

**PRELIMS
SAMP^{ORNA}
FACT FILE**

Geography

MAP BASED QUESTIONS



PRELIMS SAMPOORNA

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QUESTIONS

Time Allowed: 2 hours

Maximum Marks: 100

1. Consider the following statements regarding Bahrain:

1. It is the smallest nation in Asia.
2. It is not a member of Gulf Cooperation Council.
3. It is the 4th Arab nation to normalize relations with Israel.

Which of the above statements is/are **incorrect**?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1 and 3 only

2. North Sea, a part of the Atlantic Ocean is bordered by which of the following countries?

1. Sweden
2. Netherlands
3. Iceland
4. Scotland
5. Germany

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (b) 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
- (c) 2, 4 and 5 only
- (d) 1, 3 and 5 only

3. The Whitsun Reef, in news recently, comes under the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) of which of the following countries?

- (a) Philippines
- (b) China
- (c) Vietnam
- (d) Malaysia

4. Which of the following countries does *not* share a geographical boundary with Vietnam?

- (a) China
- (b) Laos
- (c) Cambodia
- (d) Thailand

5. Xinjiang is an autonomous region of the People's Republic of China (PRC), located in the northwest of the country close to Central Asia. It borders which of the following countries?

1. India
2. Turkmenistan
3. Kazakhstan
4. Russia
5. Uzbekistan

Select the correct option from the codes given below:

- (a) 1 and 4 only
- (b) 2, 3 and 5 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 5 only
- (d) 1, 3 and 4 only

6. Consider the following statements regarding the Crete Island, in news recently:

1. Crete Island is the biggest island in Greece as well as in the Mediterranean Sea.
2. It is one of the Europe's southern locations with Africa to the south and Asia to the east.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

7. **The Gulf of Alexandretta or Iskenderun is a part of:**

- (a) Ionian Sea
- (b) Aegean Sea
- (c) Levantine Sea
- (d) Adriatic sea

8. **Darfur, recently in news due to the continuous conflict that began in 2003, is a region in which of the following countries?**

- (a) Sudan
- (b) South Sudan
- (c) Ethiopia
- (d) Syria

9. **Which among the following countries share a land border with Belarus?**

- 1. Russia
- 2. Estonia
- 3. Poland
- 4. Lithuania

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

10. **Which of the following country is *not* part of a grouping called 'Pacific Pumas'?**

- (a) Peru
- (b) Mexico
- (c) Bolivia
- (d) Chile

11. **With which of the following countries the Tigray region in Ethiopia does *not* share a land boundary?**

- 1. Eritrea
- 2. Somalia
- 3. Djibouti
- 4. Sudan

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1 and 4 only

12. **Which of the following are the French Overseas Territories in the Indo-Pacific Region?**

- 1. Mayotte
- 2. Reunion
- 3. New Caledonia
- 4. French Guiana
- 5. Saint Pierre
- 6. French Polynesia

Select the correct option using the codes given below:

- (a) 1, 2, 3 and 6 only
- (b) 3, 4 and 6 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
- (d) 2, 4, and 5 only

13. **Arrange the following islands in Indian Ocean in north to south direction?**

- 1. Reunion
- 2. Comoros
- 3. Mauritius
- 4. Mayotte

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 2-4-3-1
- (b) 4-2-1-3
- (c) 3-1-2-4
- (d) 1-3-4-2

14. **Arrange the following ports from west to east:**

- 1. Bandar Abbas
- 2. Chabahar
- 3. Bandar-e-Jask
- 4. Gwadar

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1-3-2-4
- (b) 2-3-1-4
- (c) 3-1-2-4
- (d) 4-2-1-3

15. Which of the following countries does share a border with Jordan?

1. Israel
2. Saudi Arabia
3. Egypt
4. Syria
5. Iraq
6. Lebanon

Select the correct option using the codes given below:

- (a) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- (b) 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 5 only

16. Which of the following statement is/are correct regarding Makassar Strait?

1. It separates Borneo (Kalimantan) and Celebes Island.
2. It connects Celebes Sea with Java Sea.

Select the correct option from the codes given below:

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

17. Which of the following seas is/are not a part of Pacific Ocean?

1. Sulu Sea
2. Arafura Sea
3. Kara Sea
4. Laptev Sea

Select the correct option from the codes given below:

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 and 4 only
- (c) 1 and 2 only
- (d) 3 and 4 only

18. Arrange the following seas in north to south order:

1. East China Sea
2. Yellow Sea
3. Sea of Okhotsk
4. Philippines Sea

Select the correct option from the codes given below:

- (a) 2-4-3-1
- (b) 3-4-2-1
- (c) 3-2-1-4
- (d) 1-3-4-2

19. Arrange the following Gulfs in east to west order:

1. Gulf of Oman
2. Gulf of Aden
3. Gulf of Thailand
4. Persian Gulf

Select the correct option from the codes given below:

- (a) 1-3-2-4
- (b) 3-4-1-2
- (c) 3-1-4-2
- (d) 3-1-2-4

20. Consider the following statements:

1. Ladakh Plateau is situated between Karakoram and Himalaya mountain ranges.
2. Tibetan Plateau is situated between Kulun and Himalayan Mountain range.
3. Armenian Plateau is bordered by Caspian and the Black Sea.

Which of the above statement/s is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

21. Consider the following statements regarding Sinai Peninsula:

1. Sinai Peninsula located in the Asian part of Egypt between the Mediterranean Sea to the north, and the Red Sea to the south.
2. It shares maritime or territorial boundary with Israel, Jordan and Gaza Strip.

Which of the above statement/s is/are correct?

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

22. Consider the following islands:

1. Paracel Islands
2. Pratas Islands
3. Spratly Islands
4. Senkaku Islands

If one is travelling from South China Sea to East China Sea, arrange the following islands one will encounter in sequential order and select the correct option from the codes given below:

- (a) 3-1-2-4
- (b) 4-2-1-3
- (c) 4-1-3-2
- (d) 3-2-4-1

23. Aral Sea is enclosed between which of the following two countries?

- (a) Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan
- (b) Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan
- (c) Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan
- (d) Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan

24. Match the following correctly:***Straits******Separates***

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 1. Tatar Strait | A. Sakhalin Island and Hokkaido Island |
| 2. La Perouse Strait | B. Singapore and Malaysia |
| 3. Strait of Johor | C. Eastern Russia and Sakhalin |

Select the correct option from the codes given below:

- (a) 1-A, 2-B, 3-C
- (b) 1-B, 2-A, 3-C
- (c) 1-B, 2-C, 3-C
- (d) 1-C, 2-A, 3-B

25. Consider the following statements:

1. Dardanelles Strait links Sea of Marmara with Aegean Sea.
2. The Aegean is located between between the mainlands of Greece, Bulgaria and Turkey.

Which of the above statement/s is/are correct?

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

26. Katchall Island, seen in news recently, is located in:

- (a) Andaman Islands
- (b) Nicobar Islands
- (c) Lakshadweep
- (d) Maldives

27. Which of the following Indian states shares a land boundary with Myanmar?

1. Arunachal Pradesh
2. Nagaland
3. Manipur
4. Tripura
5. Mizoram

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 2, 3 and 5 only
- (c) 1 and 5 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only

28. Sigur Plateau is located in the state of:

- (a) Kerala
- (b) Karnataka
- (c) Tamil Nadu
- (d) Chhattisgarh

29. Arrange the following mountain passes from west to east direction?

1. Jelep La
2. Bum La
3. Naku La
4. Nathu La

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 3-4-1-2
- (b) 1-4-3-2
- (c) 2-3-4-1
- (d) 3-1-4-2

30. Match the following:***Island******State/UT***

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| A. Wheeler Island | 1. Lakshadweep |
|-------------------|----------------|

- B. Pamban Island 2. Odisha
C. Agatti Island 3. Andaman and Nicobar
D. Havelock Island 4. Tamil Nadu

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

	A	B	C	D
(a)	1	2	4	3
(b)	3	4	2	1
(c)	2	4	1	3
(d)	4	3	2	1

31. The Tsari Chu valley, in news recently, is situated in which of the following states/UTs?

- (a) Assam
(b) Sikkim
(c) Arunachal Pradesh
(d) Jammu and Kashmir

32. Consider the following statements:

- Shinkun La Tunnel is the world's longest high-altitude tunnel.
- It is constructed by Border Roads Organization (BRO).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

33. A Shitalakshya River is a tributary of which of the following river?

- (a) Brahmaputra River
(b) Shyok River
(c) Indravati River
(d) Gomti River

34. Arrange the following glaciers in the order north to south:

- Machoi
- Zemu
- Pindari
- Siachen

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 4-2-3-1
(b) 4-2-1-3
(c) 4-1-3-2
(d) None

35. Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

River Linking Project Benefited States

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Ken-Betwa | Madhya Pradesh only |
| 2. Koshi-Mechi | Bihar |
| 3. Par-Tapi-Narmada | Maharashtra only |

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

36. "Crimea" is situated between which of the following sea(s)?

- (a) Black sea and Sea of Azov
(b) Sea of Azov and Caspian Sea
(c) Black sea only
(d) Black sea and Mediterranean Sea

37. Which of the following countries fall in Golden Triangle?

- (a) Laos, Thailand and Myanmar
(b) Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran
(c) India, Bangladesh and Nepal
(d) Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgystan

38. Which of the following statements about Feni River is/are correct?

- It is a trans-boundary river which originates in Bangladesh and enters India before flowing into Bay of Bengal.
- Muhuri River is its right bank tributary.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

39. Which of the following island nations form the "Vanilla Islands" grouping?

1. Madagascar
2. Maldives
3. Mauritius
4. Chagos Archipelago
5. Kerguelen Islands
6. Mayotte

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- (b) 1, 3 and 6 only
- (c) 1, 4, 5 and 6 only
- (d) 2, 3 and 5 only

40. The Atal Tunnel has been inaugurated recently. Consider the following statements regarding Atal Tunnel:

1. The tunnel will reduce the distance between Manali and Ladhak and will be operational throughout the year.
2. The tunnel is built with ultra-modern specifications in the Pir Panjal range of Himalayas.

Which of the above statement/s is/are correct?

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

41. Consider the following pairs:

<i>National Highway</i>	<i>Cities connected</i>
1. NH 4	: Chennai and Hyderabad
2. NH 6	: Mumbai and Kolkata
3. NH 15	: Ahmedabad and Jodhpur

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

42. The Formosa Strait also known as Taiwan Strait connects which of the following seas?

- (a) East China Sea with South China Sea

- (b) Yellow Sea with Sea of Japan
- (c) Sea of Okhotsk with Sea of Japan
- (d) South China Sea with Pacific Ocean

43. The Pamir Knot is the junction of five mountain ranges. Which of the following is/are not one of them?

1. Kunlun Mountains
2. Zagros Mountains
3. Karakoram Mountains
4. Kirthar Mountains
5. Hindu Kush Mountains

Select the correct option from the codes given below:

- (a) 4 and 5 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 5 only
- (d) 2 and 4 only

44. Travelling from west to east, arrange the following capital cities in sequential order:

1. Riyadh
2. Ankara
3. Damascus
4. Tehran
5. Kuwait City

Select the correct option from the codes given below:

- (a) 3-1-4-2-5
- (b) 2-3-1-5-4
- (c) 4-2-3-1-5
- (d) 2-1-5-3-4

45. Lake Ontario is connected to the Atlantic Ocean by which river?

- (a) Niagara
- (b) St. Lawrence
- (c) Cuyahoga
- (d) St. Mary's

46. Consider the following pairs:

<i>Major rivers</i>	<i>Sea in which it drain</i>
1. Volga:	Caspian Sea.

2. Don: Sea of Azov.
 3. Tagus : North Sea.
 4. Rhine: North Sea.
 5. Danube : Black Sea.

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) 1,2,3 and 4 only
 (b) 1,3 and 4 only
 (c) 1,2, 4 and 5 only
 (d) 1,2,3,4 and 5

47. Which of the following countries are the part of Alps Mountain ranges.

1. Austria
 2. France
 3. Germany
 4. Monaco
 5. Spain

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 2, 3 and 4 only.
 (b) 1,2,3 and 4 only
 (c) 1,4 and 5 only.
 (d) 1,2,3,4 and 5 only

48. What is the correct sequence of occurrence of the following water bodies from south to north?

1. Port Said
 2. Lake Timsah
 3. Port Tewfik
 4. Great Bitter lake

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1-2-3-4
 (b) 4-2-1-3
 (c) 3-4-2-1
 (d) 4-3-2-1

49. Red Sea is bordered by which of the following African countries?

1. Egypt
 2. Sudan
 3. Yemen
 4. Ethiopia

5. Eritrea

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) 1,2,3 and 4 only
 (b) 1,4 and 5 only
 (c) 1,2 and 5 only
 (d) 1,2,3,4 and 5 only

50. Consider the following pairs:

Desert	Country
1. Kalahari Desert :	Botswana
2. Nubian Desert:	Sudan
3. Western Desert:	Ethiopia

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only.
 (b) 1 and 2 only
 (c) 2 and 3 only.
 (d) 3 only.

