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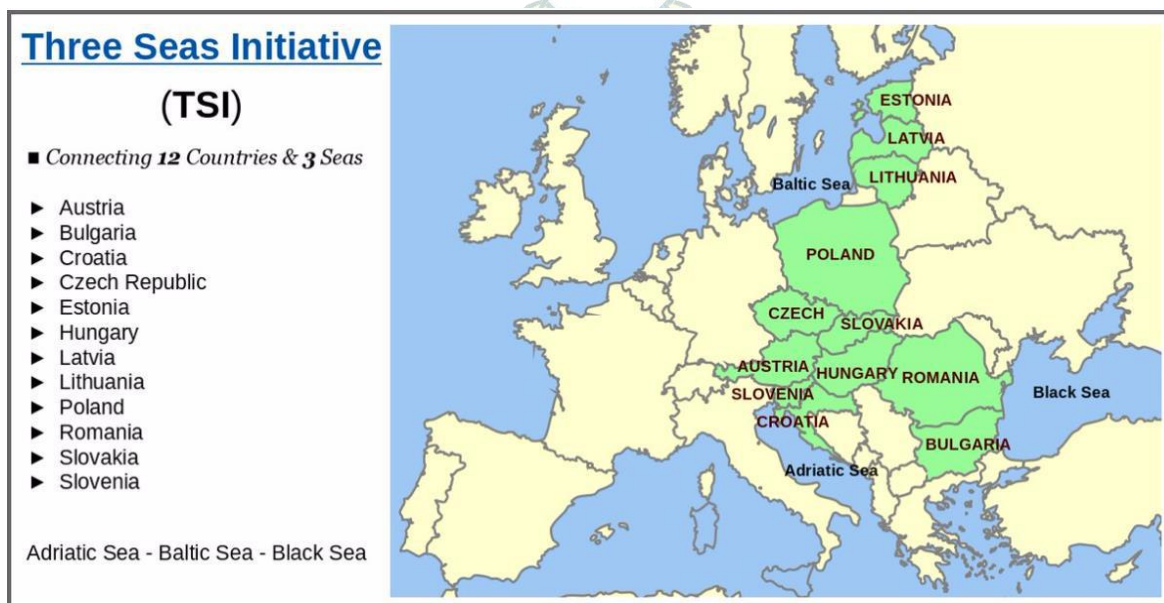
Q.1) Solution (c)



Q.2) Solution (d)

The Three Seas Initiative is a flexible political platform, at Presidential level, launched in 2015. The Initiative includes the 12 EU Member States located between the Adriatic, the Baltic and the Black Seas: Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

The third Summit was hosted by Romania, in Bucharest, on 17-18 September 2018.



Q.3) Solution (a)

In news: The Teen Murti Chowk in central Delhi was formally renamed as Teen Murti-Haifa,

It's the third-largest city in Israel – after Jerusalem and Tel Aviv – with a population of 283,640 in 2018. The city of Haifa forms part of the Haifa metropolitan area, the second- or third-most populous metropolitan area in Israel

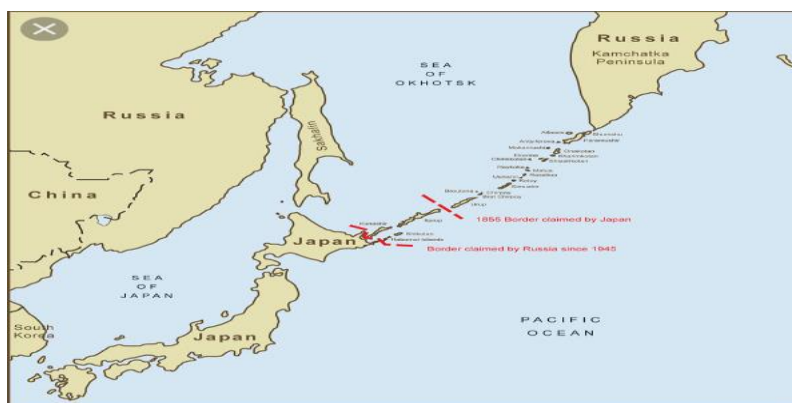
The city is a major seaport located on Israel's **Mediterranean coastline** in the Bay of Haifa



Q.4) Solution (b)

In news: Ebeko volcano (Kuril Islands, Russia): the activity of the volcano continues at moderately levels.

The Kuril Islands are located in the cold waters of the North-western Pacific Ocean between the Kamchatka Peninsula and Hokkaido. The chain consists of 22 main islands, most of which are volcanically active, and around 30 smaller islets. There are at least 160 volcanoes amongst the islands, 40 of which can be described as currently active. The islands which form part of the 'Pacific Ring of Fire' provide the perfect backdrop for our Russian Far East cruises.



Q.5) Solution (a)

In News: Military relations between Russia and Turkey

The Kerch Peninsula is a major and prominent geographic peninsula located at the eastern end of the Crimean Peninsula.

Stretching towards the Taman peninsula, it is reminiscent of land isthmus between its two neighboring seas, the Sea of Azov and the Black Sea.

Krech strait is a strait connecting the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov, separating the Kerch Peninsula of Crimea in the west from the Taman Peninsula of Russia's Krasnodar Krai in the east.



Q.6) Solution (a)

In News: Dispute between Kenya and Uganda over Islands.

Migingo Island on Lake Victoria in Africa is a fishing hub teeming with Nile perch, a profitable export to the European Union.

Ownership of the island has overlapped, as well, causing a dispute between Kenya and Uganda over who owns the valuable fishing waters.

