

ForumIAS

F

Prelims Marathon

18th to 24th September, 2023

*HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT*

FORUMIAS



Geography – Structure & Relief

Q.1) “Karewas”, thick deposits of glacial clay are found in which sub-division of the Himalayas?

- a) Sikkim Himalayas
- b) Eastern Hills
- c) Northwestern Himalayas
- d) All of the above

ANS: C

Explanation:

- Himalayas are not only the physical barrier, they are also a climatic, drainage and cultural divide. There are large scale variations within the Himalayas. On the basis of relief, alignment of ranges and other geomorphologic features, the Himalayas can be divided into following sub-divisions:
 1. Kashmir or Northwestern Himalayas
 2. Himachal and uttarakhand Himalayas
 3. Darjiling and Sikkim Himalayas
 4. Arunachal Himalayas
 5. Eastern Hills and Mountains
- The Kashmir or North-Western Himalayas is a mountainous grassland and shrubland ecoregion found in the heights of Kashmir or the northwestern part of Indian Himalayas. The Karakoram, Ladakh, Zaskar, and Pir Panjal are some of the ranges that make up this region.
- The world-renowned Kashmir valley and the famed Dal Lake are located between the Great Himalayas and the Pir Panjal range.
- This region also has important South Asian glaciers such as the Baltoro and Siachen.
- The Kashmir Himalayas is also known for the Karewa formations, which are used to grow Zafran, a local saffron type.

Source: Class 11th NCERT

Q.2) Which of the following is/are part/extension of Peninsular Block?

1. Rann of Kachchh
2. Rajmahal Hills
3. Karbi Anglong

How many of the codes given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All Three
- d) None of the above

ANS: C

Explanation: The northern boundary of the Peninsular Block may be taken as an irregular line running from Kachchh along the western flank of the Aravali Range near Delhi and then roughly parallel to the Yamuna and the Ganga as far as the Rajmahal Hills and the Ganga delta. Apart

from these, the Karbi Anglong and the Meghalaya Plateau in the northeast and Rajasthan in the west are also extensions of this block.

Source: Class 11th NCERT

Q.3) The Northeastern parts are separated by the Malda Fault from which of the following structure?

- a) Chotanagpur Plateau
- b) Ramgarh Hills
- c) Deccan Plateau
- d) Hazaribagh Plateau

ANS: A

Explanation:

The northeastern parts are separated by the Malda fault in West Bengal from the Chotanagpur plateau.



Source: Class 11th NCERT

Q.4) Arrange the following hill ranges from south to north:

- 1. Nilagiri Hills
- 2. Rajmahal Hills
- 3. Nallamalla Hills
- 4. Palkonda Hills

Choose the correct answer from the given codes:

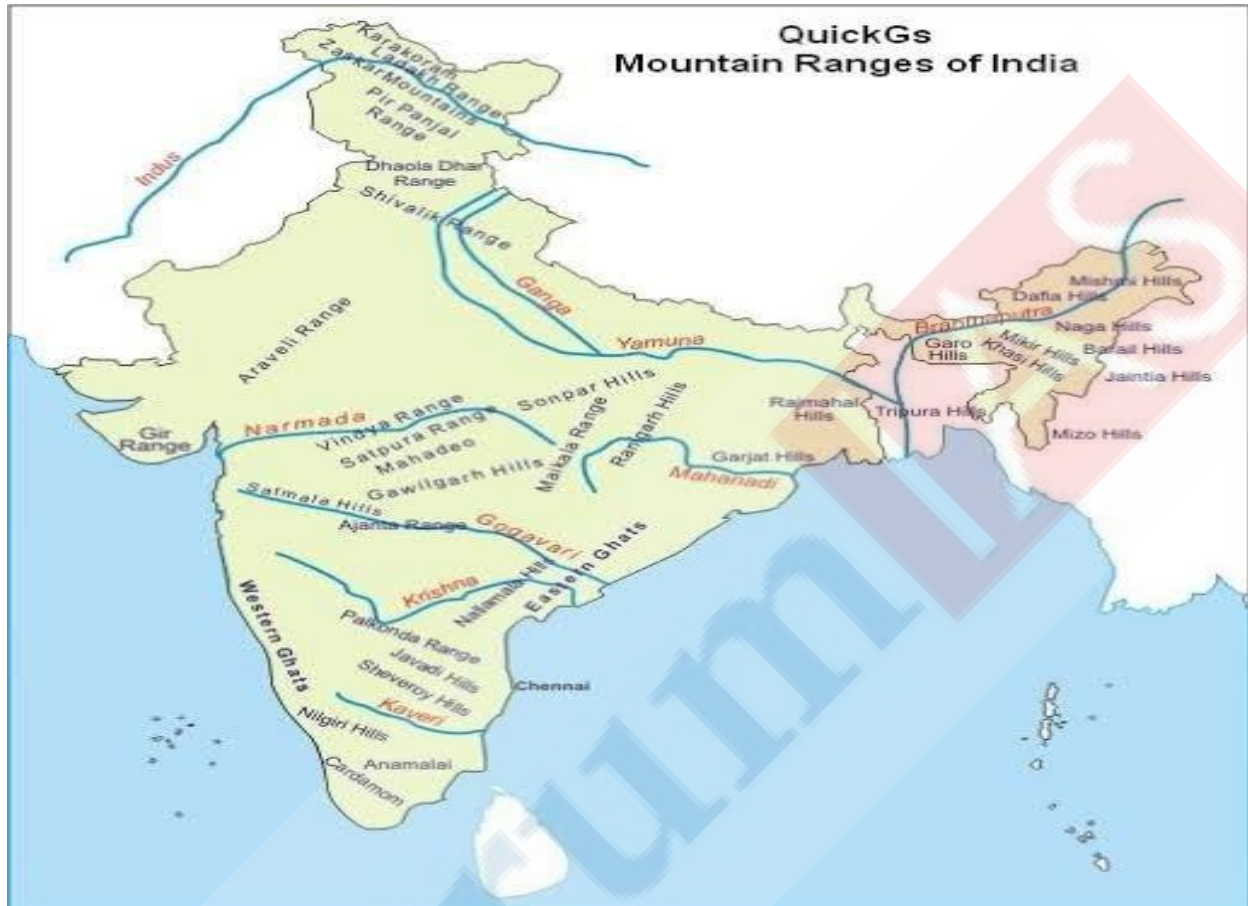
- 4. 1 , 2 ,3 ,4
- 5. 1 , 4 , 3, 2
- 6. 4 , 3 , 2 , 1
- 7. 4 , 3 , 1 , 2

ANS: B

Explanation:

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, [THIRD WEEK] 2023

The Peninsula mostly consists of relict and residual mountains like the Aravali hills, the Nallamala hills, the Javadi hills, the Veliconda hills, the Palkonda range and the Mahendragiri hills, etc. The river valleys here are shallow with low gradients.



Source: Class 11th NCERT

Q.5) Consider the following statements:

1. The general orientation of great Himalayan ranges is from northwest to the southeast direction in north-western part of India.
2. The Himalayas in Arunachal Pradesh lie in an east-west direction.
3. The Himalayas in Darjiling and Sikkim regions are from southwest to the northwest direction.

How many of the statements given above is/are not correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All Three
- d) None of the above

ANS: B

Explanation:

- The North and Northeastern Mountains consist of the Himalayas and the Northeastern hills.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, [THIRD WEEK] 2023

- The Himalayas consist of a series of parallel mountain ranges. Some of the important ranges are the Greater Himalayan range, which includes the Great Himalayas and the Shiwalik.
- The general orientation of these ranges is from northwest to the southeast direction in the northwestern part of India.
- The Himalayas in the Darjiling and Sikkim regions lie in an eastwest direction, while in Arunachal Pradesh they are from southwest to the northwest direction.