51. Arrange the following shrines in east to west direction?

1. Yamunotri
 2. Badrinath
 3. Gangotri
 4. Kedarnath

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1-3-2-4
 (b) 3-1-4-2
 (c) 2-4-3-1
 (d) 4-2-1-3

52. Taiwan Strait connects South China Sea with:

- (a) Philippine Sea
 (b) Celebes Sea
 (c) East China Sea
 (d) Sea of Japan

53. Luzon Strait connects South China Sea with:

- (a) Philippine Sea
 (b) Celebes Sea
 (c) East China Sea
 (d) Sea of Japan

54. Which of the following countries' land border surrounds Black Sea?

1. Turkey
2. Russia
3. Armenia
4. Georgia

Select the correct code from the available options:

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

55. Which of the following countries share land border with Afghanistan?

1. Uzbekistan
2. Turkmenistan
3. Tajikistan

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

56. Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam is situated on which of the following river?

- (a) Blue Nile
- (b) White Nile
- (c) Nile
- (d) None

57. The land border of Haiti is closest to which of the following countries?

- (a) Cuba
- (b) Puerto Rico
- (c) Colombia
- (d) Panama

58. Which of the following countries are not landlocked?

1. Mali
2. Nigeria
3. Guinea
4. Ghana

Select the correct code:

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

59. Which of the following countries is the only country in the Arab world that is entirely in the Southern Hemisphere?

- (a) Mozambique
- (b) Djibouti
- (c) Comoros
- (d) Mauritania

60. Arrange the following mountain passes in north-south direction?

1. Baralacha La
2. Chang La
3. Aghil
4. Banihal

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 3-2-1-4
- (b) 2-3-4-1
- (c) 2-4-1-3
- (d) 4-2-3-1

61. The Donetsk and Luhansk regions, witnessing separatist conflicts lies in:

- (a) Russia
- (b) Belarus
- (c) Ukraine
- (d) Poland

62. Arrange the following national parks in west to east direction?

1. Kaziranga
2. Manas
3. Raimona
4. Orang

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 3-2-4-1
- (b) 1-3-2-4
- (c) 2-4-1-3
- (d) 4-1-3-2

- 63. Thousand Islands (Kepulauan Seribu), recently in news, are chain of islands in which of the following countries?**
- Maldives
 - Indonesia
 - Madagascar
 - Mauritius
- 64. Which of the following lakes are correctly matched which the respective countries they are situated in?**
- Lake Baikal: Russia
 - Lake Akan: Indonesia
 - Lake Matano: Japan
 - Qinghai Lake: China
- Select the correct option from the codes given below:
- 1 and 4 only
 - 2 and 3 only
 - 1, 2 and 3 only
 - 2, 3 and 4 only
- 65. If one is travelling from Somalia to Philippines via sea route along coastline, arrange the following islands one will encounter in sequential order:**
- Phuket Island
 - Socotra Island
 - Borneo Island
 - Sumatra Island
- Select the correct option from the codes given below:
- 1-2-3-4
 - 2-1-4-3
 - 3-4-2-1
 - 1-2-4-3
- 66. Which of the following plateaus is surrounded by the Greater Hinggan Mountains in the east, the Yin Mountains to the south, the Altai Mountains to the west, and the Sayan and Khentii mountains to the north?**
- Armenian
 - Shan
 - Anatolian
 - Mongolian
- 67. Rub-al-Khali Desert in the southern Arabian Peninsula constitutes the largest portion of the Arabian Desert. It is expanded in which of the following countries?**
- Oman
 - Qatar
 - Kuwait
 - Yemen
 - United Arab Emirates
- Select the correct option from the codes given below:
- 2, 4 and 5 only
 - 1, 4 and 5 only
 - 1, 2 and 3 only
 - 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
- 68. Arrange the following islands of Indian Ocean from north to south:**
- Diego Garcia
 - Reunion
 - Comoros
 - Socotra
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- 4-1-3-2
 - 4-3-2-1
 - 1-2-3-4
 - 1-4-3-2
- 69. Arrange the following cities from East to West:**
- Mandalay
 - Kolkata
 - Kunming
 - Dhaka
- Select the correct option from the codes given below:
- 1-3-2-4
 - 3-4-1-2
 - 4-2-1-3
 - 3-1-4-2
- 70. Golan Heights touches the boundary of which of the following countries?**
- Syria
 - Jordan

3. Lebanon
4. Egypt
5. Israel

Select the correct option from the codes given below:

- (a) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
- (b) 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
- (d) 1, 3 and 5 only

71. Which of the following important cities are correctly matched with their respective countries?

1. Dushanbe: Tajikistan
2. Ashgabat: Uzbekistan
3. Alma-Ata: Kazakhstan
4. Bishkek: Kyrgyzstan

Select the correct option from the codes given below:

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

72. Arrange the following Islands of Pacific Ocean in north to south order:

1. Volcano Islands
2. Bonin Islands
3. Kamchatka Peninsula
4. Kuril Islands

Select the correct option from the codes given below:

- (a) 3-4-2-1
- (b) 3-1-4-2

- (c) 4-2-3-1
- (d) 2-1-3-4

73. Consider the following:

1. Gulf of Mannar
2. Strait of Hormuz
3. Gulf of Aden
4. Persian Gulf

Which of the following lies above the Tropic of Cancer?

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

74. Arrange the following in north to south direction:

1. Gulf of Panama
2. Gulf of St. Lawrence
3. Gulf of Fonseca
4. Gulf of Mexico

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 2-4-3-1
- (b) 1-2-4-3
- (c) 3-1-2-4
- (d) 4-3-1-2

75. Luzon Strait connects South China Sea with:

- (a) Philippine Sea
- (b) Celebes Sea
- (c) East China Sea
- (d) Sea of Japan

ANSWER HINTS

1. Correct option: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** It is the third-smallest nation in Asia after the Maldives and Singapore.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Bahrain is a member of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

Supplementary notes:

Bahrain

- Recently, India and Bahrain have agreed to further strengthen their historic ties, including in areas of defence and maritime security, space technology, trade and investment, infrastructure, hydrocarbon and renewable energy.
- Both sides affirmed to further strengthen their Covid-19 related cooperation.
- Bahrain appreciated the assistance provided by India during the pandemic through the supply of medicines, medical equipment and medical professionals.
- They expressed satisfaction on the operationalization of the Air Bubble arrangement between the two countries.
- Bahrain is a sovereign state in the Persian Gulf. The island nation comprises a small archipelago made up of 51 natural islands and an additional 33 artificial islands, centered around Bahrain Island which makes up around 83 percent of the country's landmass.
- The capital and largest city is Manama.
- Bahrain is a member of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and signed the Abraham Accord with Israel and the UAE, which was mediated by the USA. Egypt was the first Arab State to sign a peace deal with Israel in 1979. Jordan signed a peace pact in 1994.

2. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation:

- **Option (c) is correct**

Supplementary notes:

Denmark's Artificial Island

- Denmark has recently approved plans to build an artificial island in the North Sea that could generate wind power for at least three million households.
- The island, "the largest construction project in the history of Denmark", is to be majority-owned by the Danish government in partnership with private companies and is expected to cost about 210 billion Danish kroner (\$34bn, 28 billion euros).
- Rather than a traditional offshore wind power farm, the island will function as an "energy hub" allowing connections from other countries' wind power farms and cables to efficiently distribute the incoming energy.



MAP:- 1

3. Correct Option: (a)**Explanation:**

- **Option (a) is correct**

Supplementary notes:**Whitsun Reef**

- China's aggressive expansion in the region has found a new ground, Whitsun Reef, where 220 Chinese vessels are currently moored though the area, which **comes under the Philippines' Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ)**.
- China claims the reef under their nine-dash line.
- The Philippines is of the concern that if China is successful with its moves, the Philippines may lose another fishing ground, similar to what happened in 2012 when China took control of Scarborough Shoal.
- In April 2020, China sank a Vietnamese fishing vessel and also disrupted Malaysian oil exploration.
- It is a reef at the northeast extreme limit of the Union Banks in the Spratly Islands of the West Philippine Sea. It is the largest reef of the Union Banks.

4. Correct Option: (d)**Explanation:**

- **Option (d) is correct**

Supplementary notes:**Vietnam**

- The Socialist Republic of Vietnam is a long stretched country along the eastern coast of the Indo-Chinese Peninsula.
- It is bordered by China in the north and Laos and Cambodia in the west.
- It shares its maritime borders with Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand.
- Its capital city is Hanoi. Ho Chi Minh City is the largest city in Vietnam.

- Vietnam was occupied by France in 1884. Though it declared its independence after World War II, the French continued to rule until 1954 after communist forces took control of North Vietnam.
- Politically, it is a one-party Communist state.
- President is the head of state and nominal commander of the armed forces.
- The head of government Prime Minister is elected by the National Assembly at the request of the president.
- Fan si Peak is the highest point in Vietnam.

5. Correct Option: (d)**Explanation:**

- **Option (d) is correct:** It does not border Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Supplementary notes:**Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region**

- Recently, the European Parliament asked China to allow UN fact-finding team to visit Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous region.
- Xinjiang, the largest region of China, borders the countries of **Mongolia, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India**.
- It experienced a brief period of independence in the 1940s, but China regained control after the Communists took power in 1949. Its full name is the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region.
- It is home to the Turkic-speaking Muslim Uighur minority, who make up about eight million of its 19 million people.
- Rich in natural resources, its economic development has been accompanied by large-scale immigration of Han Chinese.
- The ancient Silk Road trade route linking China and the Middle East passed through Xinjiang province
- It is home to a number of ethnic groups, including the Turkic Uyghur, Kazakhs and Kyrgyz, the Han, Tibetans, Hui, Tajiks, Mongols, Russians and Xibe.



MAP:- 2

6. Correct Option: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** It is the fifth largest island of the Mediterranean.

Supplementary notes:

Crete Island

- Crete is the largest island in Greece, and the fifth largest one in the Mediterranean Sea.
- **It is one of the Europe's most southern location with Africa to the south and Asia to the east.**
- It is located on the southern side of the Aegean Sea.
- Balos beach, Vai beach, and Elafonisi beach are some of the most scenic Crete beaches.
- It is relatively long and narrow, stretching for 160 miles (260 km) on its east-west axis and varying in width from 7.5 to 37 miles (12 to 60 km).

7. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation:

- **Option (c) is correct**

Supplementary notes:

Gulf of Iskenderun

- The Gulf of Alexandretta or Iskenderun is a gulf of the eastern Mediterranean or Levantine Sea. It lies beside the southern Turkish provinces of Adana and Hatay.
- It was also formerly known as the Sea or Gulf of Issus.
- The Gulf of Alexandretta forms the easternmost bay or inlet of the Mediterranean Sea.

8. Correct Option: (a)

Explanation:

- **Option (a) is correct:** Darfur is a region of the western Sudan.



MAP:- 3

Supplementary notes:**Darfur: Refer Map 4**

- More than 60 people have been killed and another 60 wounded in fresh violence in the **West Darfur region of Sudan**, according to UN officials.
- The attackers targeted members of the local Masalit community, looting and burning houses and part of the local market.
- The conflict began in 2003 when rebels launched an insurrection to protest what they contended was the Sudanese government's disregard for the western region and its non-Arab population.
- The African ethnic groups of Darfur, which also include the Fur and the Zaghawa groups, are traditionally farming communities, whereas Arab ethnic groups of Darfur are traditionally nomadic. Sources indicate that the Masalit, along with the Fur and the Zaghawa, have been targets of violence since the beginning of the war in Darfur in 2003.

9. Correct Option: (c)**Explanation:**

- **Option (c) is correct:** Belarus is bordered by Russia to the northeast, Ukraine to the south, Poland to the west, and Lithuania and Latvia to the northwest.

Supplementary notes:**Belarus**

- Belarus is witnessing protests against the Belarusian government and President Alexander Lukashenko. The demonstrations, part of the Belarusian democracy movement, began in the lead-up to and during the 2020 presidential election, in which Lukashenko sought a sixth term in office.
- Alexander Lukashenko has served as the country's first president since 1994. Belarus has been labeled "Europe's last dictatorship" by some Western journalists, on account of the country's poor human rights record and Lukashenko's self-described authoritarian style of government.
- **Belarus is a landlocked country in Eastern Europe. It is bordered by Russia to the**



MAP:- 4

northeast, Ukraine to the south, Poland to the west, and Lithuania and Latvia to the northwest.

- Its capital is Minsk.
- After the disintegration of the Soviet Union in 1991, Belarus became a sovereign nation, and its first presidential elections were held in 1994.

10. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation:

- **Option (c) is correct:** The Pacific Pumas are a political and economic grouping of countries along Latin America's Pacific coast that includes Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru. These four countries along Latin America's

west coast have taken great strides in recent years, and they are poised to emerge as regional leaders. Like the animal, these Pacific Pumas are comfortable operating quietly, away from the spotlight. But their positive momentum is difficult to ignore.

Supplementary notes:

Peru

- Peru's fifth president in five years, Manuel Merino, was forced out of power on Sunday, just five days after taking office, as massive protests swept the South American country.
- Vizcarra promised an anti-graft agenda, initiating reforms to tackle corruption in the legislative and judicial branches of government, and vowed not to entertain another bid for the presidency when his term ended in 2021. Through his tenure, Vizcarra was able to garner support nationally.
- Ever since he assumed office, however, Vizcarra had a fraught relationship with Congress, Peru's 130-member unicameral legislative body, and had it dissolved in 2019, triggering a constitutional crisis.
- Peru is a country in South America that lies wholly in the Southern Hemisphere. It is bordered in the north by Ecuador and Colombia, in the east by Brazil, in the southeast by Bolivia, in the south by Chile, and in the south and west by the Pacific Ocean.
- The country forms part of The Pacific Pumas (Mexico, Colombia, Peru and Chile), a political and economic grouping of countries along Latin America's Pacific coast that share common trends of positive growth, stable macroeconomic foundations, improved governance and an openness to global integration.

11. Correct Option: (b)

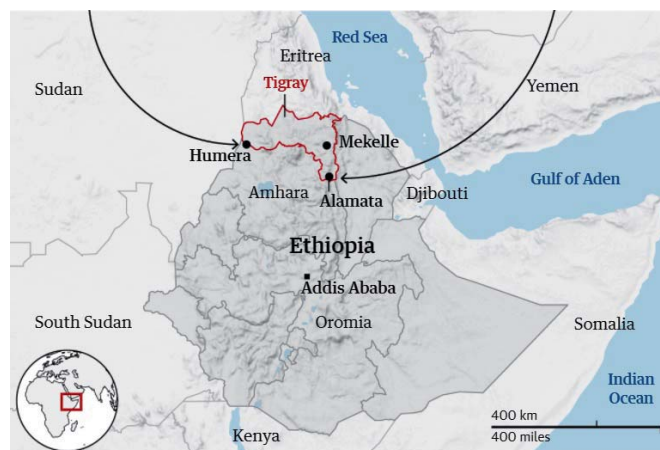
Explanation:

- **Option (b) is correct:** Tigray region is the northernmost region of Ethiopia. Tigray is bordered by Eritrea to the north, Sudan to the west, the Amhara Region to the south and the Afar Region to the east and south east.

Supplementary notes:

Conflict in Ethiopia

- The Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has vowed to continue the military operation in the Tigray region amid concerns it could descend into civil conflict.
- Abiy has declared war on the country's Tigray region, which is ruled by the powerful Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), in response to its attack on a federal military base in Tigray.
- He also removed TPLF from senior government positions. His push to concentrate more power in the hands of the government alienated the TPLF further.



MAP:- 5

- Abiy has formed a new political coalition, the Prosperity Party, all constituents of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), except the TPLF, joined the new platform.
- When the federal government postponed the general elections in August to 2021 citing the coronavirus pandemic, Tigray politicians accused him of a power grab and held elections, in September, in the region, in defiance of the government.

12. Correct Option: (a)

Explanation:

- **Option (a) is correct**

Supplementary notes:

France Overseas Territories

- French have nearly 11.7 million square kilometers of territory in the area of the South Indian and Pacific oceans.

French Overseas Territories



MAP:- 6

- It has one of the world's largest Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs).
- This not only grants France naval and other economic advantages, these very parcels of land and sea allow France to potentially gain an outsized influence in the Indo-Pacific arena.
- France's overseas territories
 - Indian Ocean - Mayotte, La Réunion Islands, Scattered Island, the French Southern and Antarctic lands
 - Pacific Ocean- New Caledonia, Wallis-and-Futuna, French Polynesia and Clipperton.

13. Correct Option: (a)

Explanation:

- **Option (a) is correct**

Supplementary notes:

Comoros

- The Comoros is an island country in the Indian Ocean.
- The Comoros is formed by Ngazidja (Grande Comore), Mwali (Mohéli) and Ndzuani

(Anjouan), three major islands in the Comoros Archipelago, as well as many minor islets.

- The archipelago is situated in the Indian Ocean, in the Mozambique Channel, between the African coast (nearest to Mozambique and Tanzania) and Madagascar, with no land borders.
- As a member of the Arab League, it is the only country in the Arab world which is entirely in the Southern Hemisphere.
- It is also a member state of the African Union, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, and the Indian Ocean Commission.

Why in News?

- Indian Navy Ship Jalashwa delivered one thousand metric tonnes of rice at port of Anjouan in Comoros.
- This highlights the exemplary ties between India and Comoros within the framework of PM Modi's vision of SAGAR (Security and Growth for all in the Indian Ocean Region).

14. Correct Option: (a)

Explanation:

- **Option (a) is correct**

Supplementary notes:**Push for Chabahar Port in INSTC Corridor**

- Recently India expressed its intent to include Chabahar port in the 13-nation International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC) that extends from India to Russia, and to expand INSTC membership by including Afghanistan and Uzbekistan, at a "Chabahar Day" event organized as part of Maritime India summit.
- Pitching for Chabahar in the INSTC which goes via Iran's biggest port Bandar Abbas, India proposed that the land route via Kabul (Afghanistan) and Tashkent (Uzbekistan) would form the INSTC's "Eastern corridor".
- Establishing an eastern corridor through Afghanistan would maximize its potential.
- India highlighted Chabahar's role in recent years in sending Indian humanitarian aid and emergency supplies to Afghanistan and Iran and in opening up trade opportunities.
- The INSTC project was originally decided between India, Iran and Russia in 2000 in St Petersburg, and subsequently included 10 other central Asian and west Asian countries: Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, Belarus, Oman, Syria and Bulgaria as an observer.
- It envisions a 7,200-km-long multi-mode network of ship, rail and road route for transporting freight, aimed at reducing the carriage cost between India and Russia by about 30% and bringing down the transit time from 40 days by more than half.

15. Correct Option: (b)**Explanation:**

- Option (b) is correct**

Supplementary notes:**Jordan**

- Jordan is an Arab country of Southwest Asia lying in the rocky desert of the northern Arabian Peninsula.
- The country shares its geographical boundary with Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Syria, Israel and Palestine (West Bank). It is separated from ancient Palestine by the Jordan River.
- It is not a landlocked country. It has a coastline on the Gulf of Aqaba in the southwest, with Al-Aqabah as its only port. The Dead Sea is

an endorheic lake located in the Jordan Rift Valley on its western borders.

- Jordan River drains waters of Lake Tiberias, also known as the Sea of Galilee into the Dead Sea.

**MAP:- 7**

- Amman is the capital and largest city in the country.
- Jordan is a constitutional monarchy where the king holds wide executive and legislative powers.
- The majority of the population of Jordan belongs to the Sunni sect of Islam.
- It is a key ally of the United States and together with Egypt and the United Arab Emirates, it is among the few Arab nations to have made peace with Israel.

16. Correct Option: (c)**Explanation:**

- Both statements are correct**

Supplementary notes:**Makassar Strait****MAP:- 8**

- Makassar Strait is a narrow passage of the west-central Pacific Ocean, Indonesia.
- Extending 500 miles (800 km) northeast-southwest from the **Celebes Sea to the Java Sea**, the strait passes between **Borneo on the west and Celebes on the east**.

17. Correct Option: (d)

Explanation:

- **Option (d) is correct:** Kara and Laptev Sea are a part of Arctic Ocean.

Supplementary notes:

Seas of Pacific Ocean: Refer Map 9



MAP:- 9

18. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation:

- **Option (c) is correct:** Sea of Okhotsk-Yellow Sea-East China Sea-Philippines Sea

Supplementary notes:

Seas in Pacific Ocean: Refer Map 9

19. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation:

- **Option (c) is correct:** East to West: Gulf of

Thailand-Gulf of Oman-Persian Gulf-Gulf of Aden.

Supplementary notes:

Gulfs: Refer Map 9

20. Correct Option: (d)

Explanation:

- **All statements are correct**

Supplementary notes:

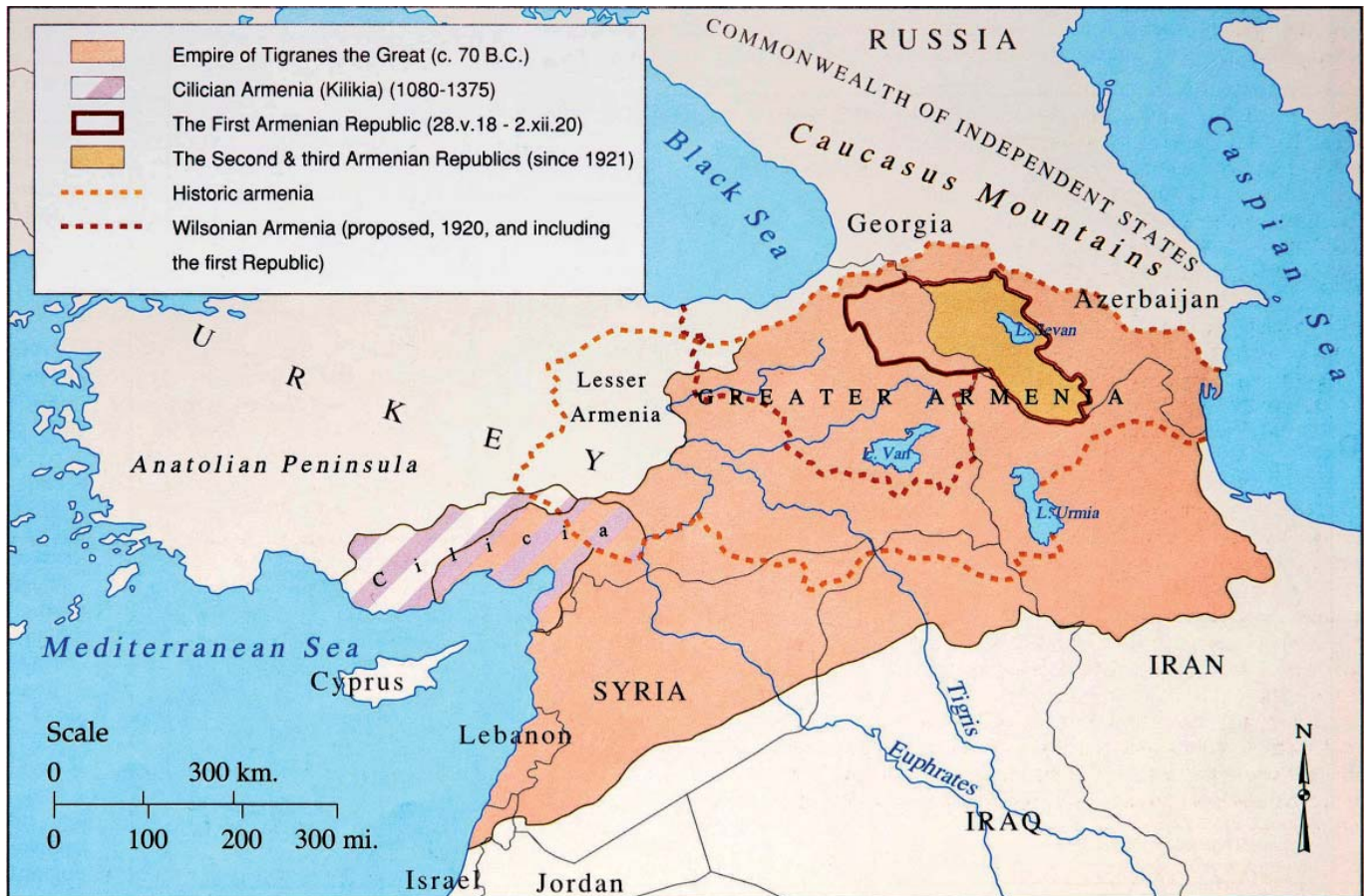
Plateaus



MAP:- 10



MAP:- 11



MAP:- 12

21. **Correct Option: (c)**

Explanation:

- **Both statements are correct**

Supplementary notes:

Sinai Peninsula

- Sinai Peninsula located in the Asian part of Egypt between the Mediterranean Sea to the north, and the Red Sea to the south. The Sinai Peninsula is defined by the Suez Canal and the Gulf of Suez in west and the Gulf of Aqaba in south east.
- Countries with international borders to Sinai are Palestinian territories (Gaza Strip) and Israel, Egypt shares maritime borders in the Sinai with Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

See Map on Next Page:

22. **Correct Option: (a)**

Explanation:

- **Option (a) is the correct:** Spratly Islands-Paracel Islands-Pratas Islands-Senkaku Islands

Supplementary notes:

Islands in South China Sea

See Map on Page no 20:

23. **Correct Option: (c)**

Explanation:

- **Option (c) is correct:** Aral Sea is enclosed between Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.

