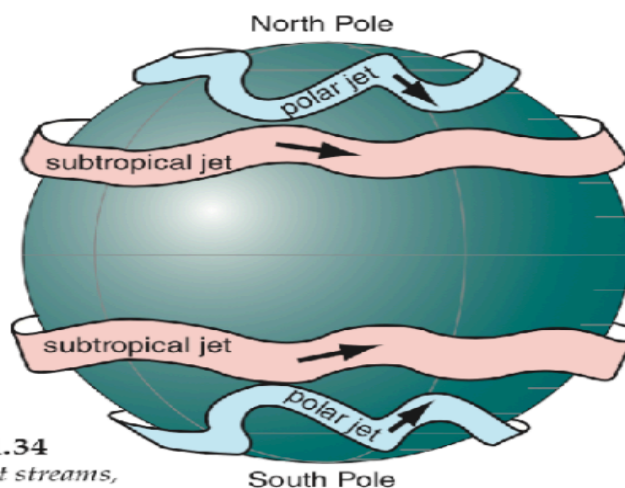
1. Jet streams occur in the Northern Hemisphere only.
2. Only some cyclones develop an eye.
3. The temperature inside the eye of a cyclone is nearly 10 deg C lesser than that of the surroundings.

Which of the following statements are true ?

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

Answer: C

Explanation



**Figure 11.34**  
Sketch of jet streams,  
representing a snapshot.



- The eye temperature may be  $10^{\circ}\text{C}$  warmer or more at an altitude of 12 km than the surrounding environment, but only  $0-2^{\circ}\text{C}$  warmer at the surface in the tropical cyclone.



188. Recently the term “ Backstop Agreement “ was in news . It was in context of :

- A. TPP
- B. RCEP
- C. BREXIT
- D. MERCOSUR

Answer: C

Explanation



**189. Boyoma Falls are a system of waterfalls that hold the record as the largest waterfall by volume of annual flow rate. It is located in which of the following country?**

- A. Democratic Republic of Congo
- B. Nigeria
- C. Tanzania
- D. Uganda

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- They form the largest waterfall by volume of annual flow rate in the world, exceeding both the Niagara Falls and the Iguazu Falls.

**190. Which part of the Sun is visible during a Total Solar Eclipse**

- A. Photosphere
- B. Corona
- C. Heliosphere
- D. None of the above

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- The corona is the outermost layer of the Sun, starting at about 1300 miles (2100 km) above the solar surface (the photosphere). The temperature in the corona is 500,000 K (900,000 degrees F, 500,000 degrees C) or more, up to a few million K.
- The corona cannot be seen with the naked eye except during a total solar eclipse, or with the use of a coronagraph.

**191. Which of the following are true for Western Disturbance ?**

1. It is an tropical storm originating in the Mediterranean region.
  2. It leads to non-monsoonal precipitation pattern driven by the westerlies.
  3. It is responsible brings sudden winter rain to the northwestern parts of the Indian subcontinent.
- A. 1 and 2 only
  - B. 2 and 3 only
  - C. 1 and 3 only
  - D. 1, 2 and 3