Q.7) Solution (d)

In News: Qatar left OPEC.

Qatar is a peninsula in the east of Arabia, bordering the Persian Gulf and Saudi Arabia, in a strategic location near major petroleum deposits. Qatar occupies 11,437 km² (4,416 sq mi) on a peninsula that extends approximately to 160 km (99 mi) north into the Persian Gulf from the Arabian Peninsula.



Q.8) Solution (b)

In News: Argentina hosted G-20 summit.

Drake Passage, deep waterway, 600 miles (1,000 km) wide, connecting the Atlantic and Pacific oceans between Cape Horn (the southernmost point of South America) and the South Shetland Islands, situated about 100 miles (160 km) north of the Antarctic Peninsula. The Drake Passage defines the zone of climatic transition separating the cool, humid, subpolar conditions of Tierra del Fuego and the frigid, polar regions of Antarctica.



Q.9) Solution (c)

In News: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has openly questioned the sovereignty of certain unnamed Greek islands in the Aegean Sea

The Aegean Sea is an elongated embayment of the Mediterranean Sea located between the Greek and Anatolian peninsulas. The sea has an area of some 215,000 square kilometres. In the north, the Aegean is connected to the Marmara Sea and the Black Sea by the straits of the Dardanelles and Bosphorus. The Aegean Islands are located within the sea and some

bound it on its southern periphery, including Crete and Rhodes.



Q.10) Solution (c)

The Kra Canal is a proposed project that aims to directly connect the Gulf of Thailand to the Andaman Sea through the Isthmus of Kra in Thailand, providing an alternative route for shipping that is now concentrated on the Straits of Malacca. If built, the canal would cut travel time from South Asia to East Asia by at least 3 days and 1200 kilometres.



Q.11) Solution (b)

In News: Syrian Army recaptured historic city of Palmyra from Islamic State

Palmyra is an ancient Semitic city in present-day Homs Governorate, Syria. Archaeological finds date back to the Neolithic period, and documents first mention the city in the early second millennium BC. Palmyra changed hands on a number of occasions between different empires before becoming a subject of the Roman Empire in the first century AD.



Q.12) Solution (d)

Lake Ohrid is an ancient lake, formed by tectonic forces 2 to 3 million years ago, in the Tertiary period. Because the lake is so old and is isolated by surrounding hills and mountains, a unique collection of plants and animals have evolved. These include a number of relict species, or "living fossils", and many endemic species, found only in the lake. For example, 10 of 17 identified fish species of the lake are endemic, as are many of the lake's snails, worms, and sponges. The lakeshore reed beds and wetlands provide critical habitat for hundreds of thousands of wintering water birds, including rare and threatened species such as the Dalmatian pelican, ferruginous duck, spotted eagle, and imperial eagle.

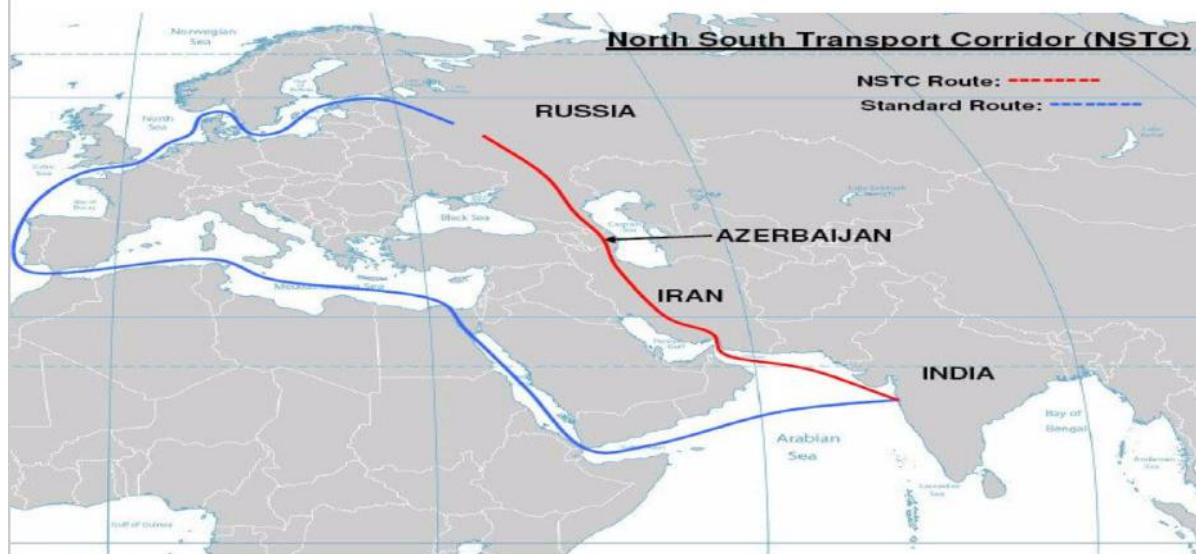
Q.13) Solution (c)

The International North–South Transport Corridor (INSTC) is a multi-modal connectivity project establish transport networks (ship, rail, and road route) for moving freight between India, Russia, Iran, Europe and Central Asia.

INSTC would enhance accessibility to the land locked central Asian nations.

The route primarily involves moving freight from India, Iran, Azerbaijan and Russia via ship, rail and road

What is INSTC?