Source: Class 11th NCERT

Q.6) The “duar formations” is part of which of the following?

- a) Kashmir Himalayas
- b) Arunachal Himalayas
- c) Purvanchal Himalayas
- d) Sikkim Himalayas

ANS: D

Explanation:

- The Darjiling and Sikkim Himalayas are flanked by Nepal Himalayas in the west and Bhutan Himalayas in the east. It is relatively small but is the most significant part of the Himalayas.
- Known for its fast-flowing rivers such as the Tista, it is a region of high mountain peaks like Kanchenjunga (Kanchengiri), and deep valleys.
- The higher reaches of this region are inhabited by Lepcha tribes while the southern part, particularly the Darjiling Himalayas, has a mixed population of Nepalis, Bengalis and tribals from Central India.
- The British, taking advantage of the physical conditions such as moderate slope, thick soil cover with high organic content, well distributed rainfall throughout the year and mild winters, introduced tea plantations in this region.
- As compared to the other sections of the Himalayas, these along with the Arunachal Himalayas are conspicuous by the absence of the Shiwalik formations.
- In place of the Shiwaliks here, the ‘duar formations’ are important, which have also been used for the development of tea gardens.

Source: Class 11th NCERT

Q.7) River Chindwin is a tributary of which of the following rivers?

- a) Barak
- b) Brahmaputra
- c) Irrawady
- d) Meghna

ANS: C

Explanation: Most of these ranges are separated from each other by numerous small rivers. The Barak is an important river in Manipur and Mizoram.

- The physiography of Manipur is unique by the presence of a large lake known as ‘Loktak’ lake at the centre, surrounded by mountains from all sides.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, [THIRD WEEK] 2023

- Mizoram which is also known as the 'Molassis basin' which is made up of soft unconsolidated deposits. Most of the rivers in Nagaland form the tributary of the Brahmaputra.
- While two rivers of Mizoram and Manipur are the tributaries of the Barak river, which in turn is the tributary of Meghna; the rivers in the eastern part of Manipur are the tributaries of Chindwin, which in turn is a tributary of the Irrawady of Myanmar.

Source: Class 11th NCERT

Q.8) The term Marusthali is associated with which of the following physiographic region?

- a) Great Himalayas
- b) Indian Desert
- c) Central Highlands
- d) None of the above

ANS: B

Explanation: The Indian Desert

- To the northwest of the Aravali hills lies the Great Indian desert.
- It is a land of undulating topography dotted with longitudinal dunes and barchans.
- This region receives low rainfall below 150 mm per year; hence, it has arid climate with low vegetation cover.
- It is because of these characteristic features that this is also known as Marusthali.
- It is believed that during the Mesozoic era, this region was under the sea. This can be corroborated by the evidence available at wood fossils park at Aakal and marine deposits around Brahmsar, near Jaisalmer.

Source: Class 11th NCERT

Q.9) Which of the following island is largest in the islands of Lakshadweep Islands?

- a) Karavatti
- b) Agatti
- c) Minicoy
- d) Kalpeni

ANS: C

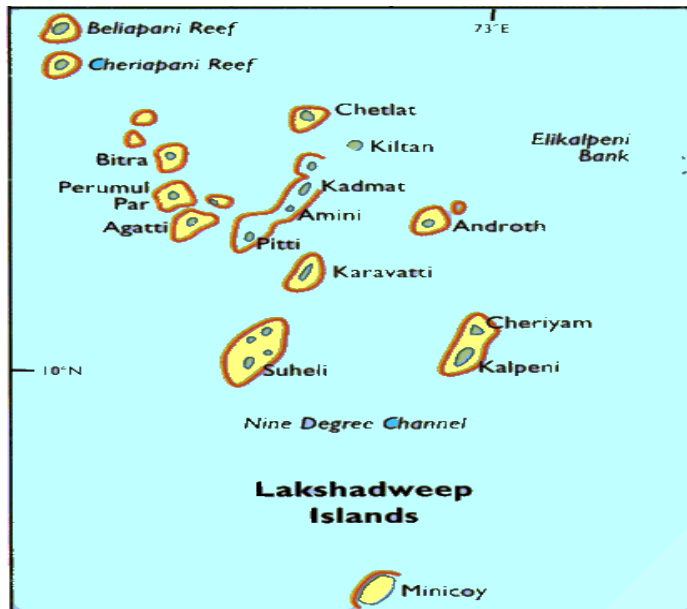
Explanation:

The islands of the Arabian sea include Lakshadweep and Minicoy. These are scattered between 8°N-12°N and 71°E -74°E longitude.

These islands are located at a distance of 280 km-480 km off the Kerala coast. The entire island group is built of coral deposits. There are approximately 36 islands of which 11 are inhabited.

Minicoy is the largest island with an area of 453 sq. km. The entire group of islands is broadly divided by the Eleventh degree channel, north of which is the Amini Island and to the south of the Canannore Island.

The Islands of this archipelago have storm beaches consisting of unconsolidated pebbles, shingles, cobbles and boulders on the eastern seaboard.



Source: Class 11th NCERT

Q.10) Which of the following mountain peak is not located in the Andaman Group of Islands?

- a) Mount Thuiller
- b) Saddle Peak
- c) Mount Diavolo
- d) Mount Koyob

ANS: A

Explanation: Mount Thuiller is located in Great Nicobar and not in the Andaman Group of Islands.

The Islands

- There are two major island groups in India one in the Bay of Bengal and the other in the Arabian Sea.
- The Bay of Bengal island groups consist of about 572 islands/islets. These are situated roughly between 6°N-14°N and 92°E -94°E.
- The two principal groups of islets include the Ritchie's archipelago and the Labrynth island.
- The entire group of island is divided into two broad categories – the Andaman in the north and the Nicobar in the south.
- They are separated by a water body which is called the Ten degree channel.
- It is believed that these islands are an elevated portion of submarine mountains. However, some smaller islands are volcanic in origin.
- Barren island, the only active volcano in India is also situated in the Nicobar islands.
- Some important mountain peaks in Andaman and Nicobar islands are
 - Saddle peak (North Andaman – 738 m),
 - Mount Diavolo (Middle Andaman – 515 m),
 - Mount Koyob (South Andaman – 460 m) and
 - Mount Thuiller (Great Nicobar – 642 m).

Source: Class 11th NCERT

Geography – Drainage System in India

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. The drainage pattern resembling the branches of a tree is known as “radial” pattern.
2. The primary tributaries of rivers flow parallel to each other and secondary tributaries join them at right angles, the pattern is known as ‘trellis’
3. The rivers originate from a hill and flow in all directions is known as “dendritic” pattern.

How many of the statements given above is/are not correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All Three
- d) None of the above

ANS: B

Explanation: Important Drainage Patterns

- (i) The drainage pattern resembling the branches of a tree is known as “dendritic” the examples of which are the rivers of northern plain.
- (ii) When the rivers originate from a hill and flow in all directions, the drainage pattern is known as ‘radial’. The rivers originating from the Amarkantak range present a good example of it.
- (iii) When the primary tributaries of rivers flow parallel to each other and secondary tributaries join them at right angles, the pattern is known as ‘trellis’.
- (iv) When the rivers discharge their waters from all directions in a lake or depression, the pattern is known as ‘centripetal’.

Source: Class 11th NCERT

Q.2) Which of the following river is known as ‘Langchen Khamban’ in Tibet?

- a) Satluj
- b) Brahmaputra
- c) Indus
- d) Zaskar

ANS: A

Explanation:

- The Satluj originates in the ‘Raksas tal’ near Mansarovar at an altitude of 4,555 m in Tibet where it is known as Langchen Khambab.
- It flows almost parallel to the Indus for about 400 km before entering India, and comes out of a gorge at Rupar.
- It passes through the Shipki La on the Himalayan ranges and enters the Punjab plains.
- It is an antecedent river.
- It is a very important tributary as it feeds the canal system of the Bhakra Nangal project.