Supplementary notes:

Aral Sea

- Once the fourth-largest freshwater lake in the world, the Aral Sea today is a tenth of its original size.
- The North Aral Sea – the top half of the body of water – lies in Kazakhstan. The South Aral Sea, which consist of a strip of water in the west and a dried-out basin in the east, sits in Uzbekistan.

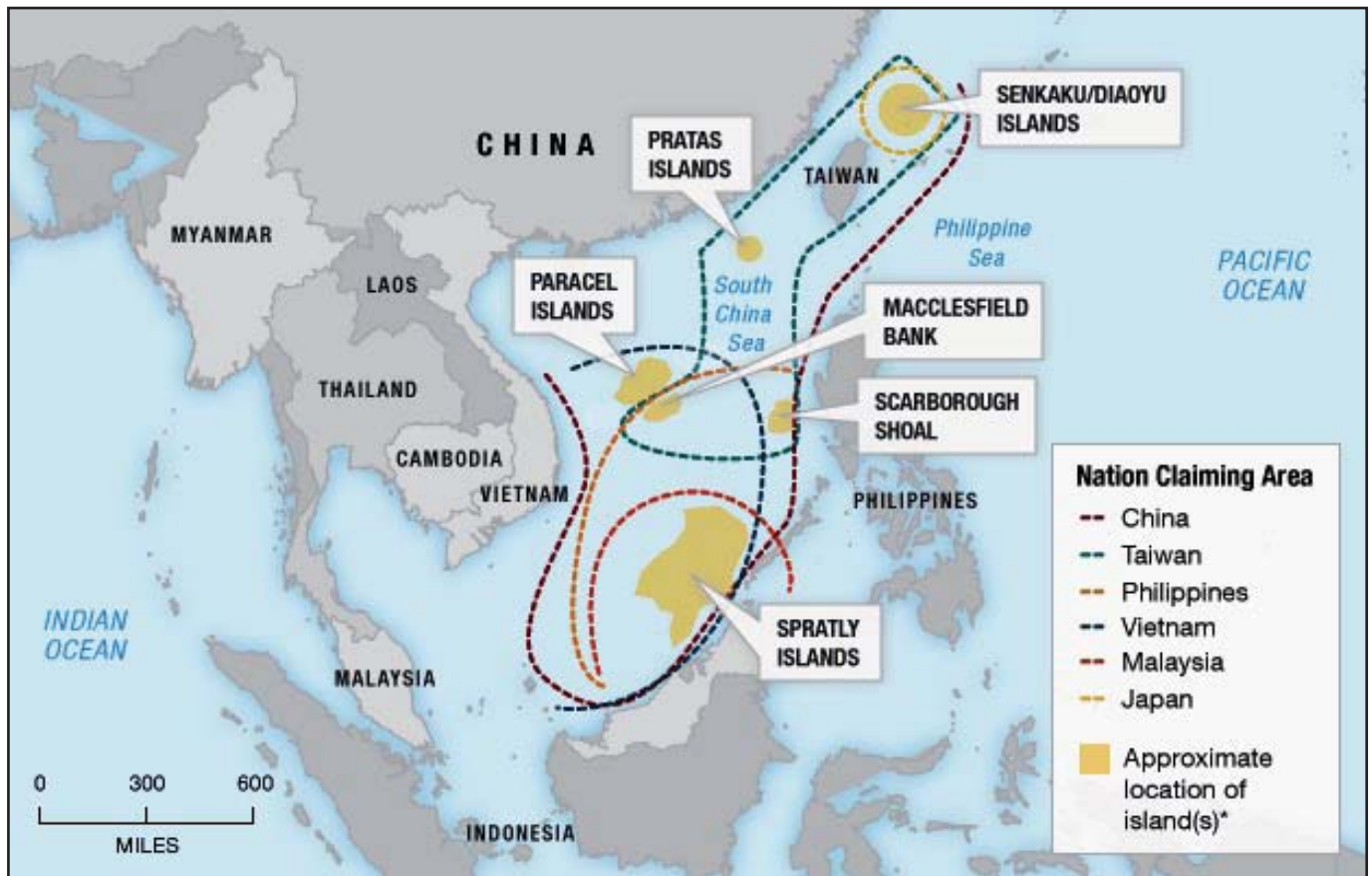
24. **Correct Option: (d)**

Explanation:

- **Option (d) is correctly matched**



MAP:- 13



MAP:- 14

Supplementary notes:

Straits



MAP:- 15



MAP:- 16



MAP:- 17



MAP:- 18

25. Correct Option: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Aegean is located between the mainland of Greece and Turkey, respectively.

Supplementary notes:

Dardanelles Strait and the Aegean Sea

- Dardanelles is a narrow strait in northwestern Turkey linking the Aegean Sea with the Sea of Marmara.
- The Aegean Sea is an elongated embayment of the Mediterranean Sea and an important natural feature of the Mediterranean region.
- The Aegean is located between the southern Balkan and the Anatolian peninsulas, between the mainlands of Greece and Turkey, respectively. In the north, it is connected to the Marmara Sea and the Black Sea by the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus.



MAP:- 19

26. Correct Option: (b)

Explanation:

- **Option (b) is correct**

Supplementary notes:

Katchall Island

- An Indian Coast Guard (ICG) ship has towed away a tanker, containing 910 tonnes of bunker fuel, from waters close to eco-sensitive Katchall Island in the Nicobar archipelago, towards which it was drifting after a total power failure.
- The Dubai-bound 'MT Anastasia-1', with 24 crew members aboard, was posing a danger of running aground, risking oil spillage in the island, after experiencing total power failure since November 19
- In a swift sea-air coordinated operation on November 22, a Coast Guard team from ICG multi-mission vessel 'Vishwast' boarded the 243 m-long tanker, repaired its systems and towed it to safe water.

27. Correct Option: (d)

Explanation:

- **Option (d) is correct:** Myanmar is bordered in the northwest by the Chittagong Division of Bangladesh and the Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh states of India.

Supplementary notes:

Setback in Myanmar

- In one swift operation, Myanmar's military establishment has wiped out a decade of the country's democratization process.
- By arresting President Win Myint, State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi and the rest of the ruling National League for Democracy (NLD) leadership, and declaring military rule under a state of emergency for at least a year, General Min Aung Hlaing has made it clear that it is the military that is in charge, and he is not particularly concerned about the opposition to or condemnation of the move.
- The immediate reason for the coup was that the newly elected National Assembly was due to meet in Naypyidaw, despite the Tatmadaw's (Army's) claims that the November general elections had several irregularities, and its contestation of the NLD's landslide victory.

- Hlaing's demand that the results, which also saw the military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party with a reduced strength in Parliament, be set aside.
- Clearly, the Army, which still nominates a fourth of the parliamentary seats and retains the important Defence, Borders and Interior portfolios, felt it was better to dismiss the NLD government before it increased its clout.

28. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation:

- **Option (c) is correct**

Supplementary notes:

Sigur Plateau

- The Supreme Court appointed conservationist Nandita Hazarika as Member of a Technical Committee constituted by it on October 14 last year to hear complaints by land owners against the action taken by the Nilgiris Collector, which included "arbitrary variance in acreage of the elephant corridor."
- On October 14, the top court upheld the Tamil Nadu government's authority to notify an 'elephant corridor' and protect the migratory path of the animals through the Nilgiri biosphere reserve, the largest protected forest area in India, spanning across Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala.
- The corridor is situated in the ecologically fragile Sigur plateau.
- Sigur Plateau is a plateau in the north and east of Nilgiri District in the Nilgiri Hills of Tamil Nadu.
- It connects the Western and the Eastern Ghats and sustains elephant populations and their genetic diversity.
- It has the Nilgiri Hills on its southwestern side and the Moyar River Valley on its north-eastern side. The elephants cross the plateau in search of food and water.

29. Correct Option: (a)

Explanation:

- **Option (a) is correct**

Supplementary notes:

Naku La

- Indian Army and the Chinese PLA clashed at Naku La in northern Sikkim on 20 January. According to the Indian Army spokesman, there was a "minor faceoff" and the issues were resolved "by local commanders as per established protocols." India has acknowledged that no weapons were used and that there had been injuries on both sides, but they were "insignificant and minor."

30. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation:

- **Option (c) is correct:**

<i>Island</i>	<i>State/UT</i>
A. Wheeler Island	2. Odisha
B. Pamban Island	4. Tamil Nadu
C. Agatti Island	1. Lakshadweep
D. Havelock Island	3. Andaman and Nicobar

31. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation:

- **Option (c) is correct:** The Tsari Chu valley is in Arunachal Pradesh.

Supplementary notes:

The Tsari Chu Valley

- Recently, satellite images show the Chinese PLA have moved at least 5 km inside Indian territory and are setting up base in the strategic Tsari Chu valley.
- Tsari Chu or Gelen Bung is a holy Tibetan river that is a circumambulation route for the Mt Dakpa Sheri or Pure Crystal Mountain in the Tibetan Autonomous Region. The Buddhists consider it a pious duty to visit Yulmed Gompa and go around the Dakpa Sheri peak once every 12 years during the Year of the Monkey.
- This 70 km-long pilgrimage route for Tibetans passes through the village of Longju, or what used to be the first Indian village when the McMahon line was marked in the 1900s, while Taksing was the last Indian village on the pilgrimage route.
- **Today, Longju is claimed by China, while Taksing remains firmly embedded in**

Arunachal Pradesh, on the Indian side of the contested border. Until 1959, Longju was in Indian possession.

- The Tsari Chu valley has also great strategic significance as Migyitün village, now called Zharixiang by the Chinese, is the border hamlet through which the McMahon Line passes. It is seen as one of the ingress routes into Arunachal Pradesh.
- The river divides two sub-districts, Taksing and Limeking, of the Upper Subansiri district. India, since Independence, has not made any concerted efforts to improve infrastructure in this area. Even today the area on the Indian side remains remote despite its military importance.

32. Correct Option: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It will be constructed by National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) under Ministry of Road, Transport & Highways.

Supplementary notes:

Shinkun La Tunnel

- **National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) under Ministry of Road, Transport & Highways has speeded up the detailed project report (DPR) work on the World's Longest High-Altitude Shinkun La Tunnel.**
- On completion of this tunnel, the Manali - Kargil highway will remain open throughout the year.
- The 13.5 Km long tunnel under the Shingo La pass will enable all-weather road connectivity between Manali and Nimu via Shingo La and Padum.
- The tunnel will provide all-weather road connectivity between Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir in Zaskar valley.
- With the construction of the tunnel, inhabitants of around 15-odd villages of Zaskar Valley in Jammu and Kashmir will be relieved since the valley remains cut off due to heavy snowfall during the winter.

33. Correct Option: (a)

Explanation:

- **Option (a) is correct**

Supplementary notes:

Shitalakshya River

- It is a distributary of river Brahmaputra in Bangladesh.
- It originates after Brahmaputra bifurcates into two courses namely banar and Shitalakshya.
- The river has less erosional tendency and is navigable throughout the year.
- Historically river marked an important location as the famous muslin industry of the country flourished along this river. Narayanganj is an important riverport situated on its bank.
- The river goes under tidal effect for about five months of the year but never overflows its banks.

Why in News?

- Recently a Bangladesh ferry carrying around 50 passengers collided with a cargo vessel and sank in the Shitalakshya River in Narayanganj area about 16 km southeast of Dhaka, leaving around 26 people dead in this accident.