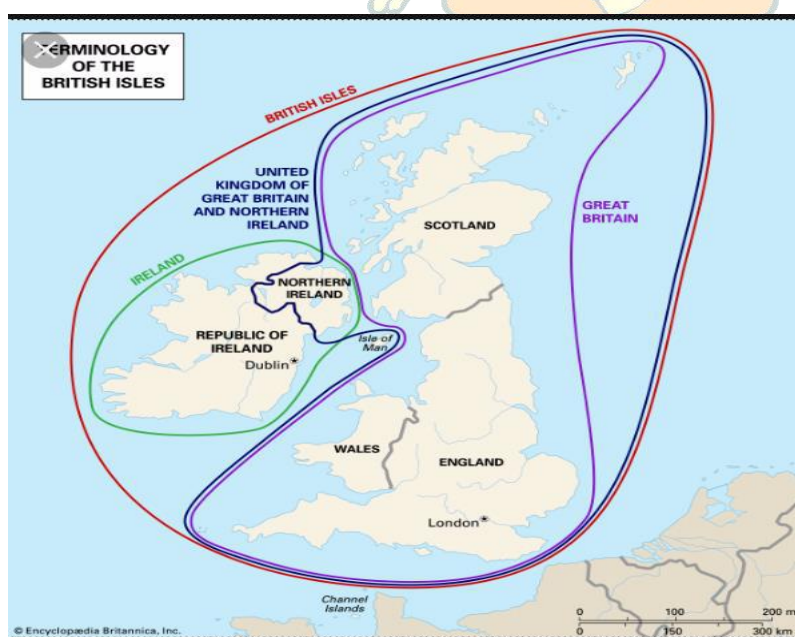


Q.14) Solution (c)

In News: Brexit

Great Britain, is a geographic term referring to the island also known simply as Britain. It's also a political term for the part of the United Kingdom made up of England, Scotland, and Wales (including the outlying islands that they administer, such as the Isle of Wight).

United Kingdom, on the other hand, is purely a political term: it's the independent country that encompasses all of Great Britain and the region now called Northern Ireland.



Q.15) Solution (b)

In News: Chinese presence and piracy

Bab-El-Mandeb is at the tip of the South-East end of the Red Sea, towards the Indian Ocean. Seen from here, Asia and Africa seem fairly close to another: About fifteen knots. The passage is 40 miles long, and is sprinkled with small islands such as the Islands of the Seven Brothers, or Perim Island which splits the strait in two, thus creating a navigation lane for oceanic ships on one side, and a coastal navigation lane on the other. These little islands are actively used by fishermen, as stopovers or shelters as they cross the strait

Q.16) Solution (a)

In News: The Horn of Africa has been at the centre of global attention for several decades because of protracted armed conflict, severe food crises and large scale displacement. Horn of Africa, region of eastern Africa. It is the easternmost extension of African land is defined as the region that is home to the countries of Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Somalia.

It extends hundreds of kilometers into the Arabian Sea and lies along the southern side of the Gulf of Aden.



Q.17) Solution (a)

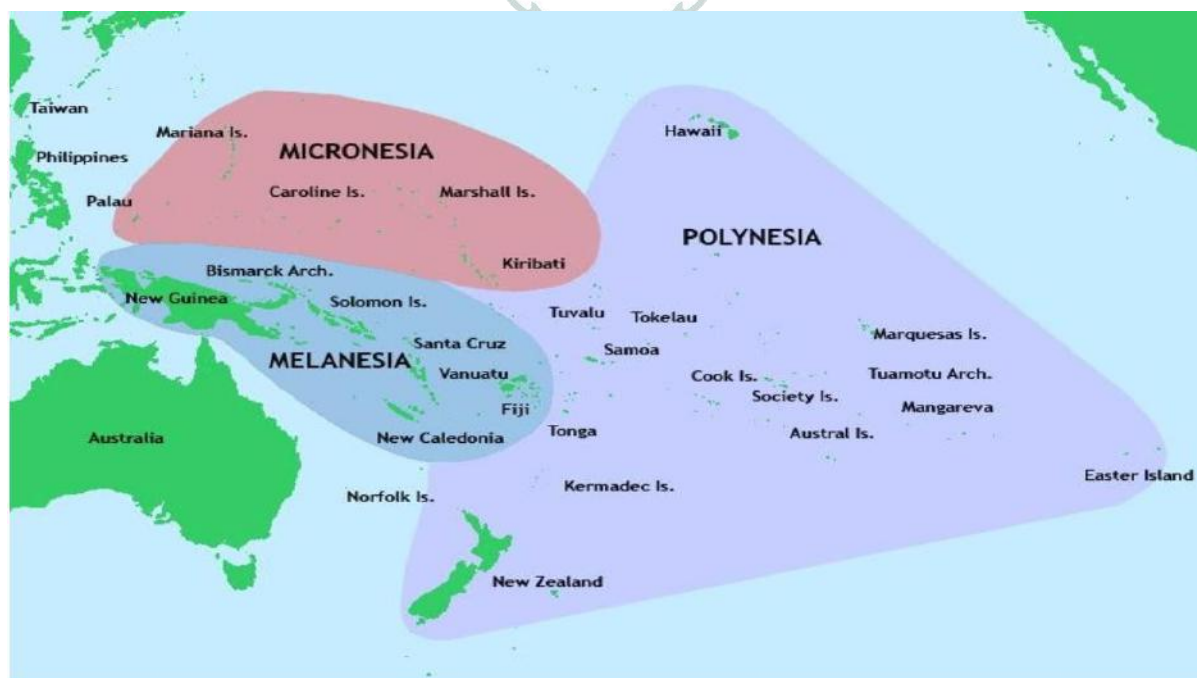
In News: India and Mauritius signed MoU to develop the Island

Agaléga consists of two sparsely populated islands about 600 miles north of Mauritius, a beach holiday destination that also boasts a huge exclusive economic zone of 2.3m sq km, roughly the size of India's.



