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1) With reference to Azerbaijan, consider the following statements:

1. It is a landlocked country located along the southern flanks of the Caucasus Mountains.
2. It shares its border with Russia and Georgia.
3. The Mount Bazardüzü is the highest peak of Azerbaijan.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. All the three
- d. None

Answer: (c) All the three

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct: It is landlocked by the Caspian Sea (which is technically a lake).

Statement 2 is correct: It shares borders with Russia (North) and Georgia (Northwest).

Statement 3 is correct: Mount Bazardüzü (4,466 m) is indeed its highest peak.

2) With reference to Vande Mataram, consider the following statements:

1. It was composed in Sanskrit by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee and first appeared in his novel Anandamath.
2. It was first sung at the 1896 session of the Indian National Congress by Rabindranath Tagore.
3. On 24th January 1950, it was declared to have equal status with the National Anthem, Jana Gana Mana.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct: It appeared in Anandamath (1882).

Statement 2 is correct: Tagore sang it at the 1896 Congress session.

Statement 3 is correct: The Constituent Assembly gave it equal status with the National Anthem on Jan 24, 1950.

3) Consider the following statements:

1. The Mahi-Banswara Nuclear Project, whose foundation stone was laid by PM Modi, is located in Rajasthan.
2. Bonalu festival is celebrated in Telangana.
3. India invited the leadership of the European Union as the chief guest for the 77th Republic Day.
4. Supriya Sahu was awarded the UNEP Champions of the Earth 2025 for climate leadership.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (b) 1, 2 and 4 only

Explanation:

Statement 3 is incorrect: For the 77th Republic Day (2026), the Chief Guest invitation is typically extended to a specific head of state (e.g., from the Global South or a strategic partner), not the "leadership of the EU" as a collective body.

4) With reference to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), consider the following statements:

1. SEBI was established as a statutory body through the SEBI Act, 1992.
2. The primary objective of SEBI is to promote the interests of brokers and intermediaries in the securities market.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only

- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (a) 1 only

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct; SEBI was established as a statutory body in 1992. Statement 2 is incorrect; the primary objective of SEBI is to protect the interests of investors and regulate the securities market, not to promote brokers.

5) Which of the following statements about the 97th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2011 is/are correct?

1. It made the right to form cooperative societies a Fundamental Right under Article 19.
2. It inserted Article 43-B as a Directive Principle of State Policy for the promotion of cooperatives.
3. It added a new Part IX-B to the Constitution, titled "The Co-operative Societies".

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

Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation: This amendment provided constitutional status to cooperative societies, affecting Fundamental Rights (Art 19), DPSPs (Art 43B), and adding Part IX-B.

6) Consider the following pairs:

Regime	Aim
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1. Australia Group — To prevent nuclear proliferation.
2. Missile Technology Control Regime — Limit the proliferation of missiles.
3. Wassenaar Arrangement — Control on chemical weapons.

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Answer: (a) Only one

Explanation:

1. Australia Group: Focuses on Chemical and Biological weapons (Incorrect in pair).
2. MTCR: Limits proliferation of missiles and drone technology (Correct).
3. Wassenaar Arrangement: Focuses on Conventional Arms and Dual-use goods (Incorrect in pair).

7) Consider the following statements with reference to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB):

1. It is a statutory organisation, was constituted under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.
 2. It advises the Central Government on water and air pollution control plans and provides technical assistance.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (c) Both 1 and 2

• Explanation: CPCB is a statutory body established under the Water Act, 1974. It was later entrusted with powers under the Air Act, 1981. It serves as the apex technical body for environmental monitoring in India.

8) The Afar Depression, recently in news, is significant because:

1. It is one of the few places where continental breakup can be studied in real time.
 2. It lies below sea level in several areas.
 3. It marks the junction of Nubian, Somali and Arabian plates.
- Which of the statements are correct?
- (a) 1 and 3 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1 and 2 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3

• Explanation: The Afar Triangle in Ethiopia is a unique geological location where three tectonic plates (Nubian, Somali, Arabian) are pulling apart, creating a new ocean basin in real-time.

9) With reference to the 'India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)', consider the following statements:

1. It was unveiled during the G20 Summit 2023 in India.
2. It is envisioned to link Maritime routes from Indian ports to the UAE.

3. It focuses on rail networks across Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Israel to European ports. Which of the statements given above are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3

• Explanation: Unveiled at the New Delhi G20 Summit, IMEC consists of two corridors: the East Corridor (connecting India to the Arabian Gulf) and the Northern Corridor (connecting the Gulf to Europe).

10) Consider the following statements regarding the Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY):

- 1. It is designed on the lines of the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP).
 - 2. The scheme will create entirely new agricultural programmes across the country.
 - 3. Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of Aspirational Agriculture Districts under PMDDKY.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (c) 1 and 3 only

• Explanation: Statement 2 is incorrect; the scheme primarily aims to converge and optimize existing agricultural schemes in specific districts rather than creating entirely new ones.

11) With reference to Katchatheevu Island, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is located in the Palk Strait, between Tamil Nadu's Rameswaram and Sri Lanka's Jaffna.
 - 2. The island is uninhabited, with St. Anthony's Catholic Shrine being the only permanent structure.
 - 3. The 1974 Indo-Sri Lankan Maritime Agreement formally ceded India's claim over Katchatheevu to Sri Lanka.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3

• Explanation: All statements are historically accurate regarding the island's location, its status, and the 1974 agreement.

12) Consider the following statements regarding the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC):

1. The UPSC was first established in 1926 following the recommendations of the Lee Commission.
2. A UPSC Chairman can be reappointed after completing their term.
3. Article 317 deals with the removal and suspension of UPSC members.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a) 1 and 3 only

• Explanation: Statement 2 is incorrect. Under Article 319, the Chairman of the UPSC is ineligible for further employment either under the Government of India or a State Government, including reappointment to the same post.

13) Consider the following countries:

1. Turkey
 2. Iraq
 3. Syria
 4. Armenia
 5. Turkmenistan
 6. Uzbekistan
 7. Azerbaijan
- How many of the above countries share its border with Iran?
(a) Only four countries
(b) Only five countries
(c) Only six countries
(d) All seven countries

Answer: (c) Only six countries

• Explanation: Iran shares land borders with: Turkey, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Armenia, and Azerbaijan.

14) Match the following terms for tropical cyclones with their respective regions:

Terms:

Regions:

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 1. Hurricane | A. Western North Pacific Ocean |
| 2. Cyclone | B. North Atlantic, Eastern North Pacific, and South Pacific Oceans |
| 3. Typhoon | C. Indian Ocean |
| 4. Willy-willy | D. Eastern part of the Southern Indian Ocean |

(a) 1–B, 2–C, 3–A, 4–D

(b) 1–A, 2–B, 3–C, 4–D

(c) 1–B, 2–A, 3–C, 4–D

(d) 1–D, 2–C, 3–A, 4–B

Answer: (a) 1–B, 2–C, 3–A, 4–D

• Matches: Hurricane (Atlantic/N. Pacific), Cyclone (Indian Ocean), Typhoon (W. North Pacific), Willy-willy (Australia/S. Indian Ocean).

15) With reference to the Coral Triangle, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It spans across Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Solomon Islands, and Timor-Leste.
2. It is home to more than 75% of the world's coral species.

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

Answer: (c) Both 1 and 2

• **Explanation:** Known as the "Amazon of the Seas," it is the global epicenter of marine biodiversity. It contains 76% of all known coral species and over 3,000 species of fish.

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