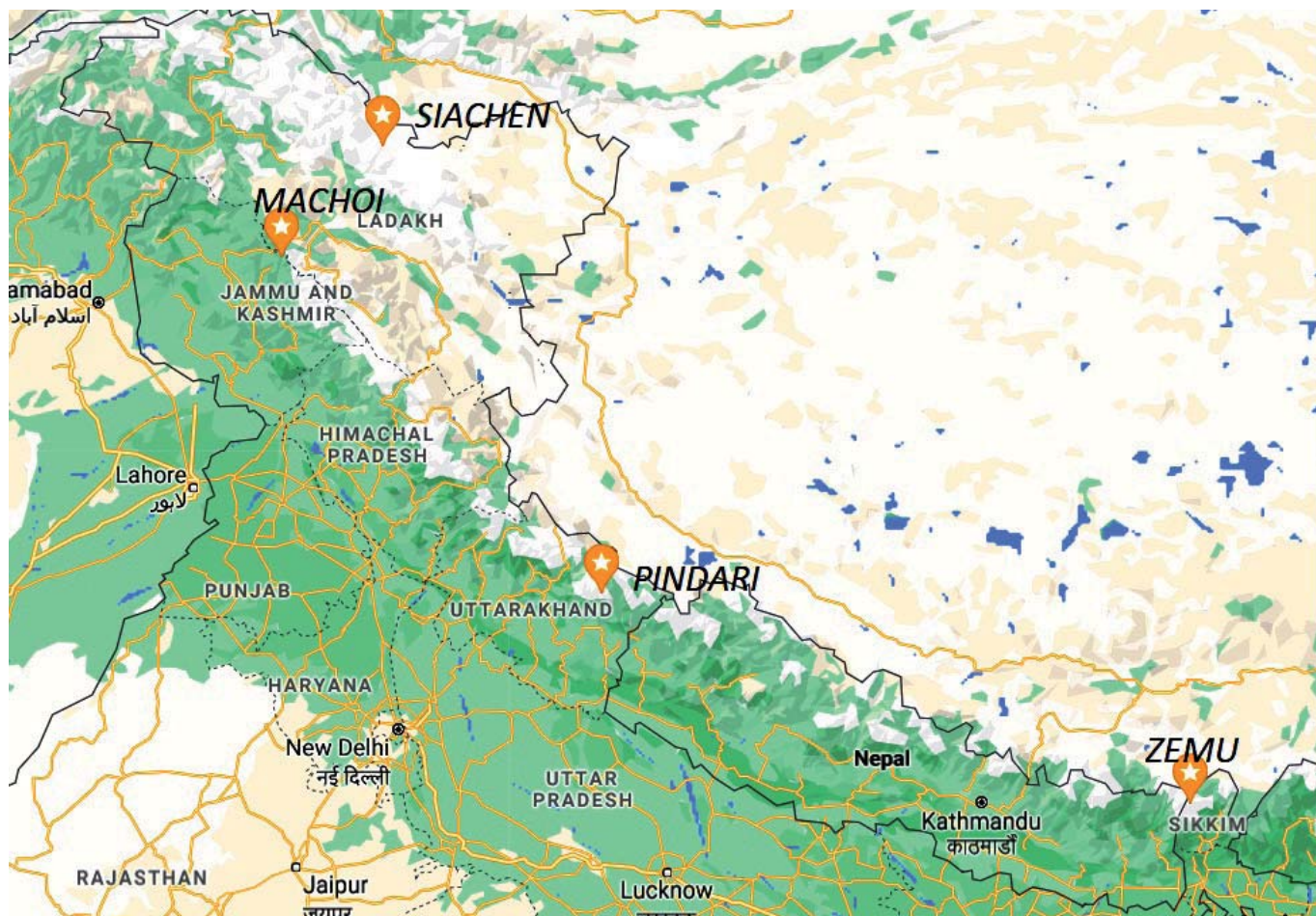
34. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation:

- **Option (c) is correct**

Supplementary notes:

- The Machoi Glacier is a 9 kilometer long glacier in the north eastern Himalayan Range situated 30 kilometer west from Drass, Ladakh, India
- The Siachen Glacier is a glacier located in the eastern Karakoram range in the Himalayas, just northeast of the point NJ9842 where the Line of Control between India and Pakistan ends.
- The Pindari Glacier is a glacier found in the upper reaches of the Kumaon Himalayas, to the southeast of Nanda Devi and Nanda Kot.
- Zemu Glacier is the largest glacier in the Eastern Himalaya. It is about 26 kilometres (16 mi) in length and is located at the base



MAP:- 20

of Kangchenjunga in the Himalayan region of Sikkim, India.

35. Correct Option: (b)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is incorrectly matched:** Ken-Betwa - Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh
- **Pair 3 is incorrectly matched:** Par-Tapi-Narmada – Maharashtra, and Gujarat

Supplementary notes:

River- Linking Projects

Project	States Concerned	States Benefitted
Ken-Betwa Link	Uttar Pradesh & Madhya Pradesh	Uttar Pradesh & Madhya Pradesh
Kosi-Mechi Link	Bihar, West Bengal & Nepal	Bihar
Par-Tapi-Narmada link	Maharashtra & Gujarat	Maharashtra & Gujarat
Mahanadi (Manibhadra) - Godavari (Dowlaiswaram) link	Odisha, Maharashtra, AP, Karnataka,	Andhra Pradesh & Odisha

	Chattisgarh & Telangana	
Godavari (Incham-palli) - Krishna (Pulichintala) link	Odisha, Maharashtra, AP, Karnataka, Chattisgarh & Telangana	Telangana and Andhra Pradesh

36. Correct Option: (a)

Explanation:

- **Option (a) is correct:** Crimea is situated between Black sea and Sea of Azov.

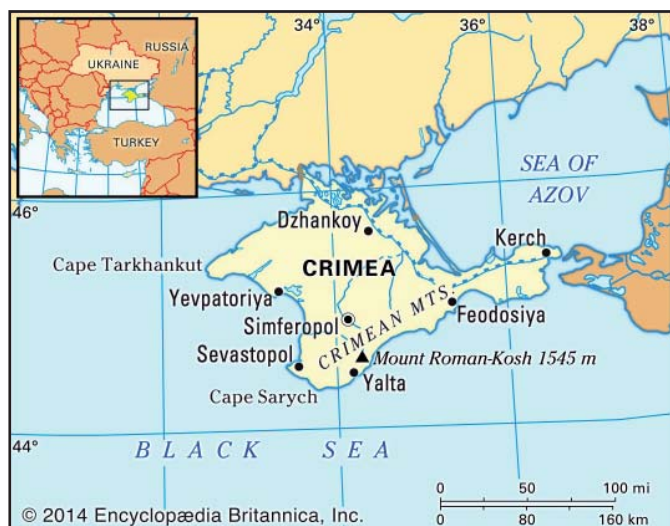
Supplementary notes:

Crimea

- The Crimean peninsula is **connected on the northwest to the mainland by the "Perekop Isthmus"**, a 5-mile- (8-km-) wide strip of land that has been the site of numerous battles for the control of Crimea.
- Between Crimea and the mainland to the north lies **Svyash ("Putrid Sea")**, a network of shallow inlets that is separated from the

Sea of Azov by the Arabat Spit, a 70-mile- (113-km-) long sandbar along the eastern shore of Crimea.

- The Crimean Peninsula was annexed by the Russian Federation in 2014 and since then has been administered as two Russian federal subjects - the Republic of Crimea and the federal city of Sevastopol.



MAP:- 21

37. Correct Option: (a)

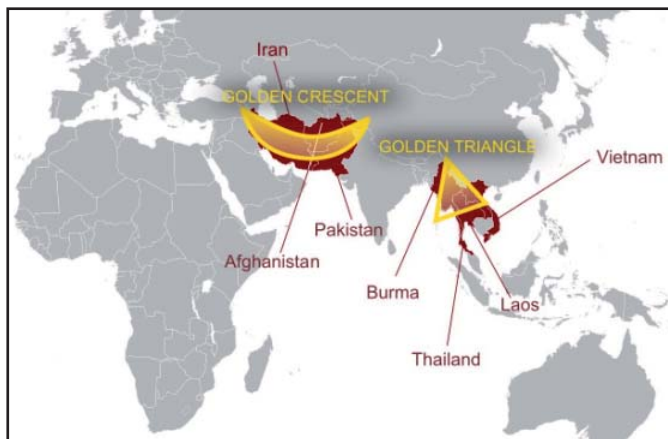
Explanation:

- Option (a) is correct:** Golden triangle comprises of Laos, Thailand and Myanmar.

Supplementary notes:

Golden Triangle

- The Golden Triangle is located in Southeast Asia comprising of three contiguous countries of Laos, Thailand and Myanmar from East to West.



MAP:- 22

- Myanmar is the largest country; Laos is the only landlocked country** not only of

the Golden Triangle but also of that of the entire Southeast Asia and **Thailand has the largest coastline** in the region.

- The Golden Triangle is the **world's second largest illicit opium producing region** with a potential production of 5,020 metric tons out of which, Myanmar itself has 30,900 metric tons followed by 10,000 metric tons in Laos and Thailand having the least production of 128 metric tons in 2005 (UNODC, INCSR, 2006). Laos is more that of trans-shipment country. Thailand and Myanmar are money laundering countries.
- The Golden Crescent is located in Southwest Asia and consists of three contiguous countries of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran from East to West.**
- Iran is the largest country, Afghanistan the only land locked country and Pakistan shares the maximum land boundaries** in this region.
- This is the **world's leading illicit opium producing** region with the potential production of 5,020 metric tons, out of which Afghanistan alone has 4,950 metric tons of illicit opium production, followed by Pakistan with meager 70 metric tons in 2005 (UNODC, INCSR, 2006).
- Iran is not an opium producing country in this region but is more that of a trans-shipment country.**

38. Correct Option: (b)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect:** It is a trans-boundary river which originates in South Tripura district and flows through Sabroom town and then enters Bangladesh.

Supplementary notes:

Feni River

- On 6 November 2019, the Union Cabinet approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Bangladesh on the withdrawal of 1.82 cusecs (cubic feet per second) of water from the Feni River by India for a drinking water supply scheme for Sabroom town in Tripura.
- Feni is a river in south-eastern Bangladesh.

- It is a trans-boundary river which originates in South Tripura district and flows through Sabroom town and then enters Bangladesh.
- The river is navigable by small boats as far as Ramgarh in India, about 80 kilometres (50 mi) upstream.
- There has been no water-sharing agreement between the countries on the Feni previously.
- **Muhuri River**, also called Little Feni, from Noakhali District joins it near its mouth - **right bank tributary**.

39. Correct Option: (b)

Explanation:

- **Option (b) is correct**

Supplementary notes:

Vanilla Islands

- **Vanilla Islands is a grouping of six island nations in south-west Indian Ocean who joined hands in 2010 to integrate their efforts to boost tourism. Mayotte, Comoros, Mauritius, Seychelles, Reunion and Madagascar are its members.**
- **The term 'Vanilla' is used because these countries are known for their export of the flavoring substance Vanilla.**
- Importance of Vanilla Islands for India:
 - As India, China as well as other countries eye the resources of Africa, the islands situated on important sea lines of communication (SLOC) have become strategically important. This importance is further increased by China trying to increase its footprint in the Indian Ocean region.
 - Important European countries like France, Britain and US maintain presence in the Indian Ocean through the territories in this region.
 - India also finds a convergence of goals in the islands' insistence on global measures to arrest climate change and developing Blue Economy grounded in the sustainable use of the resources of the ocean.
 - The islands have presence of Indian diaspora, giving it a certain leverage, and shared history of a colonial past with India.

- **Recently, India sent an amphibious warship, INS Airavat, to Madagascar in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) to help in rescue efforts after the island nation was hit by a cyclone. As part of Operation Vanilla, the Navy delivered clothing, food and medicines, and also provided diving and communication assistance for evacuation. The move follows an appeal by Madagascar President for international help to deal with an unprecedented situation caused by floods.**

40. Correct Option: (b)

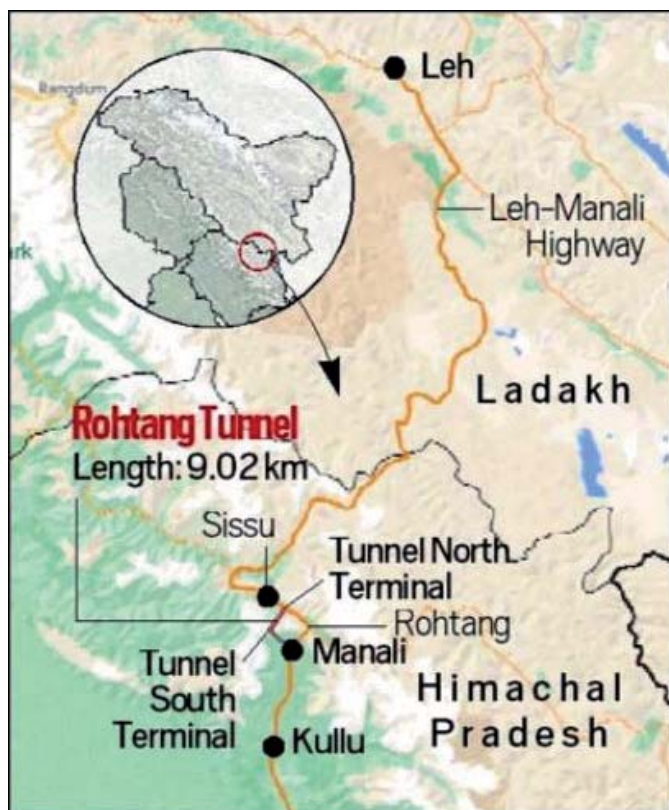
Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The tunnel will reduce the distance between Manali and Leh.