Q.18) Solution (a)

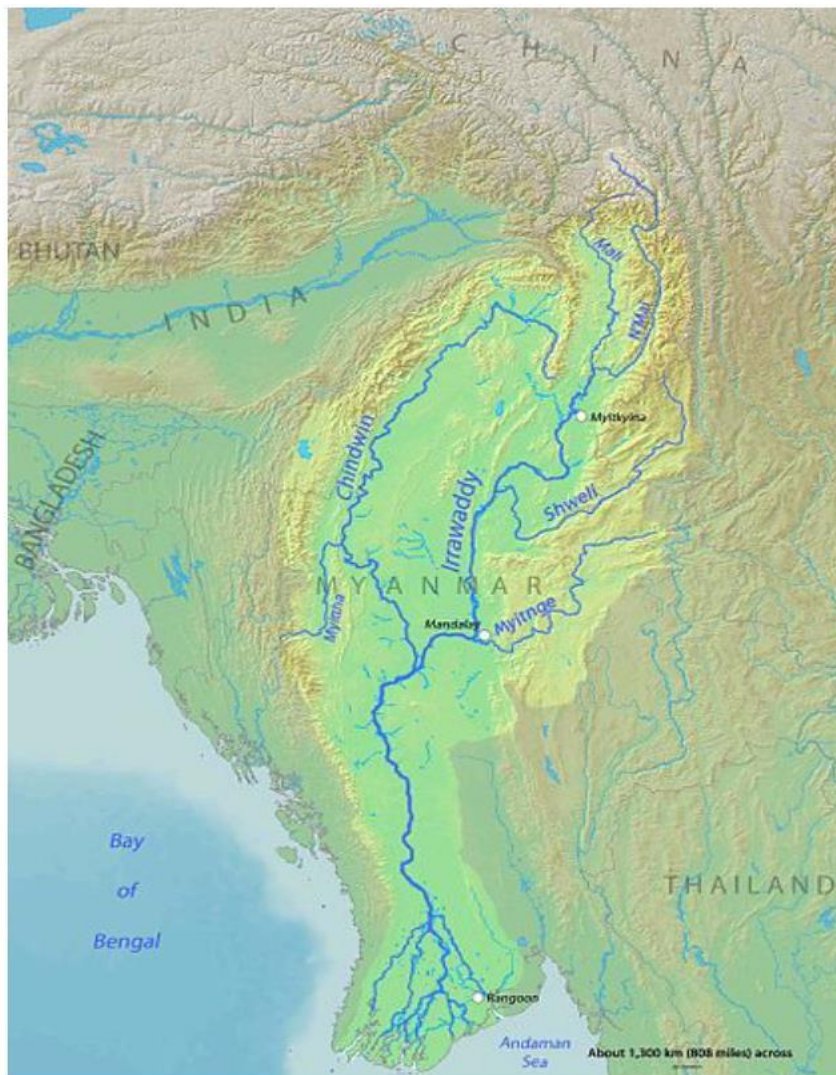
Statement-1: correct	Statement-2: incorrect
More than 200 volcanic and coral islands, many of them surrounded by a single barrier reef, make up the northern Pacific nation of Palau.	Palau, an archipelago of over 500 islands, part of the Micronesia region in the western Pacific Ocean.



Q.19) Solution (b)

The Irrawaddy is formed by the confluence of the Nmai and Mali rivers. Both branches rise in the glaciers of the high and remote mountains in northern Myanmar in the vicinity of 28° N. The eastern branch, the Nmai, rises in the Languela glacier on the border with Tibet (China) and has the greater volume of water but is virtually unnavigable because of its strong current. The Mali, the western branch, has a gentler gradient and, although interrupted by rapids, has some navigable sections.

The river makes an abrupt westward turn before curving southwest to unite with the Chindwin River, after which it continues in a southwesterly direction



Q.20) Solution (c)

The Sunda Strait (Indonesian: Selat Sunda) is the strait between the Indonesian islands of

Java and Sumatra. It connects the Java Sea to the Indian Ocean.



Q.21) Solution (a)

Significance of Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka, sits at the epicentre of the arc connecting the Persian Gulf to the Strait of Malacca. An island nation with an economy that's mainly reliant on tourism and tea exports, Sri Lanka's blessed geography puts it at a crucial juncture of the busy shipping lanes of the Indian Ocean.

While India has enjoyed the status of being Sri Lanka's main economic partner for most part of its independent history and shares strong cultural and historical bonds, China is fast catching up and even overtook New Delhi as Colombo's largest trading partner in 2017.

The most famous symbol of the burgeoning Sri Lanka-China cooperation is the port of Hambantota at the island's south, viewed as an important cog in the wheel of Beijing's One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative, or a part of "String of Pearls" that Beijing seeks to create around its neighbour India in fight for regional, and ultimately, global dominance.