Source: Class 11th NCERT

Q.3) Consider the following pairs:

River	Originating Glacier
1. Indus	Chemayungdung
2. Ganga	Gangotri
3. Yamuna	Yamunotri
4. Brahmaputra	Bokhar Chu

How many of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- Only one pair
- Only two pairs
- Only three pairs
- All four pairs

ANS: B

Explanation: The Indus System

- It is one of the largest river basins of the world, covering an area of 11,65,000 sq. km (in India it is 321, 289 sq. km and a total length of 2,880 km (in India 1,114 km).
- The Indus also known as the Sindhu, is the westernmost of the Himalayan rivers in India.
- It originates from a glacier near Bokhar Chu (31°15' N latitude and 81°40' E longitude) in the Tibetan region at an altitude of 4,164 m in the Kailash Mountain range.
- In Tibet, it is known as 'Singi Khamban; or Lion's mouth.

The Ganga System

- The Ganga is the most important river of India both from the point of view of its basin and cultural significance.
- It rises in the Gangotri glacier near Gaumukh (3,900 m) in the Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand. Here, it is known as the Bhagirathi.

The Yamuna

- It is the western most and the longest tributary of the Ganga, has its source in the Yamunotri glacier on the western slopes of Banderpunch range (6,316 m).
- It joins the Ganga at Prayag (Allahabad). It is joined by the Chambal, the Sind, the Betwa and the Ken on its right bank which originates from the Peninsular plateau while the Hindan, the Rind, the Sengar, the Varuna, etc. join it on its left bank.

The Brahmaputra System

- The Brahmaputra, one of the largest rivers of the world, has its origin in the Chemayungdung glacier of the Kailash range near the Mansarovar lake.
- From here, it traverses eastward longitudinally for a distance of nearly 1,200 km in a dry and flat region of southern Tibet, where it is known as the Tsangpo, which means 'the purifier.'
- The Rango Tsangpo is the major right bank tributary of this river in Tibet.

Source: Class 11th NCERT

Q.4) Consider the following statements:

1. The boundary line separating one drainage basin from the other is known as the catchment area.
2. An area drained by a river and its tributaries is called a drainage basin.
3. The river drains the water collected from a specific area which is called its watershed.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All Three
- d) None of the above

ANS: A

Explanation:

- A river drains the water collected from a specific area, which is called its 'catchment area'.
- An area drained by a river and its tributaries is called a drainage basin.
- The boundary line separating one drainage basin from the other is known as the watershed.
- The catchments of large rivers are called river basins while those of small rivulets and rills are often referred to as watersheds.
- There is, however, a slight difference between a river basin and a watershed.
- The watersheds are small in area while the basins cover larger areas.

Source: Class 11th NCERT

Q.5) Which of the following river is known as "Dakshin Ganga"?

- a) Krishna
- b) Cauvery
- c) Godavari
- d) Narmada

ANS: C

Explanation:

- The Godavari is the largest Peninsular river system. It is also called the Dakshin Ganga.
- It rises in the Nasik district of Maharashtra and discharges its water into the Bay of Bengal.
- Its tributaries run through the states of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.
- It is 1,465 km long with a catchment area spreading over 3.13 lakh sq. km 49 per cent of this, lies in Maharashtra, 20 per cent in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, and the rest in Andhra Pradesh.

Source: Class 11th NCERT

Q.6) The Kabini, the Bhavani and the Amravati are the tributaries of which of the following river?

- a) Godavari
- b) Kaveri
- c) Krishna
- d) Mahanadi

ANS: B

Explanation:

- The Kaveri rises in Brahmagiri hills (1,341m) of Kogadu district in Karnataka.
- Its length is 800 km and it drains an area of 81,155 sq. km.
- Since the upper catchment area receives rainfall during the southwest monsoon season (summer) and the lower part during the northeast monsoon season (winter), the river carries water throughout the year with comparatively less fluctuation than the other Peninsular rivers.
- About 3 per cent of the Kaveri basin falls in Kerala, 41 per cent in Karnataka and 56 per cent in Tamil Nadu.
- Its important tributaries are the Kabini, the Bhavani and the Amravati.

Source: Class 11th NCERT

Q.7) Consider the following rivers:

- 1. Mahi
- 2. Vaitarna
- 3. Sharavati

How many of the rivers mentioned above are east flowing?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All Three
- d) None

ANS: D

Explanation:

- Majority of the rivers in the country flow east to join the Bay of Bengal, while a few rivers defy the odds and flow west! The Arabian Sea is the final destination of these west-flowing rivers.
- Peninsular River flowing towards the west has short courses and most of these rivers are originates on Western Ghats.
- The important peninsular rivers flowing towards the west are Sabarmati, Mahi, Shetrunji, Bhadra (Bhadar), Vaitarna, Kalindi, Bedti, Sharavati, Bharsthpuzha, Periyar and Pamba.
- These rivers cover in the states of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala and hence they are only drainage system other than rainwater for their agricultural activities.

Source: Class 11th NCERT

Q.8) Which of the following is NOT a Major River Basin?

- a) Barak
- b) Periyar
- c) Meghna
- d) Both (a) and (b)

ANS: A

Explanation: On the basis of the size of the watershed, the drainage basins of India are grouped into three categories:

- Major river basins with more than 20,000 sq. km of catchment area. It includes 14 drainage basins such as the Ganga, the Brahmaputra, the Krishna, the Tapi, the Narmada, the Mahi, the Pennar, the Sabarmati, the Barak, etc.
- Medium river basins with catchment area between 2,000-20,000 sq. km incorporating 44 river basins such as the Kalindi, the Periyar, the Meghna, etc.
- Minor river basins with catchment area of less than 2,000 sq. km include a fairly good number of rivers flowing in the area of low rainfall.

Source: Class 11th NCERT

Q.9) Which of the following rivers is not included in 'Panchnad'?

- a) Satluj
- b) Ravi
- c) Indus
- d) Jhelum

ANS: C

Explanation: The Indus System

- The Indus receives a number of Himalayan tributaries such as the Shyok, the Gilgit, the Zaskar, the Hunza, the Nubra, the Shigar, the Gasting and the Dras.
- It finally emerges out of the hills near Attock where it receives the Kabul river on its right bank.
- The other important tributaries joining the right bank of the Indus are the Khurram, the Tochi, the Gomal, the Viboa and the Sangar. They all originate in the Sulaiman ranges.
- The river flows southward and receives 'Panjnad' a little above Mithankot. The Panjnad is the name given to the five rivers of Punjab, namely the Satluj, the Beas, the Ravi, the Chenab and the Jhelum.
- It finally discharges into the Arabian Sea, east of Karachi.
- The Indus flows in India only through Jammu and Kashmir.

Source: Class 11th NCERT

Q.10) Which of the following river flows through the “Wular Lake”?

- a) Indus
- b) Chenab
- c) Shyok
- d) Jhelum

ANS: D

Explanation:

The Jhelum, an important tributary of the Indus, rises from a spring at Verinag situated at the foot of the Pir Panjal in the south-eastern part of the valley of Kashmir. It flows through Srinagar and the Wular Lake before entering Pakistan through a deep narrow gorge. It joins the Chenab near Jhang in Pakistan.

Source: Class 11th NCERT

Geography – Weather & Climate

Q.1) Consider the following factors determining the climate of India:

1. Relief
2. The Himalayan Mountains
3. Distribution of Land and water
4. Altitude

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All four

ANS: D

Explanation: India's climate is controlled by a number of factors which can be broadly divided into two groups — factors related to location and relief are latitude, presence of the Himalayan mountains, distribution of land and water and distance from the sea, and factors related to air pressure and winds.

Source: Class 11th NCERT

Q.2) Which of the following influences the weather in Summer season in India?

