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**Q.1) Asia-Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC) is an economic cooperation between all the governments of African countries and which of the following countries?**

1. India
2. China
3. Japan

**Select the correct code:**

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) All of the above

**Q.1) Solution (c)**

Asia Africa Growth Corridor is a joint initiative of India and Japan. It was launched in May 2017. Its detailed roadmap has been prepared by three agencies viz. Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) New Delhi, the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) Jakarta, and Institute of Developing Economies (IDE-JETRO) of Tokyo.

The basic endeavour of this project is to rediscover ancient sea routes and creating new sea corridors which link African continent with India and countries of South Asia and South-East Asia. The prime focus of this project is on four areas as follows:

- Development and cooperation projects
- Quality infrastructure and institutional connectivity
- Capacity and skill enhancement
- People-to-people partnerships

Source: <https://www.livemint.com/Opinion/NHkV318RpGwL49EyicmZHN/Countering-China-in-the-IndoPacific.html>

**Q.2) 'Honduras' borders which of the following countries?**

1. Mexico
2. Nicaragua
3. Belize
4. El Salvador

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Select the correct code:

- a) 1, 2 and 3
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1, 3 and 4
- d) 2 and 4

### Q.2) Solution (d)

Honduras is bordered to the west by Guatemala, to the southwest by El Salvador, to the southeast by Nicaragua, to the south by the Pacific Ocean at the Gulf of Fonseca, and to the north by the Gulf of Honduras, a large inlet of the Caribbean Sea.



### Q.3) 'Operation Basalt' is

- a) A UN Peacekeeping Operation in South Sudan
- b) A military operation in Democratic Republic of Congo by France
- c) A military operation launched by the Syrian Army and its allies against the rebels in South Syria
- d) Defence co-operation agreement associated with Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO)

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### Q.3) Solution (c)

The 2018 Southern Syria offensive, code-named Operation Basalt is a military operation launched by the Syrian Army and its allies against the rebels in South Syria.

The fighting started with a surprise attack on rebel-held areas in the eastern part of the Daraa Governorate in an attempt to fracture rebel-held lines and weaken morale, ahead of their offensive in the greater southern Syria region.

### Q.4) Consider the following statements

1. Pir Panjal Range is situated principally in Arunachal Pradesh
2. Nathu La connects Sikkim with China's Tibet Autonomous Region
3. Dongkha La is a tri-junction of India-China and Afghanistan border

Select the correct code:

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) 2 Only

### Q.4) Solution (d)

Pir Panjal Range is a group of mountains in the Inner Himalayan region, running from east-southeast (ESE) to west-northwest (WNW) across the Indian states of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir.

Nathu La is a mountain pass in the Himalayas in East Sikkim district. It connects the Indian state of Sikkim with China's Tibet Autonomous Region. The pass forms a part of an offshoot of the ancient Silk Road.

Dongkha la or Donkia Pass is a high mountain pass in the Himalaya connecting Sikkim in India with Tibet.

### Q.5) 'Reciprocal Logistic Support' was in news recently associated with India and which of the following countries/organisations?

- a) United States of America
- b) France

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- c) Russia
- d) South Korea

**Q.5) Solution (b)**

It is a reciprocal logistics support deal between the respective armed forces of India and France to use of each other's military facilities.

The deal will facilitate the French and Indian armed forces to receive logistical support, supplies and services from each other.