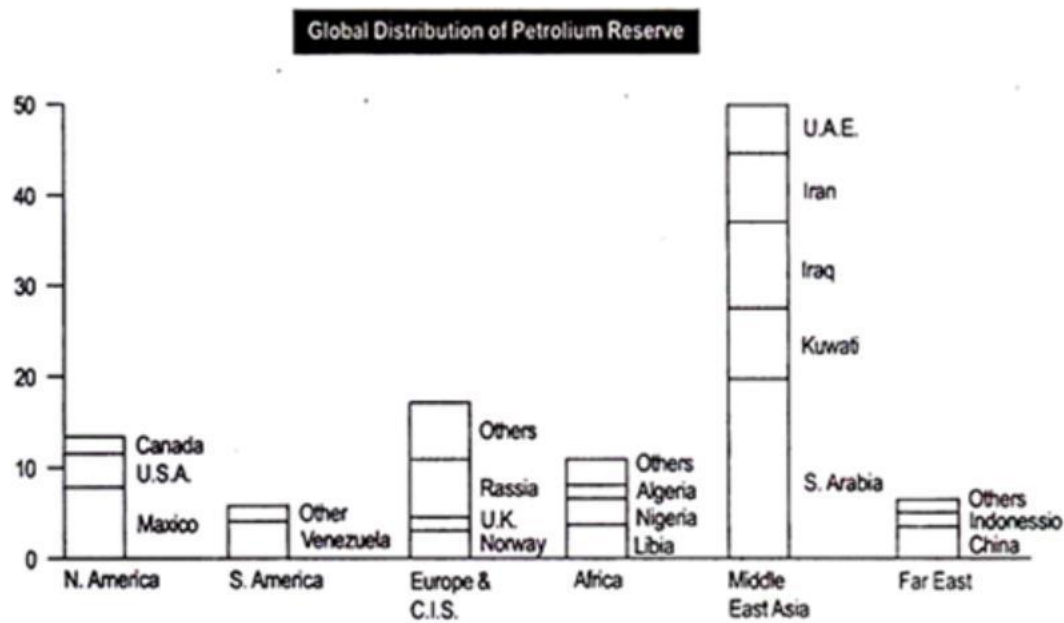


Q.22) Solution (d)

Global distribution of crude oil is, naturally, uneven. Some regions like Middle East (Asia) contains 60% of global reserves while countries of S.E. Asia and Latin America are practically devoid of crude oil.

Petroleum is found in vast underground reservoirs where ancient seas were located. Petroleum reservoirs can be found beneath land or the ocean floor.

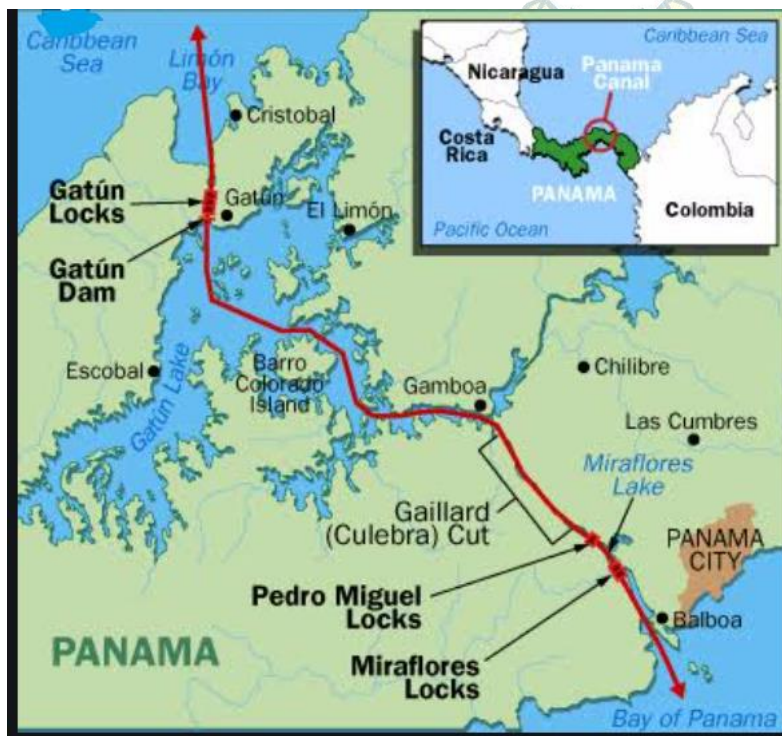
The Middle East contains approximately 60 percent of the world's proven reserves but accounts for only about 30 percent of global oil production (though this figure is still higher than in any other region). The United States, by contrast, lays claim to less than 2 percent of the world's proven reserves but produces roughly 16 percent of the world's oil.



Q.23) Solution (c)

In News: The Panama Canal's watershed experienced its fifth driest year of the last seven decades in 2019

Panama is a country located in Central America, bordering both the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean, between **Colombia and Costa Rica**. Panama is located on the narrow and low Isthmus of Panama.



Q.24) Solution (c)

The Mediterranean lands are also known as the world's orchard lands. A wide range of citrus fruits such as oranges, lemons, limes, citrons and grapefruit are grown. The fruit trees have long roots to draw water from considerable depths during the long summer drought. Viticulture is by tradition a Mediterranean occupation and the regions bordering the Mediterranean Sea account for three-quarters of the world's production of wine.



Q.25) Solution (d)

IN TERMS OF LENGTH and volume, the Ruhr River is not one of GERMANY's major rivers. But considered as a center of economic activity, the Ruhr is among the most prominent rivers in Europe. Starting in the early 19th century, the coal that was mined in this region was processed in factories all along the river's course, creating one of the world's largest industrial centers, notably for steel production, until coal ceased to be a dominant energy source in the second half of the 20th century.

The Ruhr has been a model for eradicating air and water pollution and is today the site of numerous artificial lakes, parks, and bike trails, integrated within the highly populated residential areas.