Supplementary notes:

Atal Tunnel

- The all-weather Atal tunnel will reduce the distance between Manali and Leh by 46 km and the travel time by four to five hours. It is the longest highway tunnel in the world.
- The strategically important tunnel is 9.02 km long and it connects Manali to Lahaul-Spiti valley throughout the year. The valley was earlier cut off for about six months every year due to heavy snowfall.
- **The tunnel is built with ultra-modern specifications in the Pir Panjal range of Himalayas** at an altitude of 3,000 metres (10,000 feet) from the Mean Sea Level (MSL).
- The south portal (SP) of Atal Tunnel is located at a distance of 25 km from Manali at an altitude of 3,060 metres, while the north portal (NP) of the tunnel is located near village Teling, Sissu, in Lahaul Valley at an altitude of 3,071 metres.
- It is a horse shoe shaped, single-tube double lane tunnel with a roadway of 8 metres and has an overhead clearance of 5.525 metres.
- Border Roads Organisation (BRO) worked relentlessly to overcome major geological, terrain and weather challenges that included the most difficult stretch of the 587-metre Seri Nalah Fault Zone.



MAP:- 23

41. Correct Option: (d)**Explanation:**

- **All pairs are incorrectly matched**

Supplementary notes:

- NH 4: This road running from the capital city of Port Blair to Diglipur connecting all major towns of Ferrargunj, Baratang, Kadamtala, Rangat, Billy Ground, Nimbudera, Mayabunder and Diglipur.
- NH 6: The highway passes through the Indian states of Meghalaya, Assam, and Mizoram.
- NH 15: This highway starts from Baihata in Assam and terminates at Wakro in Arunachal Pradesh.

42. Correct Option: (a)**Explanation:**

- Option (a) is the correct answer: Formosa Strait connects East China Sea with South China Sea.

Supplementary Notes:**Taiwan Strait**

MAP:- 24

43. Correct Option: (d)**Explanation:**

- Option (d) is the correct answer: The Pamir Knot is the junction of five mountain ranges they are the Tien Shan, the Hindu Kush, the Kunlun, the Karakoram, and the Himalayan ranges.

Supplementary Notes:**Pamirs Knot**

- The Pamirs are the most famous mountain convergence zone in the world. It is the largest mountain convergence zone.
- It lies in the hinterland of Eurasia and extends across China, Tajikistan and Afghanistan with an area of more than 100,000 km². The Pamir Mountains were created by crustal tectonics.
- They spread from the south to the north of the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau and converged on the Pamirs.
- Pamir Mountains are known as 'The Roof of the World'. There are suture lines resulting from the collision between the Indian and Eurasian plates, which occurred at the closure of the Paleo-Tethys period.

44. Correct Option: (b)

Explanation:

- **Option (b) is correct:** Ankara (Turkey)-Damascus (Syria)-Riyad (Saudi Arabia)-

Kuwait City (Kuwait)-Tehran (Iran).

Supplementary Notes:

Capital of West Asian Countries



MAP:- 25

45. Correct Option: (b)**Explanation:**

- **Option (b) is correct:** Lake Ontario is connected to the Atlantic Ocean by St. Lawrence River.

Supplementary Notes:**Lake Ontario**

- It connects the lakes to the Atlantic Ocean and providing navigation to deep-draft ocean vessels.
- The St. Lawrence River can be divided into three broad sections: the freshwater river, which extends from Lake Ontario to just outside the city of Quebec; the St. Lawrence estuary, which extends from Quebec to Anticosti Island; and the Gulf of St. Lawrence, which leads into the Atlantic Ocean.
- To allow vessels to pass through the river and in and out of the Great Lakes. The St. Lawrence Seaway, a massive American-Canadian navigational project, was begun in 1954 and completed in 1959.

**MAP:- 26****46. Correct Option: (c)****Explanation**

- Statement 3 is incorrect. River Tagus drains into the Atlantic ocean.

Supplementary notes:**Major Rivers of Europe**

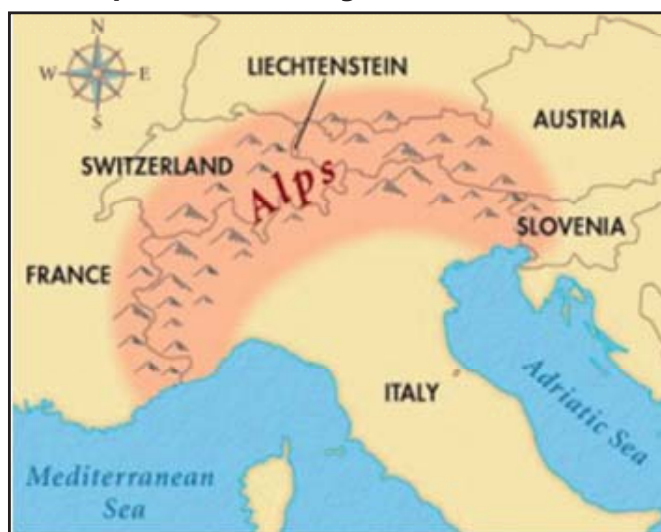
- The Volga is the longest river in Europe, It flows through Central Russia towards the South into the Caspian Sea, It is Europe's largest river in terms of drainage and discharge. It is the national river of Russia.
- The Tagus rises in the Montes Universales in mid-eastern Spain, flows 1,007 km (626 mi), generally west with two main south-

westward sections, to empty into the Atlantic Ocean near Lisbon, Portugal. It is the longest river in the Iberian Peninsula.

- The Danube is the second-longest river of Europe after the River Volga. It flows through much of Central and Southeastern Europe, from the Black Forest into the Black Sea. The Danube runs through the largest number of countries in the world (10; the Nile is second with 9). Originating in Germany, then passing through Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova and Ukraine before draining into the Black Sea. Some largest cities on the river are Vienna, Budapest, Belgrade and Bratislava.
- The Rhine is one of the important European rivers, which has its sources in Switzerland and flows mostly in the northern direction through Germany and the Netherlands, emptying into the North Sea. It passes through six countries Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Austria, Germany, France, Netherlands.
- The River Don is the fifth-longest river in Europe. It Flows from Central Russia to the Sea of Azov.

47. Correct Option: (b)**Explanation:**

- **Statement 5 is incorrect.**

Supplementary notes:**Alps Mountain ranges (See Map: 54)****MAP:- 27**

- The Alps lying entirely in Europe are the highest and most extensive mountain range system. It stretches approximately 1,200 kilometres

across eight Alpine countries (from west to east): France, Switzerland, Monaco, Italy, Liechtenstein, Austria, Germany, and Slovenia.

- The mountains were formed due to collision of the African and Eurasian tectonic plates. The Extreme shortening caused by the event resulted in marine sedimentary rocks rising by thrusting and folding into high mountain peaks such as Mont Blanc and the Matterhorn.
- Mont Blanc located in the French–Italian border, is the highest mountain in the Alps at the height of 4,809 m (15,778 ft).

48. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation

- Option d is the correct sequence starting from south to north.

Supplementary notes:

Suez Canal (See Map: 57 on next page)

- The Suez Canal situated in Egypt is an artificial sea-level waterway connecting the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea through the Isthmus of Suez and dividing Africa and Asia.
- Its work started in 1859 Suez Canal Company and lasted till 1869. The canal officially opened on 17 November 1869.
- The northern terminus of Suez Canal is Port Said and the southern terminus is Port Tewfik at the city of Suez.

49. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation

- Statement 3 and 4 are incorrect. From African side four countries touch Red sea Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea and Djibouti

Supplementary notes:

Red Sea

- The Red Sea Northwestern inlet of the Indian Ocean through the Bab el Mandeb strait and the Gulf of Aden and lies between Africa and Asia. To its north lie the Sinai Peninsula, the Gulf of Aqaba, and the Gulf of Suez (leading to the Suez Canal). The Red Sea Rift, which is part of the Great Rift Valley, lies underlain of it.



MAP:- 28

- The Red Sea is one of the saltiest water bodies of the world, owing to high evaporation and low precipitation in the region.
- The Red Sea is geographically divided into three sections: the Red Sea proper, the Gulf of Aqaba and the Gulf of Suez.
- The Gulf of Suez is bordered by Egypt only. The Gulf of Aqaba is bordered by Egypt, Israel, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.
- The six countries bordering the Red Sea proper are Eastern shore(Asian) Saudi Arabia and Yemen and Western shore(African) Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti

50. Correct Option: (b)

Explanation:

- Statement 3 is incorrect. The Western Desert of Egypt is an area of the Sahara that lies west of the river Nile, up to the border of Libya and south of the Mediterranean Sea till the border of Sudan.

Supplementary notes:

Deserts in Africa (See Map: 69 on next page)

- The Kalahari Desert is a large semi-arid sandy savannah in Southern Africa which covers much of Botswana, and parts of Namibia and South Africa.

- The Nubian Desert lies in the eastern region of the Sahara Desert, in the northeastern Sudan and northern Eritrea, between the Nile and the Red Sea.
- The Western Desert of Egypt is an area of the Sahara that lies west of the river Nile, up to the border of Libya and south of the Mediterranean sea till the border of Sudan.

51. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation:

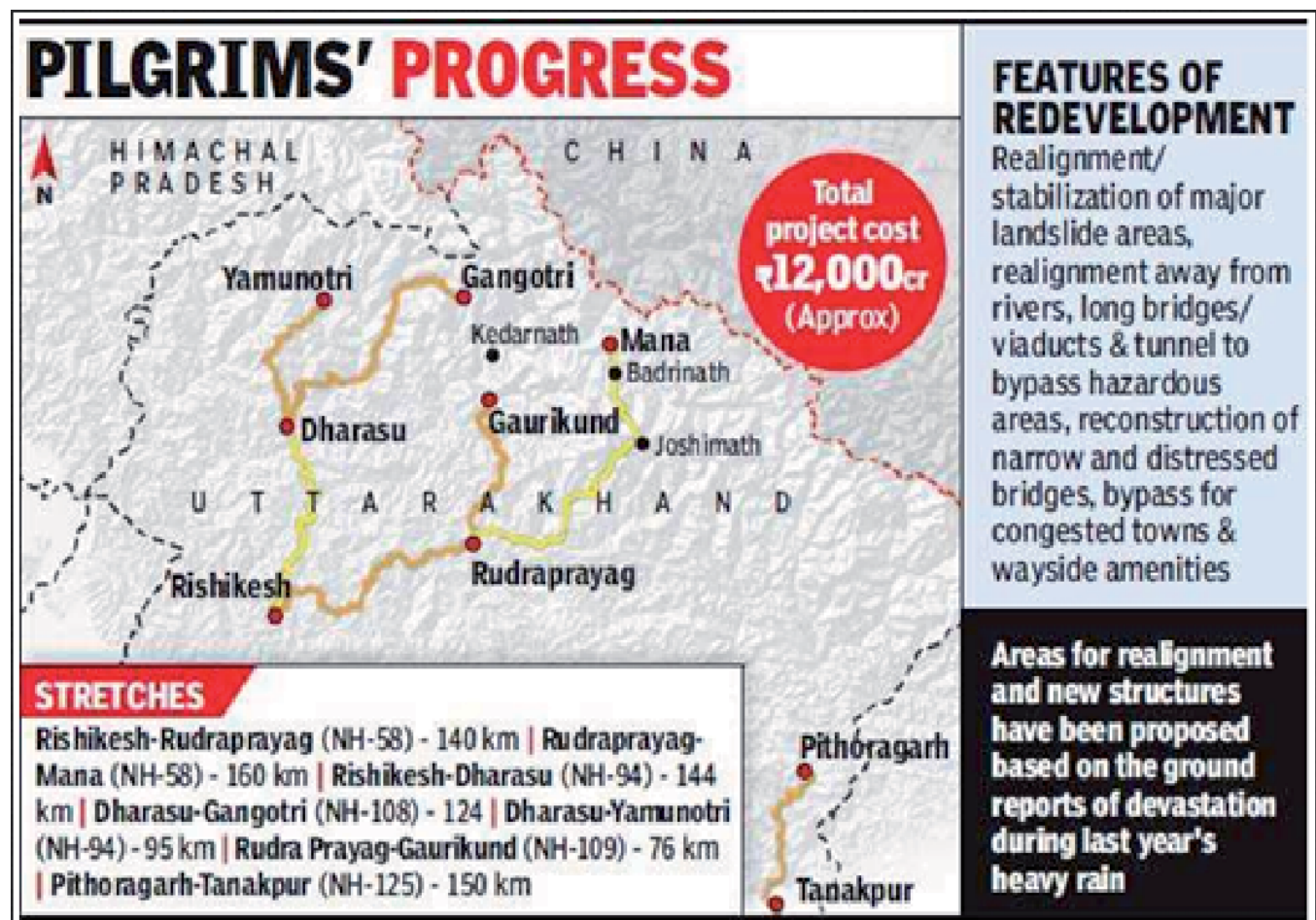
- **Option (c) is correct:** Badrinath- Kedarnath- Gangotri- Yamunotri

Supplementary notes:

Char Dham Road Project

- The Char Dham Road Project proposes widening of roads up to 10 metres to improve the accessibility to the Char Dham (Four shrines): Yamunotri, Gangotri, Badrinath and Kedarnath.