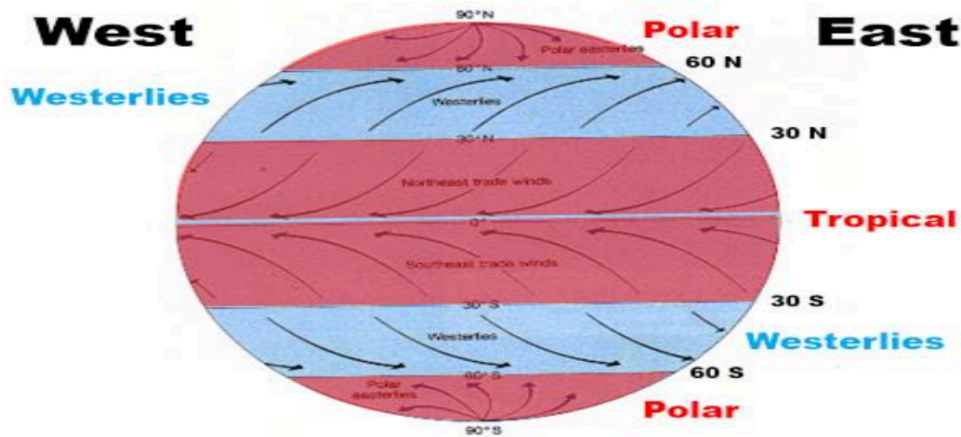
**Answer: B**

## Explanation

- A western disturbance is an extra tropical storm originating in the Mediterranean region that brings sudden winter rain to the northwestern parts of the Indian subcontinent.
- It is a non-monsoonal precipitation pattern driven by the westerlies.
- The moisture in these storms usually originates over the Mediterranean Sea, the Caspian Sea and the Black Sea
- Western disturbances are important for the development of the Rabi crop which includes the locally important staple wheat.







192. What are the factors which may affect "Surface Ocean Salinity" ?

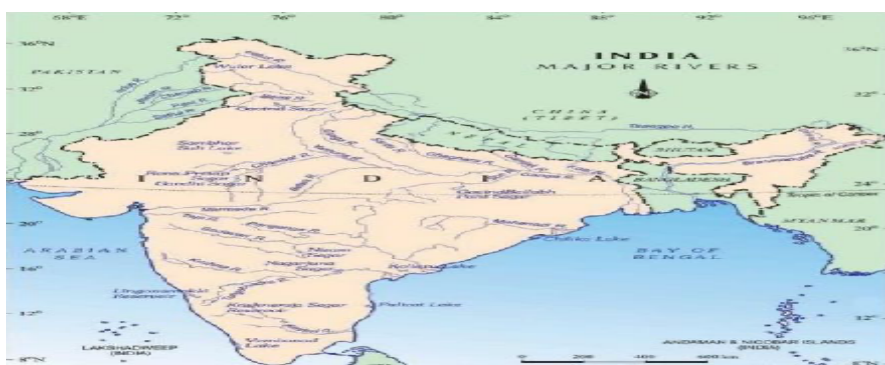
1. Evaporation
  2. Precipitation
  3. Fresh water flow
  4. Wind
  5. Ocean Currents
- A. 1, 2 3 and 5  
B. 1, 2, 3 and 5  
C. 1, 2, 3 and 4  
D. All of the above

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

**Remember**

- The low salinity trend is observed in the Bay of Bengal due to influx of river water by the river Ganga.
- On the contrary, the Arabian Sea shows higher salinity due to high evaporation and low influx of fresh water.



**193. Which of the following statement(s) is/are true?**

1. Majority of agricultural land in India is under some form of irrigation than being rain fed.
  2. The mean productivity of both irrigated and rain-fed lands is almost the same.
- A. 1 only  
B. 2 only  
C. Both 1 and 2  
D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- Irrigated area accounts for nearly 48.8 per cent of the 140 million hectare of agricultural land in India. The remaining 51.2 per cent is rainfed.
- The mean productivity of rainfed area (71.62 mha) is about 1.1 tonne per ha compared to 2.8 tonne per hectare of irrigated area.

**194. Which of the following is / are the characteristics of Indian coal?**

1. High ash content
2. Low Sulphur content
3. Low ash fusion temperature

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

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

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- Statement 1 is correct as Indian coal has high ash content. Statement 2 is correct as content of Sulphur is low in Indian coal.
- Statement 3 is incorrect as Indian coal has high low ash fusion temperature.
- Indian coals like any other gondwana coals are of high ash content which due to the nature of formation of the coal deposits.
- In general Indian Coals are of drift origin, i.e. the original plant materials, which were later transformed into coal, were transported by rivers and laid down as fluvial, lacustrine or deltaic deposits. As a result the plant material were contaminated with clay and other detritus minerals, giving rise to high ash content

**195. Strait of Gallipoli connects:**

- A. Sea of Marmara and Aegean Sea
- B. Aegean Sea and Ionian Sea
- C. Black Sea and Sea of Marmara
- D. Caspian Sea and Black Sea

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