1. Surface pressure and winds
2. Jet streams
3. Tropical cyclones

Choose the correct answer from the given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Mechanism of Weather in Summer Season

Surface Pressure and Winds

- The wind circulation over the subcontinent experiences a complete reversal when the sun moves northwards at both the lower and upper altitudes
- By the middle of July, the low-pressure belt near the surface [known as the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ)] had shifted northwards, nearly parallel to the Himalayas between 20° and 25° north latitude
- The westerly jet stream had left the Indian subcontinent at this time
- The northward shift of the equatorial trough (ITCZ) and the withdrawal of the westerly jet stream from across the North Indian Plain are intertwined
- ITCZ is a low-pressure zone that attracts marine tropical air mass from the southern hemisphere, which rushes to the low-pressure area in a generally south-westerly direction after crossing the equator
- The southwest monsoon is the term used to describe this wet air circulation

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, [THIRD WEEK] 2023

- The troposphere is the only place where pressure and winds are formed
- In June, an easterly jet stream passes across the southern tip of the Peninsula
- It is restricted to 15°N latitudes in August and up to 22°N latitudes in September
- In the upper atmosphere, easterlies generally do not extend north of 30°N latitude

Easterly Jet Stream and Tropical Cyclones

- Tropical depressions are steered into India by the easterly jet stream
- These depressions influence the distribution of monsoon rainfall throughout the Indian subcontinent
- The areas of maximum rain in India are the tracks of these depressions
- The regularity with which these depressions pass across India and their direction and severity all affect the rainfall pattern during the southwest monsoon season

Source: Class 11th NCERT

Q.3) Which of the following hills receive the maximum precipitation?

- a) Garo Hills
- b) Khasi Hills
- c) Nilgiri Hills
- d) Jaintia Hills

ANS: B

Explanation: Variations are noticeable not only in the type of precipitation but also in its amount. While Cherrapunji and Mawsynram in the Khasi Hills of Meghalaya receive rainfall over 1,080 cm in a year, Jaisalmer in Rajasthan rarely gets more than 9 cm of rainfall during the same period. Tura situated in the Garo Hills of Meghalaya may receive an amount of rainfall in a single day which is equal to 10 years of rainfall at Jaisalmer. While the annual precipitation is less than 10 cm in the northwest Himalayas and the western deserts, it exceeds 400 cm in Meghalaya.

Source: Class 11th NCERT

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ):

1. It is a high-pressure zone located near to the equator.
2. It is a zone where air tends to ascend.
3. In July, ITCZ is located around 20-25 degree South.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All Three
- d) None of the above

ANS: A

Explanation: The Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) is a low-pressure zone located at the equator where trade winds converge, and so, it is a zone where air tends to ascend.

- In July, the ITCZ is located around 20°N-25°N latitudes (over the Gangetic plain), sometimes called the monsoon trough.
- This monsoon trough encourages the development of thermal low over north and northwest India.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, [THIRD WEEK] 2023

- Due to the shift of ITCZ, the trade winds of the southern hemisphere cross the equator between 40° and 60°E longitudes and start blowing from southwest to northeast due to the Coriolis force.
- It becomes southwest monsoon. In winter, the ITCZ moves southward, and so the reversal of winds from northeast to south and southwest takes place. They are called northeast monsoons.

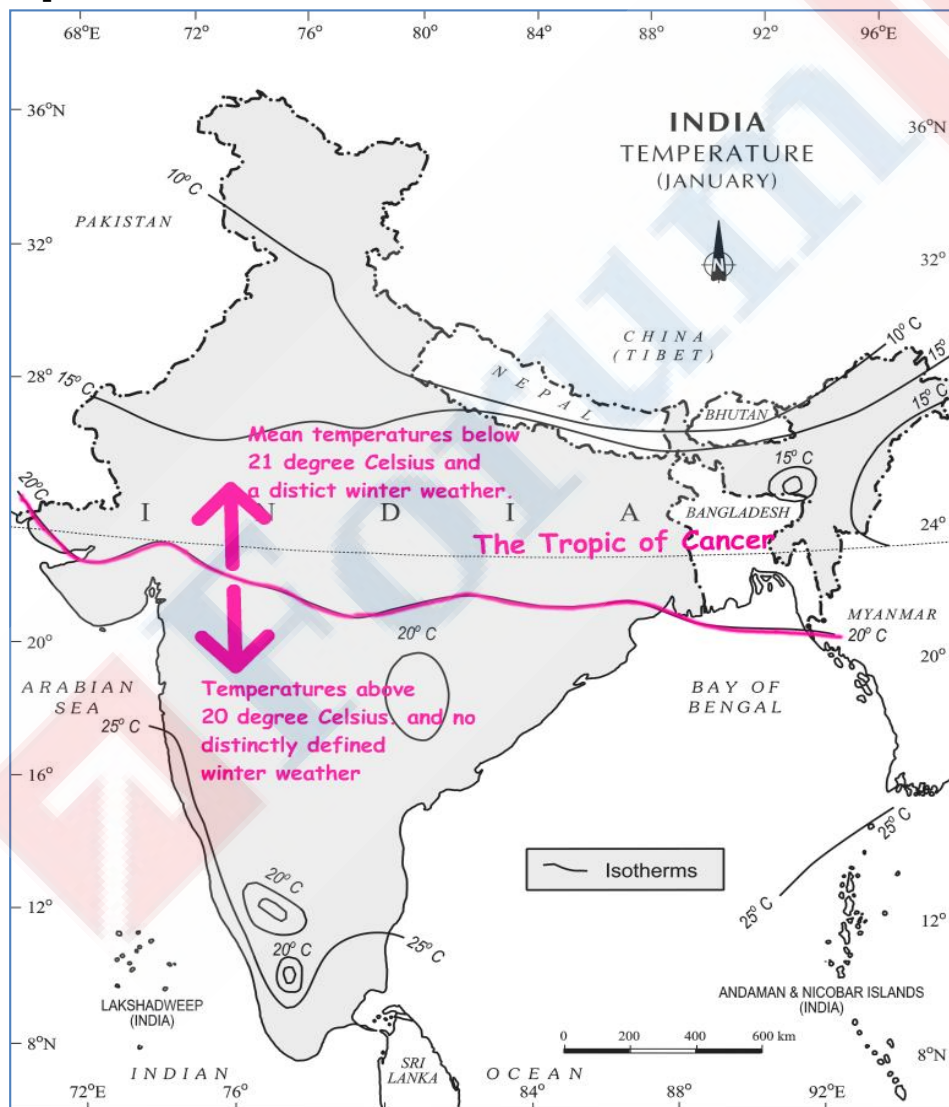
Source: Class 11th NCERT

Q.5) Which Isotherm divides India in almost two halves during winters?

- 5°C
- 20°C
- 15°C
- 35°C

ANS: B

Explanation:



Source: Class 11th NCERT

Q.6) “Blossom Shower” is a local weather phenomenon is related to which of the following state?

- a) Punjab
- b) Kerala
- c) West Bengal
- d) Rajasthan

ANS: B

Explanation: Some Famous Local Storms of Hot Weather Season

(i) Mango Shower: Towards the end of summer, there are pre-monsoon showers which are a common phenomena in Kerala and coastal areas of Karnataka. Locally, they are known as mango showers since they help in the early ripening of mangoes.

(ii) Blossom Shower: With this shower, coffee flowers blossom in Kerala and nearby areas.

(iii) Nor Westers: These are dreaded evening thunderstorms in Bengal and Assam. Their notorious nature can be understood from the local nomenclature of ‘Kalbaisakhi’, a calamity of the month of Baisakh. These showers are useful for tea, jute and rice cultivation. In Assam, these storms are known as “Bardoisila”.