- It aims to "improve the connectivity to the Char Dham pilgrimage in the Himalayas, making journeys to these centres safer, faster and more convenient.
- It will widen almost 900 km of highways connecting the pilgrimage sites and the Tanakpur-Pithoragarh stretch of National Highway (NH) 125, a part of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra route.
- This project can act as the strategic feeder roads which connect the India-China border with the Army camps in Dehradun and Meerut where missile bases and heavy machinery are located.
- Uttarakhand State Public Works Department (PWD), Border Roads Organisation (BRO) and the National Highway & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL). NHIDCL is a fully owned company of the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways.
- The project may destroy about 690 hectares of forests with 55,000 trees and evacuate an estimated 20 million cubic metres of soil.



MAP:- 29

- It will widen almost 900 km of highways connecting the pilgrimage sites and the Tanakpur-Pithoragarh stretch of National Highway (NH) 125, a part of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra route.
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- The project may destroy about 690 hectares of forests with 55,000 trees and evacuate an estimated 20 million cubic metres of soil.
- Ruthless harvesting or uprooting of vegetation in the widening of roads can prove to be perilous for the biodiversity and regional ecology.

Why in News?

- Recently, environmentalist Ravi Chopra has resigned as chairman and member of the High Powered Committee (HPC) for the Char Dham Project, citing the project as an assault on the Himalayas.
- He noted that sustainable development demanded approaches that were both geologically and ecologically sound. Such development also enhances disaster-resilience and hence national security, especially when climate challenges to slope stability are becoming far more unpredictable.

52. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation:

- **Option (c) is correct**

Supplementary notes:

Taiwan Strait

- Recently, USA's Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Milius passed through the Taiwan Strait.
- It is a 110-mile-wide channel that separates mainland China from the island of Taiwan.
- It is also known as the Formosa Strait or the Tai-hai (the Tai Sea).

- The strait borders the southeastern part of China and runs along the eastern part of China's Fujian Province.
- Taiwan Strait connects South China Sea with the East China Sea while the Luzon Strait connects South China Sea with the Philippine Sea.
- South China Sea is a marginal sea, an arm of western Pacific Ocean in Southeast Asia.
- The People's Republic of China, the Republic of China (Taiwan), the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei, Indonesia, Singapore and Vietnam border the South China Sea.

53. Correct Option: (a)

Explanation:

- **Option (a) is correct**

Supplementary notes:

South China Sea

- South China Sea is a marginal sea, an arm of western Pacific Ocean in Southeast Asia.
- The People's Republic of China, the Republic of China (Taiwan), the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei, Indonesia, Singapore and Vietnam border the South China Sea.
- Taiwan Strait connects South China Sea with the East China Sea while the **Luzon Strait connects it with the Philippine Sea**.
- It contains numerous shoals, reefs, atolls and islands like the Paracel Islands, the Spratly Islands, the Scarborough Shoal, the Pratas Islands and the Macclesfield Bank.
- The sea carries tremendous strategic importance; one-third of the world's shipping passes through it, carrying over \$3 trillion in trade each year and an estimated 11 billion barrels of untapped oil and 190 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.
- There are a few hundred small islands in the SCS, a part of the Pacific Ocean. Some of the main ones are Spratly Islands, Paracel Islands and Scarborough Shoal — the bone of contention between China and the Philippines. China claims most of these islands as its own. Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, the Philippines and Taiwan have rival claims.

Why in News?

- China's new maritime rules designed to control the entry of foreign vessels in what Beijing calls "Chinese territorial waters" came into effect recently.

- The move is expected to have far-reaching consequences for passage of vessels, both commercial and military, in the disputed South China Sea, East China Sea and Taiwan Strait, and is likely to escalate the existing tension with the US and its neighbors in the region.

54. Correct Option: (d)

Explanation:

- Option (d) is correct**

Supplementary notes:

Countries surrounding Black Sea



MAP:- 30

55. Correct Option: (d)

Explanation:

- Option (d) is correct**

Supplementary notes:

Afghanistan



MAP:- 31

- Afghanistan has become the central issue of the world amid the ongoing Taliban uprising and withdrawal of US forces from the region.
- Afghanistan shares land border with: India, Pakistan, Iran, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan.

56. Correct Option: (a)

Explanation:

- Option (a) is correct**

Supplementary notes:

The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam

- Formerly known as the Millennium Dam, it is a gravity dam on the Blue Nile River in Ethiopia under construction since 2011.
- The dam is in the Benishangul-Gumuz Region of Ethiopia, about 45 km (28 mi) east of the border with Sudan.



MAP:- 32

- Also known as Hidase Dam, it will facilitate flood protection in the lower areas, irrigation, sediment control and navigation
- The people and Government of Ethiopia are funding the project, which will not only serve Ethiopia, but Sudan and Egypt as well.
- The latter two countries depend on the Nile River for their water although 85% of the river flows in Ethiopia.

57. Correct Option: (a)**Explanation:**

- **Option (a) is correct**

Supplementary notes:**Haiti**

- Haiti is a country located on the island of Hispaniola in the Greater Antilles archipelago of the Caribbean Sea, to the east of Cuba and Jamaica and south of The Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

**MAP:- 33**

- It occupies the western three-eighths of the island which it shares with the Dominican Republic.
- **Cuba is the nearest located country to Haiti after Dominican Republic.**
- Haiti became the first free black republic in the world and the first independent state in the Caribbean in 1804.
- Its capital is Port-au-Prince.

58. Correct Option: (c)**Explanation:**

- **Option (c) is correct:** Mali is a landlocked country.

Supplementary notes:**Map of West Africa**

- Out of Africa's 55 countries, 16 of them are landlocked: Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Rwanda, South Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

**MAP:- 34****59. Correct Option: (c)****Explanation:**

- **Option (c) is correct**

Supplementary notes:**Comoros**

- The Comoros is an island country in the Indian Ocean.
- The Comoros is formed by Ngazidja (Grande Comore), Mwali (Mohéli) and Ndzuan

(Anjouan), three major islands in the Comoros Archipelago, as well as many minor islets.

- The archipelago is situated in the Indian Ocean, in the Mozambique Channel, between the African coast (nearest to Mozambique and Tanzania) and Madagascar, with no land borders.
- **As a member of the Arab League, it is the only country in the Arab world which is entirely in the Southern Hemisphere.**
- It is also a member state of the African Union, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, and the Indian Ocean Commission.

The 22 members of the Arab League as of 2021 are Algeria, Bahrain, **Comoros**, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

60. Correct Option: (a)

Explanation:

- **Option (a) is correct**

Supplementary notes:

Major passes in Western Himalayas



MAP:- 35

- The correct order is Aghil- Chang La- Baralacha La- Banihal.

61. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation:

- **Option (c) is correct**

Supplementary notes:

Donbas Region

- Since Moscow invaded and annexed the Crimean Peninsula in March 2014, pro-Russia rebels in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions began seizing territory in Eastern Ukraine and held a referendum to declare independence from Ukraine.
- Since then, these regions within Ukraine have been witnessing skirmishes between the rebels and Ukrainian forces leading to the loss of over 14,000 lives, creating around 1.5 million registered Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and destruction of the local economy. This shelling has intensified since last October when Russia began amassing troops along the borders with Ukraine.
- There are two Minsk agreements, Minsk 1 and Minsk 2. Minsk 1 was written in September 2014 by the Trilateral Contact Group on Ukraine, i.e. Ukraine, Russia, and the OSCE with mediation by France and Germany. Under Minsk 1, Ukraine and the Russia-backed rebels agreed on a 12-point ceasefire deal, which due to violations by both sides, did not last long.
- In February 2015, representatives of Russia, Ukraine, the OSCE and the leaders of Donetsk and Luhansk signed a 13-point agreement, now known as the Minsk 2 accord. However, the provisions under the agreement have not been implemented because of the 'Minsk Conundrum'.
- Russia believes that the agreement asks Ukraine to grant the Russia-backed rebels in Donbas comprehensive autonomy and representation in the central Government. Only when this is done will Russia hand over control of the Russia-Ukraine border to Ukraine.
- Ukraine, on the other hand, feels that Minsk 2 allows it to first re-establish control over Donbas, then give it control of the Russia-Ukraine border, then have elections in the Donbas, and a limited devolution of power to the rebels. Ukraine believes the accord supports its sovereignty fully while Russia believes it only gives Ukraine limited sovereignty.
- Thus, the Minsk 2 agreement has been rightly criticised for being too hastily drafted, ambiguous and contradictory, making it difficult to implement.

Why in News?

- As tensions spiral between Russia and the West over Ukraine, the rebel-held self-declared Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics (DNR/DPR and LNR/LPR) in Eastern Ukraine have started evacuating civilians to the Rostov region in Russia claiming an impending Ukrainian military offensive.
- Russian President Vladimir Putin recently recognised the independence of separatist regions in eastern Ukraine and paved the way to provide them military support.

62. Correct Option: (a)**Explanation:**

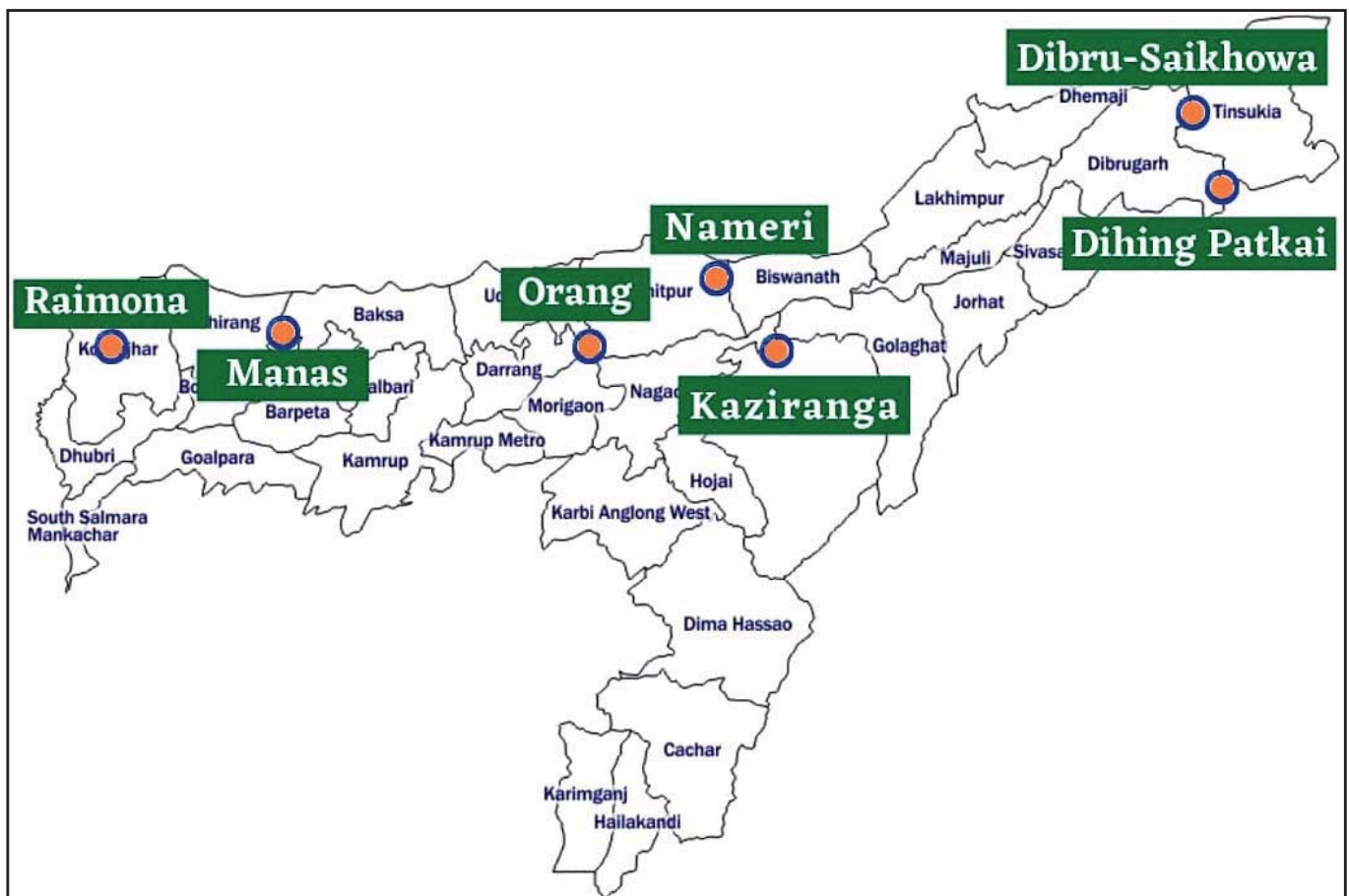
- Option (a) is correct**

Supplementary notes:**Orang National Park**

- The Orang National Park also known as Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park is located on the north bank of the Brahmaputra River in the Darrang and Sonitpur districts of Assam and covers an area of 78.81 square kilometers.
- It was established as a wildlife sanctuary in 1985 but was declared as a National Park in 1999. It is also the 49th Tiger Reserve of the country, being notified in 2016.
- It is also known as the mini Kaziranga National Park since the two parks have a similar landscape made up of marshes, streams, and grasslands.
- It is the only stronghold of rhinoceros on the north bank of the Brahmaputra River.

