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Q.1) Which one of the following mountain ranges is spread over only one State in India?

1. Satpura
2. Aravalli
3. Sahyadri

Select the correct code:

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) None of the above

Q.1) Solution (d)

The Aravalli Range

- It is a range of mountains running approximately 692 km (430 mi) in a northwest direction, starting in North India from Delhi and passing through southern Haryana, through to Western India across the states of Rajasthan and ending in Gujarat.
- They are one of the oldest (very old) fold mountains of the world and the oldest in India.
- The range is conspicuous in Rajasthan (continuous range south of Ajmer where it rises to 900 m.) but becomes less distinct in Haryana and Delhi (characterized by a chain of detached and discontinuous ridges beyond Ajmer).

Satpura Range

- The range rises in eastern Gujarat state running east through the border of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh to the east till Chhattisgarh.
- It runs in an east-west direction south of the Vindhyas and in between the Narmada and the Tapi, roughly parallel to these rivers.
- Parts of the Satpuras have been folded and upheaved. They are regarded as structural uplift or 'horst'.

Sahyadri Range

- Also known as 'Western Ghats', is a mountain range that runs parallel to the western coast of the Indian peninsula.
- The range starts near the border of Gujarat and Maharashtra, south of the Tapi river, and runs approximately 1,600 km (990 mi) through the states of Maharashtra,

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Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu ending at Swamithoppe, near Kanyakumari, at the southern tip of India.

- The Western Ghats are steep-sided, terraced, flat-topped hills presenting a stepped topography facing the Arabian Sea coast.

Q.2) Consider the following statements about Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ)

1. The zone experiences low precipitation
2. The zone experiences high humidity

Select the correct statements

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.2) Solution (b)

Near the equator, from about 5° north and 5° south, the northeast trade winds and southeast trade winds converge in a low-pressure zone known as the Intertropical Convergence Zone or ITCZ. Solar heating in the region forces air to rise through convection which results in a plethora of precipitation.

Weather stations in the equatorial region record precipitation up to 200 days each year, making the equatorial and ITC zones the wettest on the planet.

The equatorial region lacks a dry season and is constantly hot and humid.

The Intertropical Convergence Zone has been called the doldrums by sailors due to the lack of horizontal air movement (the air simply rises with convection). The ITCZ is also known as the Equatorial Convergence Zone or Intertropical Front.

The location of the ITCZ varies throughout the year and while it remains near the equator, the ITCZ over land ventures farther north or south than the ITCZ over the oceans due to the variation in land temperatures. The location of the ITCZ can vary as much as 40° to 45° of latitude north or south of the equator based on the pattern of land and ocean.

There's a diurnal cycle to the precipitation in the ITCZ. Clouds form in the late morning and early afternoon hours and then by 3 to 4 p.m., the hottest time of the day, convective thunderstorms form and precipitation begins.

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Q.3) The term 'Iffy Quotient' was in news recently. What is it related to?

- a) Real Estate
- b) Equalisation Levy
- c) Fake News
- d) Open Market Operations

Q.3) Solution (c)

Scientists have developed a web-based tool to help monitor the prevalence of fake news on social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter.

Developed by researchers at the University of Michigan in the US, the tool uses a Platform Health Metric called the Iffy Quotient, which draws data from two external entities: NewsWhip and Media Bias/Fact Checker.

NewsWhip, a social media engagement tracking firm, collects URLs on hundreds of thousands of sites every day and then gathers information on which of those sites have engagements on Facebook and Twitter.

Iffy Quotient queries NewsWhip for the top 5,000 most popular URLs on the two social media platforms.

Then the tool checks to see if those domain names have been flagged by Media Bias/Fact Check, an independent site that classifies various sources based on their reliability and bias.

The tool divides the URLs into three categories based on the Media Bias/Fact Checklists: "Iffy," if the site is on the Questionable Sources or Conspiracy lists; "OK," if the site is on any other list, such as Left-Bias, Right-Bias or Satire; "Unknown," if not on any list.

Q.4) Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) is associated with which of the following organisations?

- a) BRICS
- b) G4
- c) European Union
- d) SCO

Q.4) Solution (d)

Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure (RATS)

- RATS is headquartered in Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- It is a permanent organ of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)
- It serves to promote cooperation of member states against the three evils of terrorism, separatism and extremism.
- The Head of RATS is elected to a three-year term. Each member state also sends a permanent representative to RATS.

Q.5) A place called 'Umru' was in news recently. Where is it located?

- a) Ladakh
- b) Odisha
- c) Pondicherry
- d) None of the above

Q.5) Solution (d)

Umru village is on the Assam-Meghalaya border.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/siberian-visitors-freeze-assam-meghalaya-border-dispute/article25354038.ece>