Q.26) Solution (a)

Statement-1: correct	Statement-2: incorrect
All of the Asian Mainland lies north of the	Asia makes up the eastern portion of the

equator

Eurasian supercontinent; Europe occupies the western portion



Q.27) Solution (d)

The extensive lowlands are located in the north of Asia, bordering the Arctic Ocean in the Northern Lowlands. The northern part of these lowlands is called the Siberia plain. It is marshy and swampy. Three rivers drain the Siberian Plains. These are Yenisei, Ob and Lena. The Siberian Plains, extending from the Ural Mountains in the west to the Bearing Sea in the east, is the greatest continuous plains in the world.



Q.28) Solution (d)

In News: Xingjiang province of china

THE TARIM BASIN designates a major river and great basin located in the Uighur Autonomous Region of Sinkiang of extreme northwestern CHINA, north of the TIBETAN PLATEAU. Tarim also connotes the bank of a river that flows into a lake or that becomes indistinguishable from desert sands. The basin occupies nearly one half of Sinkiang and is encircled by the TIAN SHAN (Celestial Mountains) to the north, the Pamir Mountains on the west, and the Kunlun Mountains in the south.

The Tarim River flows along the north rim of the Takla Makan desert but constantly shifts its bed and is formed by the confluence of the K'a-shih-ka-erh (Kashgar) and Yarkand rivers to the west, then flows northeast to be joined 230 mi (370 km) downstream by the A-k'o-su and the Ho-t'ien (Khotan) rivers.



Q.29) Solution (d)

Statement-1: correct	Statement-2: correct
<p>The Arabian Desert is a vast desert wilderness in Western Asia. It stretches from Yemen to the Persian Gulf and Oman to Jordan and Iraq. It occupies most of the Arabian Peninsula</p> <p>The Thar Desert, also known as the Great Indian Desert, is a large arid region in the northwestern part of the Indian subcontinent</p>	<p>The Gobi Desert is a large desert or brushland region in Asia. It covers parts of Northern and Northeastern China and of Southern Mongolia. The Gobi is overall a cold desert, with frost and occasionally snow occurring on its dunes</p>

Geographical distribution of the deserts of Asia



Q.30) Solution (b)

The Great Lakes also called the Laurentian Great Lakes and the Great Lakes of North America, are a series of interconnected freshwater lakes primarily in the upper mid-east region of North America, on the Canada–United States border, which connect to the Atlantic Ocean through the Saint Lawrence River. They consist of Lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario. Hydrologically, there are only four lakes, because Lakes Michigan and Huron join at the Straits of Mackinac. The lakes form the Great Lakes Waterway.



Q.31) Solution (d)

Statement-1: correct	Statement-2 and 3: correct
Comprising over half the area of present-day Canada, the eight million	The Southern Province, for example, is home to the mining district of Sudbury,

square kilometres of pre-Cambrian “shield” is the exposed portion of the ancient geological core of North America.

Ontario, known for its production of copper and nickel. North of this region, the Superior Province is one of Canada’s most important sources of metals, including deposits of copper, gold, iron and silver. The Bear province includes deposits of copper and uranium, while the Slave province is being explored and mined for diamonds. The Churchill and Grenville provinces contain deposits of uranium, lead and zinc. Finally, the Nain province is the smallest of the seven regions, and is not a major mineral producer.

Q.32) Solution (a)

Found in the middle of large land masses or continents. The two major areas are the prairies in North America and the steppe which straddles Europe and Asia. The majority of this biome is found between 40° and 60° north or south of the Equator.

Temperate grasslands are known as the **Prairies** in North America, **Pampas** in Argentina and in Europe and Asia this kind of ecosystem is called **Steppe**. In New Zealand this zone includes the **Canterbury Plains**, and in South Africa it’s part of the **Veld**

Q.33) Solution (d)

Scientific methods of cultivation and use of tractors, harvesters, and combines have made North America a surplus producer of food grains. The Prairies are also called the ‘Granaries of the world’ due to surplus wheat production.

Yield in extensive farming is very low.

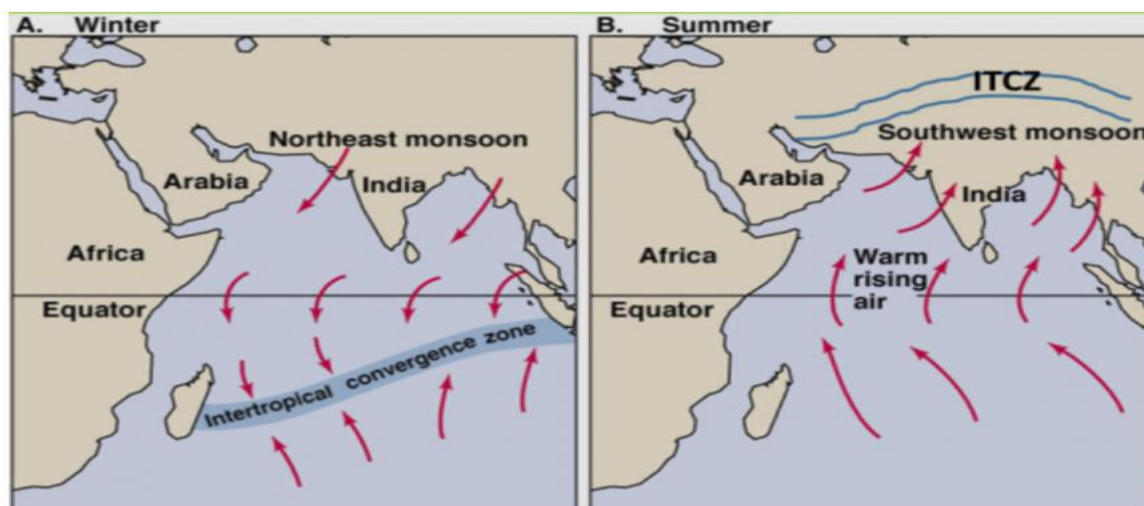
Q.34) Solution (d)

Statement-1 and 2: correct	Statement-3: correct
This type of climate is experienced along the eastern coasts of tropical lands,	Trees are normally Deciduous, because of the marked dry period, during which they

receiving steady rainfall from trade winds all the time

Rice is most important staple crop and is grown in tropical lowlands wherever the rain exceeds 70 inches

shed their leaves to withstand drought.



