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Q.1) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Stromatolites'

1. Stromatolites are created by 'blue-green algae'.
2. They are only found in Antarctica

Select the correct code:

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

Q.1) Solution (a)

They are layered mounds, columns, and sheet-like sedimentary rocks that were originally formed by the growth of layer upon layer of cyanobacteria, a single-celled photosynthesizing microbe. Cyanobacteria, which are prokaryotes, are also called "blue-green algae". Fossilized stromatolites provide records of ancient life on Earth. Lichen stromatolites are a proposed mechanism of formation of some kinds of layered rock structure that are formed above water, where rock meets air, by repeated colonization of the rock by endolithic lichens.

Modern stromatolites are mostly found in hypersaline lakes and marine lagoons where extreme conditions due to high saline levels prevent animal grazing. One such location is Hamelin Pool Marine Nature Reserve, Shark Bay in Western Australia where excellent specimens are observed today, Pampa del Tamarugal National Reserve in Chile and another is Lagoa Salgada ("Salty Lake"), in the state of Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil, where modern stromatolites can be observed as bioherm (domal type) and beds. Inland stromatolites can also be found in saline waters in Cuatro Ciénegas, a unique ecosystem in the Mexican desert, and in Lake Alchichica, a maar lake in Mexico's Oriental Basin. The only open marine environment where modern stromatolites are known to prosper is the Exuma Cays in the Bahamas.

In 2010, a fifth type of Chlorophyll, namely Chlorophyll f was discovered by Dr. Min Chen from stromatolites in Shark Bay.

Q.2) 'Formosa Strait' is located in

- a) Mediterranean Sea
- b) West Asia
- c) Scandinavia

- d) South China Sea

Q.2) Solution (d)

The Taiwan Strait, or Formosa Strait, is a 180-kilometre (110 mi)-wide strait separating the island of Taiwan from mainland China. The strait is part of the South China Sea and connects to the East China Sea to the north.

Q.3) 'Bagamoyo Port' which is being funded by China, is located in

- a) Ethiopia
b) Djibouti
c) Senegal
d) Tanzania

Q.3) Solution (d)

The Bagamoyo Port is being constructed in Bagamoyo, Tanzania. Work started in 2018. It is planned to be one of the largest government infrastructure projects in the country.

It will be built in association with the state-owned China Merchants Port, it will include a special economic zone. The US\$ 10bn project is backed by an Omani sovereign wealth fund.

The project is to cost \$US 11 billion and is mostly funded by a Chinese government owned construction firm. The project is a tri-government venture between Tanzania, China and Oman. The port is to handle twice the amount of cargo than Dar es Salaam Port and will help reduce the congestion at the port. The project also involves in the construction of a Special economic zone adjacent to the port.

Q.4) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Bhaona'

1. It is primarily associated with Maharashtra
2. It is always with religious messages

Select the correct statements

- a) 1 Only
b) 2 Only
c) Both 1 and 2

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d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.4) Solution (d)

Bhaona is a traditional form of entertainment, always with religious messages, prevalent in Assam, India. It is a creation of Mahapurusha Srimanta Sankardeva, written in the early sixteenth century. He created the form to convey religious messages to villagers through entertainment. Later Srimanta Madhavdeva also wrote some plays.

The plays of bhaona are popularly known as Ankiya Nats and their staging is known as bhaona. Bhaona is generally staged at xatras and namghars in Assam. There are some special characteristics of Bhaona like the plays, dialogues, costumes, ornaments, entry and foot-steps of the characters. These characteristics help to differentiate Bhaona from other plays.

The bhaonas are written in the Assamese and Brajvali languages.

Q.5) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Shark Bay'

1. It is a World Heritage Site
2. It is located in Yucatán Peninsula
3. It is known for large population of dugongs

Select the correct code:

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

Q.5) Solution (c)

Shark Bay is a World Heritage Site in the Gascoyne region of Western Australia. It is located approximately 800 kilometres (500 mi) north of Perth, on the westernmost point of the Australian continent. UNESCO's official listing of Shark Bay as a World Heritage Site reads:

Shark Bay's waters, islands and peninsulas...have a number of exceptional natural features, including one of the largest and most diverse seagrass beds in the world. However it is for its stromatolites (colonies of microbial mats that form hard, dome-shaped deposits which are said to be the oldest life forms on earth), that the property is most renowned. The

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property is also famous for its rich marine life including a large population of dugongs, and provides a refuge for a number of other globally threatened species