(iv) Loo: Hot, dry and oppressing winds blowing in the Northern plains from Punjab to Bihar with higher intensity between Delhi and Patna

Source: Class 11th NCERT

Q.7) Which of the following is/are reason/reasons for excessive cold in North India?

- 1. Far away from influence of Sea
- 2. Snowfall in nearby Himalayan ranges
- 3. Cold winds coming from the Caspian Sea

Choose the correct answer from the given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: There are three main reasons for the excessive cold in north India during this season:

- States like Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan being far away from the moderating influence of sea experience continental climate.
- The snowfall in the nearby Himalayan ranges creates cold wave situation; and
- Around February, the cold winds coming from the Caspian Sea and Turkmenistan bring cold wave along with frost and fog over the northwestern parts of India.

Source: Class 11th NCERT

Q.8) In which of the following states in India do we find 'E' type of climate as per Koeppen's classification?

- a) Arunachal Pradesh
- b) Jammu and Kashmir
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Western Ghats

ANS: B

Explanation:

Table 4.1 : Climatic Regions of India According to Koeppen's Scheme

<i>Type of Climate</i>	<i>Areas</i>
Amw Monsoon with short dry season As - Monsoon with dry summer Aw - Tropical savannah BShw - Semi-arid steppe climate	West coast of India south of Goa Coromandel coast of Tamil Nadu Most of the Peninsular plateaus, south of the Tropic of Cancer North-western Gujarat, some parts of western Rajasthan and Punjab
BWhw - Hot desert Cwg - Monsoon with dry winter	Extreme western Rajasthan Ganga plain, eastern Rajasthan, northern Madhya Pradesh, most of North-east India
Dfc - Cold humid winter with short summer E - Polar type	Arunachal Pradesh Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand

Source: Class 11th NCERT

Q.9) Consider the following statements:

1. The tropical zone experiences high temperatures throughout the year with high daily and annual range.
2. The temperate zone experiences extreme climate with small daily and annual range of temperature.

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

Explanation: The Tropic of Cancer passes through the central part of India in east-west direction.

- Thus, northern part of the India lies in sub-tropical and temperate zone and the part lying south of the Tropic of Cancer falls in the tropical zone.
- The tropical zone, being nearer to the equator, experiences high temperatures throughout the year with a small daily and annual range.
- Area north of the Tropic of Cancer being away from the equator, experiences extreme climate with high daily and annual range of temperature.

Source: Class 11th NCERT

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding El-Nino:

1. It involves both oceanic and atmospheric phenomena.
2. It is merely an extension of the warm equatorial current which gets replaced temporarily by cold Peruvian current.
3. It increases the temperature of water on the Peruvian coast by 10°C

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All Three
- d) None of the above

ANS: C

Explanation: El-Nino is a complex weather system that appears once every three to seven years, bringing drought, floods and other weather extremes to different parts of the world.

- The system involves oceanic and atmospheric phenomena with the appearance of warm currents off the coast of Peru in the Eastern Pacific and affects weather in many places including India.
- El-Nino is merely an extension of the warm equatorial current which gets replaced temporarily by cold Peruvian current or Humbolt current.
- These current increases the temperature of water on the Peruvian coast by 10°C.

Source: Class 11th NCERT

Geography – Soils & Distribution

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding Alluvial Soils:

1. These soils are depositional soils.
2. These soils cover about 60% of the total area of the country.
3. These soils are not found in peninsular region.

How many of the statements given above is/are not correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All Three
- d) None of the above

ANS: B

Explanation: Alluvial Soils

- Alluvial soils are widespread in the northern plains and the river valleys. This soil covers about 40 per cent of the total area of the country.
- They are depositional soils, transported and deposited by rivers and streams.
- Through a narrow corridor in Rajasthan, they extend into the plains of Gujarat.
- In the Peninsular region, they are found in deltas of the east coast and in the river valleys.

Source: Class 11th NCERT

Q.2) Which of the following is the other name for Black Soil?

- a) Usara Soil
- b) Self-ploughing Soil
- c) Bhangar Soil
- d) Khadar Soil

ANS: B

Explanation: Black Soil

- The black soil is generally clayey, deep and impermeable. They swell and become sticky when wet and shrink when dried.
- So, during the dry season, these soils develop wide cracks. Thus, there occurs a kind of 'self-ploughing'.
- Because of this slow absorption and loss of moisture, the black soil retains the moisture for a very long time, which helps the crops, especially the rain fed ones, to sustain even during the dry season.

Source: Class 11th NCERT

Q.3) What is the reason of Red soils being reddish in color?

- a) Overgrazing
- b) The presence of potash and magnesia
- c) Due to the presence of iron
- d) None of these

ANS: C

Explanation: Red soil is red in color because of high content of Iron Oxide (Fe₂O₃).

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, [THIRD WEEK] 2023

- It is a type of soil that develops in a warm, temperate, moist climate under deciduous or mixed forest.
- These are generally derived from crystalline rock.
- These soils develop a reddish color due to diffusion of iron in crystalline and metamorphic rocks. It appears yellow when it occurs in a hydrated form.
- Red soils are usually poor growing soils, deficient in lime, magnesia, phosphates, nitrogen, and humus and difficult to cultivate because of its low water holding capacity.

Source: Class 11th NCERT

Q.4) What is the name given when sand particles are found in alluvial soil?

- a) Lome
- b) Kallar
- c) Khanjar
- d) None of these

ANS: A

Explanation: Sand particles are found in alluvial soil known as lome soil.

Kallar is the name given to saline and alkaline soils in Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh.

Source: Class 11th NCERT

Q.5) Which of the following is not a reason of Soil Erosion?

- a) Weathering
- b) Grazing
- c) Drainage
- d) Deforestation

ANS: A

Explanation: Weathering is a natural process of disintegration of rocks. This leads to the formation of soil rather than erosion.

Source: Class 11th NCERT

Q.6) In which of the following areas, Extensive Subsistence Agriculture is practiced?

- a) Thickly Populated Areas
- b) Slopes of Western Ghats
- c) Thinly Populated Areas
- d) Forests of Equatorial Region

ANS: C

Explanation: Extensive subsistence agriculture is farming in the thinly populated areas. An agricultural technique where a vast expanse of land is cultivated to yield minimal output of crops and animals for the primary consumption of the grower's family. Subsistence farmers grow any crops that are native to the land.

Source: Class 11th NCERT

Q.7) Which of the following term is used for the soil rich in calcium?

- a) Pedocal
- b) Pedalfer
- c) Podzol
- d) Laterite

ANS: A

Explanation: Pedocal is made up of two words pedo+cal here 'pedo' means soil and 'cal' means calcium i.e. soils which are rich in calcium are termed as pedocals.

Source: Class 11th NCERT

Q.8) Grai Soil, like the Ash of Pine Forest, is also knows as

- a) Red and peat soil
- b) Tundra soil
- c) Podzol
- d) Gray soil

ANS: C

Explanation: Podzol soils are also called lessive soils .These are mountain soils characterized by moderate leaching. These are ash grey in color.

Source: Class 11th NCERT

Q.9) Which of the following term is used for the transfer of minerals from top soil to subsoil?

- a) Percolation
- b) Conduction
- c) Leaching
- d) Transpiration

ANS: C

Explanation: Leaching is the process by which the loss (or) extraction of essential material (like micro & macro nutrients) of soil occurs. It may be done through water, wind (or) other agents.

Source: Class 11th NCERT

Q.10) Under which climatic conditions do the laterite soils develop?

- a) Wet tropical Climate
- b) Hot and dry Climate
- c) Cold temperature Climate
- d) Mediterranean type of Climate

ANS: A

Explanation: Under Wet tropical Climate the laterite soils develop. The laterite soil is formed under conditions of high temperature and heavy rainfall with alternate wet and dry periods, which leads to leaching of soil, leaving only oxides of iron and aluminum.