Q.35) Solution (d)

Statement-1 and 3: correct

Dairy farming is both highly capital intensive as well as labour intensive. It involves capital investments in farm machinery, buildings, milk processing equipment etc. Labour is required to take proper care of animals
Because of short shelf life it is mostly located near city centres

Statement-3: correct

Almost all the European countries have important dairying industry. But the leading producers are France, Germany, Denmark, Netherlands, UK, Switzerland, etc.

Q.36) Solution (b)

Statement-1 and 3: correct

- Tropical savanna climates are relatively hot since they lie within the tropical

Statement-2: incorrect

The natural vegetation of savanna regions mainly consists of tall grass and short

<p>latitudes. Throughout the year, mean monthly temperatures soar above 64 °F (18 °C). The dry season in savanna grasslands is cooler than the wet season by a few degrees. During the wet season, temperatures are between 78 to 86 °F (25 - 30 °C).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The best known people of this habitat are the Masai. The Masai are a number of groups who share the same language and cultural and social similarities and who live scattered between Kenya and Tanzania. They mainly live on sheep-breeding, but also on farming and trade 	<p>deciduous trees. Trees such as acacias shed their leaves during the dry period of the year to avoid excessive loss of water to the environment through transpiration</p>
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Q.37) Solution (c)

In News: Yield of coffee declined considerably this year in India due to heavy rainfall

There are three varieties of coffee i.e. arabica, robusta and liberica. India mostly grows superior quality coffee, arabica, which is in great demand in International market.

Q.38) Solution (d)

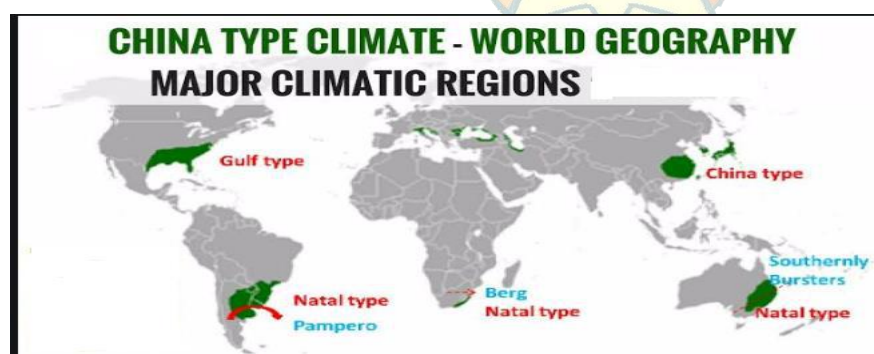
Statement-1 and 2: correct	Statement-3: correct
<p>Laurentian type of climate is found only in two regions- One in North eastern North America wherein warm Gulf Stream meets with cold Labrador currents and second in Eastern coast of Asia where warm Kuroshio meets with cold Oyashio currents. The fusion of currents is most favorable condition for fishes to grow.</p>	<p>Fish feeds like planktons grow in shallow waters adjacent to land mass</p>

Q.39) Solution (c)

Wheat is a crop of temperate zone, other like sugarcane, rice, maize are crops are well grown in tropical climate as they need more water and abundant sunlight.

Q.40) Solution (b)

Statement-1: incorrect	Statement-2, 3 and 4: correct
This type of climate is found on the eastern margin of continent in warm temperate latitudes, just outside the tropics & comparatively has more rainfall than the Mediterranean climate in the same latitudes, coming mainly in summers	Warm temperate eastern margin climate is typified by a warm, moist summer & a cool, dry winter strongly modified by maritime influence. The lowlands carry both evergreen broad leave forests & deciduous trees, quite similar to those of the tropical monsoon forests



Q.41) Solution (d)

In News: for Base erosion and profit shifting (black money)

The Cayman Islands, located in the western Caribbean Sea, are the peaks of a massive underwater ridge, known as the Cayman Ridge. Those peaks just barely break the surface.

The terrain itself is mostly a low-lying limestone base surrounded by coral reefs.

The two "Sister Islands" of Cayman Brac and Little Cayman are located about 85 miles (135 km) northeast of Grand Cayman.

The Cayman Islands (collectively) have a coastline of 99 miles (159 km). The highest point is The Bluff, a limestone hill on Cayman Brac standing at 155 feet (47 m) in height.