Why in News?

- The Assam government has issued a preliminary notification to make Orang National Park more than thrice its existing size for conserving Gharials.

**MAP:- 36****63. Correct Option: (b)****Explanation:**

- Option (b) is correct**

Supplementary notes:**Thousand Islands**

- Thousand Islands (Kepulauan Seribu) are

chain of islands north of Jakarta's coast, Indonesia.

- There are exactly 110 islands that together form a District, encompassing the Pulau Seribu National Marine Park.
- These islands are initially caused by the volcanoes.
- Later, the shifting of tectonic plates results in their consolidation as a grouping of small islands in a relatively small area.

64. Correct Option: (a)

Explanation:

- Option 1 and 4 are correctly matched.
- Option 2 and 3 are reversed.

Supplementary notes:

Major lakes of Asia

- **Lake Baikal** is situated in Russia;
- **Lake Akanis** situated in Japan;
- **Qinghai Lake** or Lake Khanka are situated in China;

- Dal Lake, Chilka, Vembanada, Pulicat and Sukhna are situated in India;
- **Lake Matano** is situated in Indonesia.



MAP:- 37

65. Correct Option: (b)

Explanation:

- Option (b) is correct: Socotra (Yemen)-Phuket (Thailand)-Sumatra (Indonesia)-Borneo(Indonesia)

Supplementary notes:

Islands



MAP:- 38

66. Correct Option: (d)**Explanation:**

- **Option (d) is correct:** The above description describes Mongolian Plateau

Supplementary notes:**Mongolian Plateau**

- Mongolian Plateau is an extensive northeastern highland region of the great plateau of Central Asia.

- It is divided politically and geographically by the Gobi (desert) into the independent state of Mongolia (also called Outer Mongolia) in the north and the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region of China in the south.
- **Surrounded by the Greater Hinggan Mountains in the east, the Yin Mountains to the south, the Altai Mountains to the west, and the Sayan and Khentii mountains to the north.**

**MAP:- 39****67. Correct Option: (b)****Explanation:**

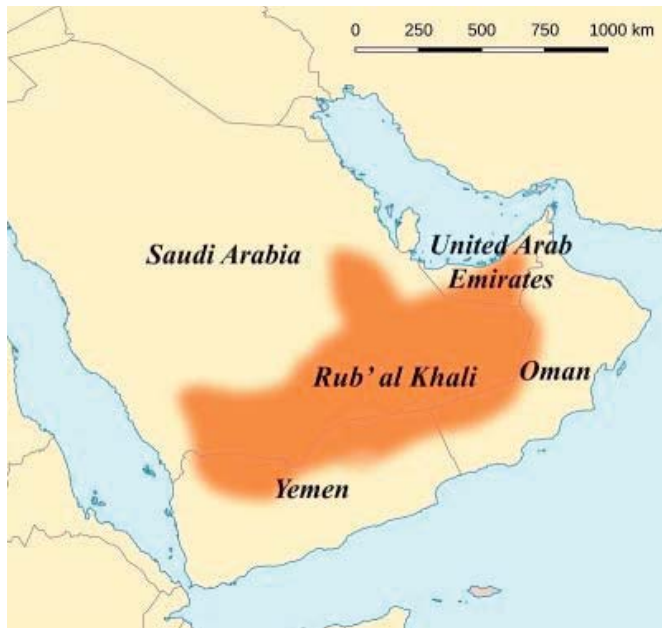
- **Option (b) is correct:** It lies mainly in southeastern Saudi Arabia, with lesser portions in Yemen, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates.

Supplementary notes:**Rub' al-Khali Desert**

- Rub' al-Khali is a vast desert region in the southern Arabian Peninsula, constituting the

largest portion of the Arabian Desert.

- It covers an area of about 250,000 square miles (650,000 square km) in a structural basin lying mainly in southeastern Saudi Arabia, with lesser portions in Yemen, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates.
- The Rub' al-Khali is the largest area of continuous sand in the world. It occupies more than one-fourth of Saudi Arabia's total area.



MAP:- 40

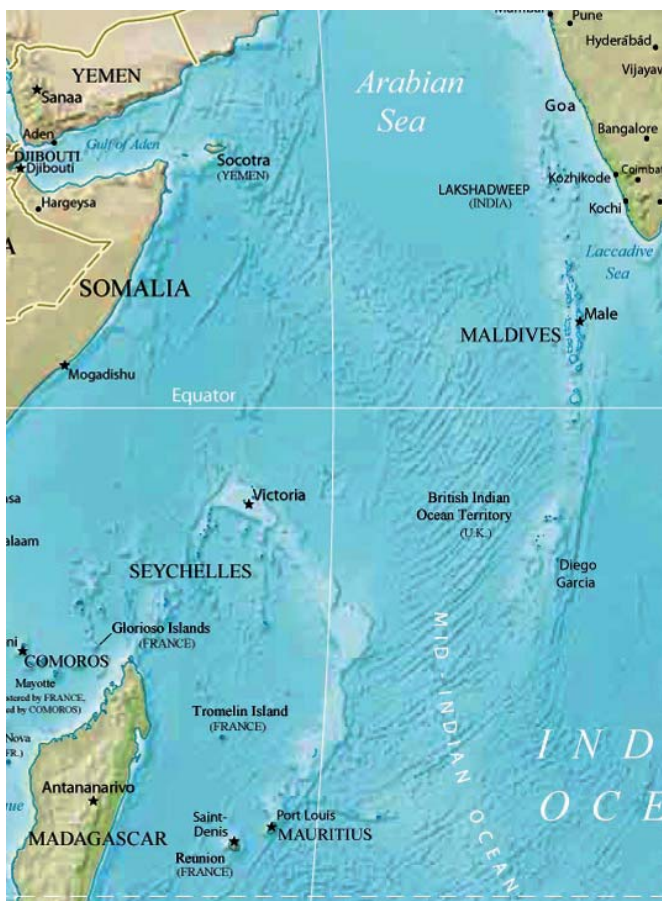
68. Correct Option: (a)

Explanation:

- **Option (a) is correct**

Supplementary notes:

Islands in Indian Ocean



MAP:- 41

69. Correct Option: (d)

Explanation:

- **Option (d) is correct:** Kunming-Mandalay-Dhaka-Kolkata

Supplementary notes:

Bullet train between India and China

- China is planning a bullet train from Kolkata to its Kunming City.
- The service is also expected to give a thrust to trade and commerce in the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar (BCIM) Economic Corridor.
- The BCIM project, initiated by China, is projected to run through Mandalay in Myanmar, Chittagong and Dhaka in Bangladesh, terminating in Kolkata.



MAP:- 42

70. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation:

- **Option (c) is correct:** It touches the boundary of Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Israel.

Supplementary notes:

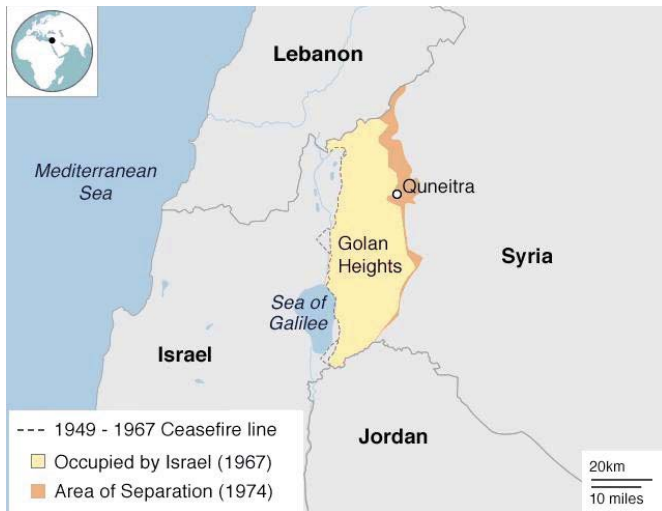
The Golan Heights

- The Golan Heights are a fertile plateau of around 1,300 sq km area lying to the north and east of the Sea of Galilee.

See Map on Next Page:

71. Correct Option: (a)

Explanation:



MAP:- 43

- **Option (a) is correct:** Ashgabat is in Turkmenistan.

Supplementary notes:

Important Cities of Central Asia



MAP:- 44

72. Correct Option: (a)

Explanation:

- **Option (a) is correct:** Kamchatka Peninsula-Kuril Islands (Russia)-Bonin Islands (Japan)-Volcanic Islands (Japan).

Supplementary notes:

Islands of Pacific Ocean: Refer Map 45

73. Correct Option: (b)

Explanation:

- **Option (b) is correct:** Gulf of Mannar and Gulf of Aden lies below the Tropic of Cancer.



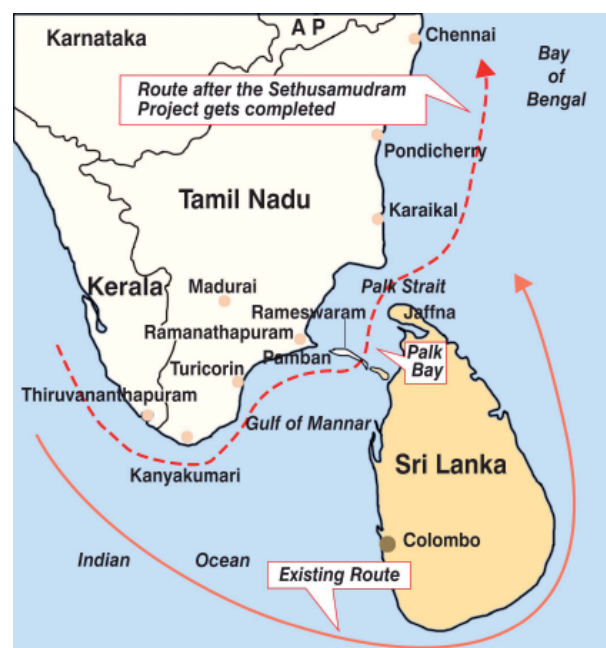
MAP:- 45

Supplementary notes:

Location of gulfs



MAP:- 46



MAP:- 47

74. Correct Option: (a)**Explanation:**

- **Option (a) is correct**

Supplementary notes:**El Salvador**

- El Salvador has recently planned to build an entire city based on the largest cryptocurrency Bitcoin.
- The city will be located along the Gulf of Fonseca near a Conchagua volcano to take advantage of the country's geothermal energy— to power both the city and cryptocurrency mining.
- The city would be funded with the issuance of a \$1 billion Bitcoin Bond.
- El Salvador, the country of Central America. It is the smallest and most densely populated of the seven Central American countries. Despite having little level land, it traditionally was an agricultural country, heavily dependent upon coffee exports.
- El Salvador is bounded by Honduras to the north and east, by the Pacific Ocean to the south, and by Guatemala to the northwest. Its territory is situated wholly on the western side of the isthmus, and it is, therefore, the only Central American country that lacks a Caribbean coast.
- El Salvador fully 'dollarized' its economy in 2001 to take advantage of the stability that it offers and attract investments; get linked to the monetary policies of the Federal Reserve in Washington and prevent hyperinflation in the economy.
- El Salvador became the first country in the world to adopt bitcoin as legal tender.

75. Correct Option: (a)**Explanation:**

- **Option (a) is correct**

Supplementary notes:**South China Sea**

- South China Sea is a marginal sea, an arm of western Pacific Ocean in Southeast Asia.
- The People's Republic of China, the Republic of China (Taiwan), the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei, Indonesia, Singapore and Vietnam border the South China Sea.
- Taiwan Strait connects South China Sea with the East China Sea while the **Luzon Strait connects it with the Philippine Sea**.
- It contains numerous shoals, reefs, atolls and islands like the Paracel Islands, the Spratly Islands, the Scarborough Shoal, the Pratas Islands and the Macclesfield Bank.
- The sea carries tremendous strategic importance; one-third of the world's shipping passes through it, carrying over \$3 trillion in trade each year and an estimated 11 billion barrels of untapped oil and 190 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.
- There are a few hundred small islands in the SCS, a part of the Pacific Ocean. Some of the main ones are Spratly Islands, Paracel Islands and Scarborough Shoal — the bone of contention between China and the Philippines. China claims most of these islands as its own. Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, the Philippines and Taiwan have rival claims.

Why in News?

- China's new maritime rules designed to control the entry of foreign vessels in what Beijing calls "Chinese territorial waters" came into effect recently.
- The move is expected to have far-reaching consequences for passage of vessels, both commercial and military, in the disputed South China Sea, East China Sea and Taiwan Strait, and is likely to escalate the existing tension with the US and its neighbors in the region.

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