Source: Class 11th NCERT

Geography

Q.1) Consider the following Tiger Reserves:

1. Kawal Tiger Reserve
2. Bhandavgarh Tiger Reserve
3. Pilibhit Tiger Reserve
4. Orang Tiger Reserve

Arrange the above given tiger reserves in a north to south direction.

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

ANS: A

Explanation:



Source: Class 11th NCERT

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding “Nallamala forest”:

1. It is spread across Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka.
2. Kurumbas, a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) lives in this forest.
3. Another important Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) in the area is known as Chenchus.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None of the above

ANS: A

Explanation: Nallamala forest is spread across five districts in Andhra Pradesh and two erstwhile districts in Telangana – Mahabubnagar and Nalgonda.

- The exploration in the region has particularly triggered concerns about the Chenchus, a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) in Telangana, who already are witnessing a decline in their population.
- According to the 2011 Census, their population is 16,912. Most of them reside deep in the Nallamala forest.

Source: Class 11th NCERT

Q.3) Tendu, palas, amaltas, bel, khair, axlewood, etc. are the common trees of which of the following forests?

- a) Tropical dry deciduous
- b) Tropical evergreen
- c) Temperate grasslands
- d) Montane forests

ANS: A

Explanation: Tendu, palas, amaltas, bel, khair, axlewood, etc. are the common trees of tropical dry deciduous forests.

Source: Class 11th NCERT

Q.4) How many of the following pair (s) is/are incorrectly matched?

Lake/wet land	:	Associated State
1. Lonar Lake	:	Madhya Pradesh
2. Keetham Lake	:	Maharashtra
3. Kabartal	:	Bihar

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None of the above

ANS: B

Explanation:

Ramsar Sites in India are wetlands or similar sites of international significance to conserve and ensure sustainable use of its resources. The Wetlands in India are called Ramsar Sites after they

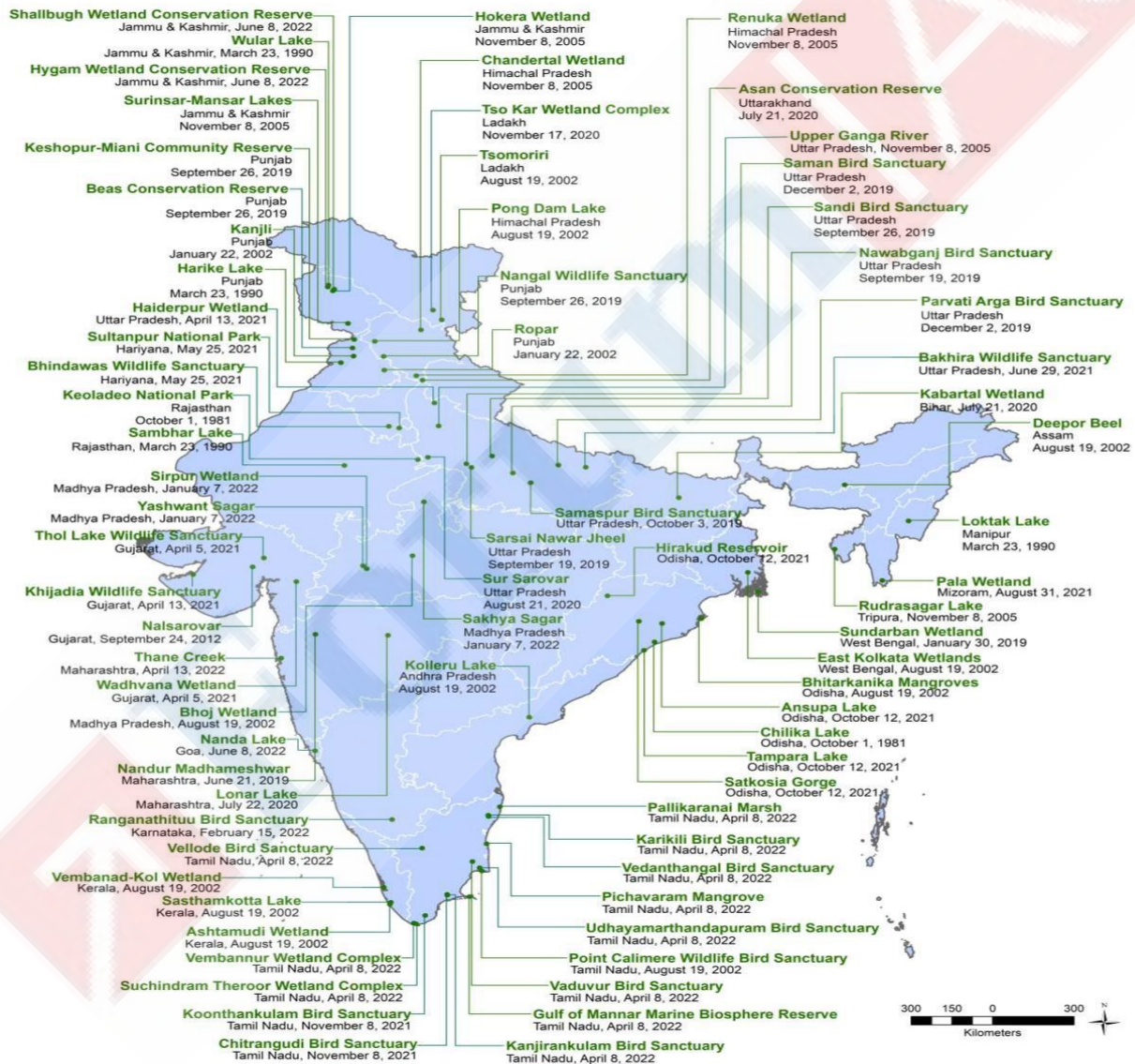
PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, [THIRD WEEK] 2023

are listed under the Ramsar Convention. The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands has tight criteria in place to safeguard these wetlands.

Wetlands in India are locations where water plays a major role in regulating the environment and the plant and animal life it supports. They are found where the water table is at or near the land's surface or where it's submerged. Ramsar Sites in India 2023 now include 75 wetlands across the country covering an area of 13,26,677 ha. There are a total of 75 Ramsar sites in India as of January 2023.



Ramsar Sites of India



Source: Class 11th NCERT

Created with love ❤️ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.



Q.5) The “Project Tiger” – was launched in which year to protect the tigers?

- a) 1968
- b) 1972
- c) 1973
- d) 1993

ANS: C

Explanation: Project Tiger has been implemented since 1973. The main objective of the scheme is to ensure maintenance of viable population of tigers in India for scientific, aesthetic, cultural and ecological values, and to preserve areas of biological importance as natural heritage for the benefit, education and enjoyment of the people.

Source: Class 11th NCERT

Q.6) Which of the following forests have the characteristic of no definite time for trees to shed their leaves, flowering and fruition?

- a) Tropical dry deciduous
- b) Tropical evergreen
- c) Temperate grasslands
- d) Montane forests

ANS: B

Explanation: Tropical evergreen forests are well stratified, with layers closer to the ground and are covered with shrubs and creepers, with short structured trees followed by tall variety of trees.

- In these forests, trees reach great heights up to 60 m or above.
- There is no definite time for trees to shed their leaves, flowering and fruition.

Source: Class 11th NCERT

Q.7) The temperate forests are called Sholas are found in which of the following region?

- a) North East Himalayan range
- b) Northern Himalayas
- c) Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- d) Western Ghats

ANS: D

Explanation: The southern mountain forests include the forests found in three distinct areas of Peninsular India viz; the Western Ghats, the Vindhyas and the Nilgiris.

- As they are closer to the tropics, and only 1,500 m above the sea level, vegetation is temperate in the higher regions and subtropical on the lower regions of the Western Ghats, especially in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.
- The temperate forests are called Sholas in the Nilgiris, Anaimalai and Palani hills.