Q.42) Solution (c)

Statement-2: incorrect	Statement-1,3 and 4: correct
The climate is experienced in southern Chile, Southern Australia, Tasmania and most parts of New Zealand	<p>The cool temperate western margins are under the influence of the Westerlies all-round the year.</p> <p>The mean annual temperatures are usually between 5° C and 15° C.</p> <p>Winters are abnormally mild. This is because of the warming effect brought by warm North Atlantic Drift.</p> <p>The natural vegetation of this climatic type is deciduous forest.</p>

Q.43) Solution (d)

Statement-1: incorrect	Statement-2: incorrect
The Zagros Mountains are a long mountain range in Iran, Iraq and south eastern Turkey.	The mountains are completely of sedimentary origin and are made primarily of limestone. In the Elevated Zagros or the Higher Zagros, the Paleozoic rocks could be

found mainly in the upper and higher sections of the peaks of the Zagros Mountains, along the Zagros main fault

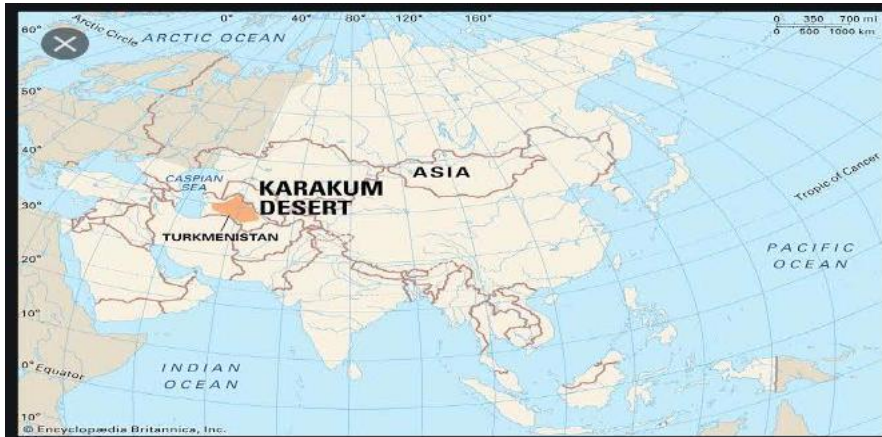


Q.44) Solution (b)

Duqm is a port town on the Arabian Sea in Al Wusta Governorate in central-eastern Oman. Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean. It is strategically located, in close proximity to the Chabahar port in Iran. With the Assumption Island being developed in Seychelles and Agalega in Mauritius, Duqm fits into India's proactive maritime security roadmap.

Q.45) Solution (b)

The Karakum Desert is a desert located in Central Asia. The word "Karakum" translates to "Black Sand" in Turkic languages, and the name refers to the dark soil found below the sandy surface of the desert. The desert covers about 70% or 135,000 square miles of Turkmenistan. The desert measures around 500 miles from east to west, and 300 from north to south. The desert is situated east of the Caspian Sea, while the Sarykamysh Basin and Aral Sea are located to the north. The northeast corner of the desert is bound by the Kyzyl Desert and the Amu Darya River, while the southeast is bordered by the Badkhyz steppe region and the Garabil uplands.



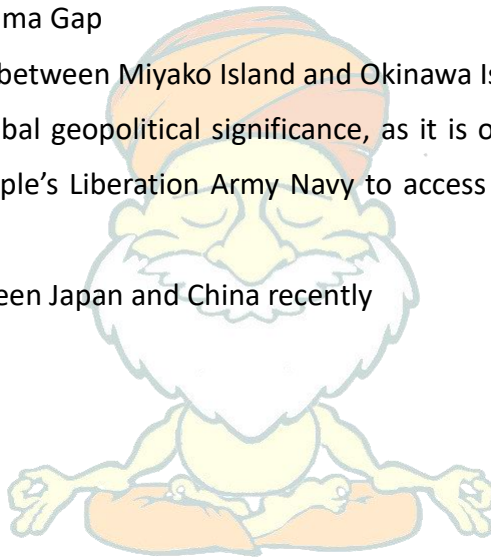
Q.46) Solution (a)

It is also known as the Kerama Gap

It is a waterway which lies between Miyako Island and Okinawa Island.

The Miyako Strait is of global geopolitical significance, as it is one of the few international waterways for China's People's Liberation Army Navy to access the Pacific Ocean from the East China Sea.

It is become an issue between Japan and China recently





Q.47) Solution (c)

Lake Balkhash is one of the largest lakes in Asia and 15th largest in the world. It is located in Central Asia in south eastern Kazakhstan and belongs to an endorheic (closed) basin shared by Kazakhstan and China, with a small portion in Kyrgyzstan. The basin drains into the lake via seven rivers, the primary of which is the Ili River, bringing the majority of the riparian inflow; others, such as the Karatal, provide both surface and subsurface flow. The Ili is fed by precipitation, largely vernal snowmelt, from the mountains of China's Xinjiang region. Like the Aral Sea, it is shrinking as a result of the diversion of water from rivers that feed it.

Q.48) Solution (c)

The Dead Sea is a large lake that borders Israel, Jordan, and the West Bank. It has the lowest land elevation on Earth, sitting 422 meters (1,385 feet) below sea level. The white "foam" that collects on the shores of the Dead Sea is actually salt.



Q.49) Solution (a)

Statement-1: incorrect	Statement-2: incorrect
In hot and dry climates deciduous trees lose their leaves during summer.	In cold climates trees lose their leaves during autumn so that they are bare throughout the winter

Q.50) Solution (d)

Desert Plant Adaptations:

Some plants, called succulents, store water in their stems or leaves;

Some plants have no leaves or small seasonal leaves that only grow after it rains. The lack of leaves helps reduce water loss during photosynthesis. Leafless plants conduct photosynthesis in their green stems.

Long root systems spread out wide or go deep into the ground to absorb water;

Some plants have a short life cycle, germinating in response to rain, growing, flowering, and dying within one year.

These plants can evade drought.

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