Source: Class 11th NCERT

Q.8) Consider the following statements:

1. The Himalayan ranges show a succession of vegetation from the tropical to the tundra, which change in with the altitude.
2. Deodar, a highly valued endemic species grows mainly in the western part of the Himalayan range.

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Himalayan ranges show a succession of vegetation from the tropical to the tundra, which change in with the altitude. Deciduous forests are found in the foothills of the Himalayas.

- It is succeeded by the wet temperate type of forests between altitudes of 1,000-2,000 m.
- In the higher hill ranges of northeastern India, hilly areas of West Bengal and Uttaranchal, evergreen broad leaf trees such as oak and chestnut are predominant.
- Between 1,500-1,750 m, pine forests are also well-developed in this zone, with Chir Pine as a very useful commercial tree.
- Deodar, a highly valued endemic species grows mainly in the western part of the Himalayan range. Deodar is a durable wood mainly used in construction activity.

Source: Class 11th NCERT

Q.9) Which of the following tribe does NOT practice the transhumance?

- a) The Gujjars
- b) The Bakarwals
- c) The Bhotiyas
- d) The Koyas

ANS: D

Explanation: At many places of Himalayan Montane forests, temperate grasslands are also found.

- But in the higher reaches there is a transition to Alpine forests and pastures.
- Silver firs, junipers, pines, birch and rhododendrons, etc. occur between 3,000-4,000 m.
- However, these pastures are used extensively for transhumance by tribes like the Gujjars, the Bakarwals, the Bhotiyas and the Gaddis.

Source: Class 11th NCERT

Q.10) Which of the following forests are grown in less than 50cm rainfall?

- a) Montane forests
- b) Thorn forests
- c) Littoral and Swamp forests
- d) Tropical Deciduous forests

ANS: B

Explanation: Tropical thorn forests occur in the areas which receive rainfall less than 50 cm.

- These consist of a variety of grasses and shrubs.
- It includes semi-arid areas of south west Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

Source: Class 11th NCERT

Geography – Economic Geography

Q.1) In how many of the area/areas gathering economic activity is/are practiced?

1. Northern Eurasia
2. Southern Chile
3. Tropical Africa

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None of the above

ANS: C

Explanation: Gathering is practiced in regions with harsh climatic conditions. It often involves primitive societies, who extract both plants and animals to satisfy their needs for food, shelter and clothing. This type of activity requires a small amount of capital investment and operates at very low level of technology. The yield per person is very low and little or no surplus is produced. Gathering is practiced in:

- high latitude zones which include northern Canada, northern Eurasia and southern Chile;
- Low latitude zones such as the Amazon Basin, tropical Africa, Northern fringe of Australia and the interior parts of Southeast Asia

Source: NCERT XII- Fundamental of Human Geography

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

1. It is carried on temporary parcels/ranches.
2. The parcels/ranches are fenced to regulate grazing.
3. It is a specialized activity in which only one type of animal is reared.

How many of the above statements is/are the characteristics of commercial livestock ranching/farming?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None of the above

ANS: B

Explanation: Unlike nomadic herding, commercial livestock rearing is more organised and capital intensive.

- Commercial livestock ranching is essentially associated with western cultures and is practised on permanent ranches.
- These ranches cover large areas and are divided into a number of parcels, which are fenced to regulate the grazing.
- When the grass of one parcel is grazed, animals are moved to another parcel. The number of animals in a pasture is kept according to the carrying capacity of the pasture.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, [THIRD WEEK] 2023

- This is a specialized activity in which only one type of animal is reared. Important animals include sheep, cattle, goats and horses.
- Products such as meat, wool, hides and skin are processed and packed scientifically and exported to different world markets.

Source: NCERT XII - Fundamental of Human Geography

Q.3) “Ladang” is a slash and burn agriculture practice is practiced in which of the following region?

- India
- Indonesia
- Mexico
- South Sudan

ANS: B

Explanation: The vegetation is usually cleared by fire, and the ashes add to the fertility of the soil. Shifting cultivation is thus, also called slash and burn agriculture.

- The cultivated patches are very small and cultivation is done with very primitive tools such as sticks and hoes.
- After sometime (3 to 5 years) the soil loses its fertility and the farmer shifts to another parts and clears other patch of the forest for cultivation.
- The farmer may return to the earlier patch after sometime. One of the major problems of shifting cultivation is that the cycle of jhum becomes less and less due to loss of fertility in different parcels.
- It is prevalent in tropical region in different names, e.g. Jhuming in North eastern states of India, Milpa in Central America and Mexico and Ladang in Indonesia and Malaysia.

Source: NCERT XII- Fundamental of Human Geography

Q.4) The Ruhr coal field is associated with which of the following?

- Italy
- USA
- Australia
- Germany

ANS: D

Explanation: The Ruhr Coal-field, Germany has been one of the major industrial regions of Europe for a long time.

- Coal and iron and steel formed the basis of the economy, but as the demand for coal declined, the industry started shrinking.
- Even after the iron ore was exhausted, the industry remained, using imported ore brought by waterways to the Ruhr.
- The Ruhr region is responsible for 80 per cent of Germany’s total steel production.

Source: NCERT XII- Fundamental of Human Geography

Q.5) Viticulture is a specialty of which of the following region?

- a) Tundra region
- b) Mediterranean region
- c) Polar region
- d) Northern Plains

ANS: B

Explanation: Viticulture or grape cultivation is a specialty of the Mediterranean region.

- Best quality wines in the world with distinctive flavors are produced from high quality grapes in various countries of this region.
- The inferior grapes are dried into raisins and currants. This region also produces olives and figs.
- The advantage of Mediterranean agriculture is that more valuable crops such as fruits and vegetables are grown in winters when there is great demand in European and North American markets.

Source: NCERT XII- Fundamental of Human Geography

Q.6) The term “ranching” is associated with which of the following?

- a) Conservation Agriculture Practices
- b) Plantation methods
- c) Social forestry
- d) Rearing animals

ANS: D

Explanation: Rearing of animals in ranching is organized on a scientific basis. The main emphasis is on breeding, genetic improvement, disease control and health care of the animals. New Zealand, Australia, Argentina, Uruguay and United States of America are important countries where commercial livestock rearing is practiced.

Source: NCERT XII- Fundamental of Human Geography

Q.7) Consider the following animals:

1. Donkeys
2. llamas
3. Bullocks

How many of the above mentioned animal (s) is/are examples of pack animal(s)?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None of the above

ANS: C

Explanation: A pack animal is a type of animal used by humans to carry heavy loads. These animals carry goods and supplies upon their backs across long distances or difficult terrain.

- They are not to be confused with draft animals, which pull weight on a cart or sled. The use of animals to carry cargo dates as far back as 3500 BC.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, [THIRD WEEK] 2023

- Historical evidence suggests that donkeys have served as pack animals for longer than any other species. Other types of common pack animals include camels, yaks, horses, llamas, oxen, and water buffalos.
- Mules are preferred in the mountainous regions; while camels are used for caravan movement in deserts. In India, bullocks are used for pulling carts.

Source: NCERT XII- Fundamental of Human Geography

Q.8) Consider the following crops:

1. Pineapple
2. Cotton
3. Sugarcane

How many of the crops mentioned above are practiced as plantation crop?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None of the above

ANS: C

Explanation: Plantation agriculture as mentioned above was introduced by the Europeans in colonies situated in the tropics. Some of the important plantation crops are tea, coffee, cocoa, rubber, cotton, oil palm, sugarcane, bananas and pineapples.

Source: NCERT XII- Fundamental of Human Geography

Q.9) The process of migration from plain areas to pastures on mountains during summers and again from mountain pastures to plain areas during winters is known as?

- a) Displacement
- b) In Migration
- c) Out Migration
- d) Transhumance

ANS: D

Explanation: Movement in search of pastures is undertaken either over vast horizontal distances or vertically from one elevation to another in the mountainous regions.

- The process of migration from plain areas to pastures on mountains during summers and again from mountain pastures to plain areas during winters is known as transhumance.
- In mountain regions, such as Himalayas, Gujjars, Bakarwals, Gaddis and Bhotiyas migrate from plains to the mountains in summers and to the plains from the high altitude pastures in winters.
- Similarly, in the tundra regions, the nomadic herders move from south to north in summers and from north to south in winters.

Source: NCERT XII- Fundamental of Human Geography

Q.10) People engaged in primary activities are called as which type of workers?

- a) Red collar workers
- b) White collar workers
- c) Pink collar workers
- d) Blue collar workers

ANS: A

Explanation: People engaged in primary activities are called red collar workers due to the outdoor nature of their work.

Source: NCERT XII- Fundamental of Human Geography

Geography – Revision

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding the Dharwar Rock System:

1. It is the first metamorphic sedimentary rocks in India.
2. They were first studied in Dharwar region of Karnataka.
3. The Dharwar rocks are rich in iron ore, manganese, lead, zinc, gold and silver.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None of the above

ANS: C

Explanation:

- Dharwar system is later than the Archean system but older than the other systems.
- The Dharwar period of rock formation has been largely fixed from 2500 million years ago to 1800 million years ago.
- Dharwar Rock System is special because it is the first metamorphic sedimentary rocks in India.
- They are named Dharwar system because they were first studied in Dharwar region of Karnataka.
- But they are also found in Aravallis, Tamil Nadu, Chota-nagpur plateau, Meghalaya, Delhi, and the Himalayas region.
- The Dharwar rocks are rich in iron ore, manganese, lead, zinc, gold, silver etc.

Source: NCERT

Q.2) Which of the following city is not under “Very low damage risk zone of Earthquake”?

- a) Raipur
- b) Chennai
- c) Bengaluru
- d) Hyderabad

ANS: B

Explanation:

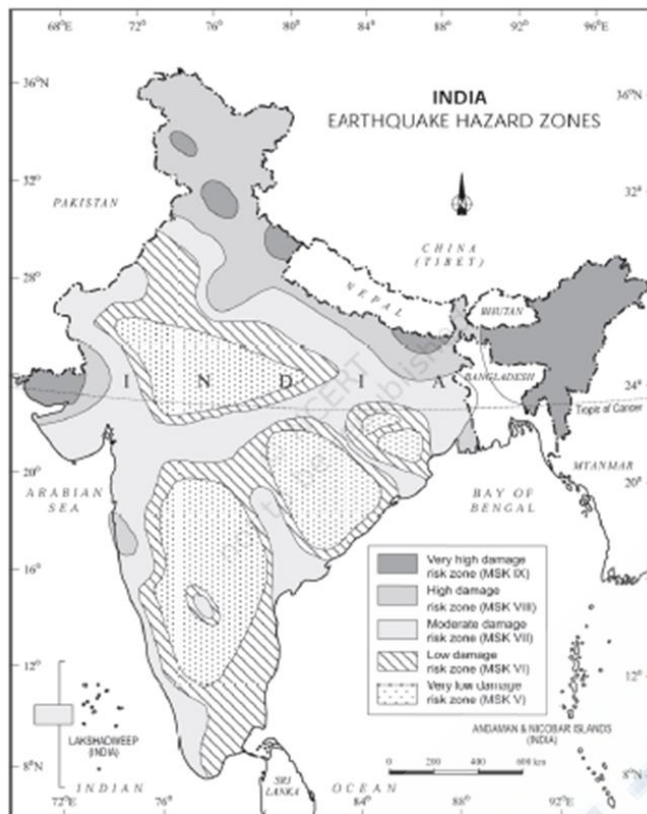


Figure 7.2 : India: Earthquake Hazard Zones

Source: NCERT

Q.3) Which of the following statements about tropical cyclone is/are correct?

1. The centre of the cyclone is mostly a cold and high-pressure, cloudless core.
2. Generally, the isobars are closely placed to each other showing high-pressure gradients.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Structure of Tropical Cyclone Tropical cyclones are characterised by large pressure gradients. The centre of the cyclone is mostly a warm and low-pressure, cloudless core known as eye of the storm. Generally, the isobars are closely placed to each other showing high-pressure gradients. Normally, it varies between 14-17mb/100 km, but sometimes it can be as high as 60mb/100km. Expansion of the wind belt is about 10-150 km from the centre.

Source: NCERT

Q.4) Consider the following pairs:

Type----- Natural Disaster

1. Terrestrial---Subsidence
2. Biological --- Insects infestation
3. Aquatic ---- Tropical Cyclone
4. Atmospheric----Ocean Currents

How many of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- a) One pair only
- b) Two pairs only
- c) Three pairs only
- d) All Four pairs

ANS: B

Explanation:

<i>Atmospheric</i>	<i>Terrestrial</i>	<i>Aquatic</i>	<i>Biological</i>
Blizzards Thunderstorms Lightning Tornadoes Tropical Cyclone Drought Hailstorm Frost, Heat Wave or <i>Loo</i> .Cold Waves, etc.	Earthquakes Volcanic Eruptions Landslides Avalanches Subsidence Soil Erosion	Floods Tidal Waves Ocean Currents Storm Surge Tsunami	Plants and Animals as colonisers (Locusts, etc.). Insects infestation— fungal, bacterial and viral diseases such as bird flu, dengue, etc.

Source: NCERT

Q.5) Consider the following statements about Peaty Soil:

1. They are found in the areas of heavy rainfall and high humidity.
2. These soils are normally heavy and black in colour.

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Peaty Soils

- They are found in the areas of heavy rainfall and high humidity, where there is a good growth of vegetation.
- Thus, large quantity of dead organic matter accumulates in these areas, and this gives a rich humus and organic content to the soil.
- Organic matter in these soils may go even up to 40-50 per cent.
- These soils are normally heavy and black in colour. At many places, they are alkaline also. It occurs widely in the northern part of Bihar, southern part of Uttarakhand and the coastal areas of West Bengal, Odisha and Tamil Nadu.

Source: NCERT

Q.6) Which of the following soil is more suitable for tree crops like cashewnut?

- a) Black Soil
- b) Red and Yellow Soil
- c) Alluvial Soil
- d) Red Laterite soil

ANS: D

Explanation: Red laterite soils in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala are more suitable for tree crops like cashewnut. Laterite soils are widely cut as bricks for use in house construction. These soils have mainly developed in the higher areas of the Peninsular plateau. The laterite soils are commonly found in Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh and the hilly areas of Odisha and Assam.

Source: NCERT

Q.7) The term “Kayals” is associated with which of the following?

- a) Konkan Coast
- b) Kathiawar Coast
- c) Malabar Coast
- d) Goa Coast

ANS: C

Explanation: The Malabar coast has got certain distinguishing features in the form of ‘Kayals’ (backwaters), which are used for fishing, inland navigation and also due to its special attraction for tourists.

Source: NCERT – Indian Physical Environment

Q.8) The soils that cannot retain moisture and are infertile are the:

- a) Desert Sand
- b) Laterites
- c) Black Cotton Soil
- d) Alluvial Soil

ANS: A

Explanation: Desert Sands:

- Desert soils form in areas where the demand for water by the atmosphere (evaporation) and plants (transpiration) is much greater than precipitation.
- Deserts cover 20 to 33% of the Earth’s land surface and can be found in the tropics, at the poles, and in between.
- It has a low content of nitrogen and organic matter with very high calcium carbonate and phosphate, thus making it infertile.
- It thus is susceptible to wind erosion and supports a low density of population.
- Kankar or impure Calcium carbonate content is high which restricts the infiltration of water.

Sources: NCERT

Q.9) With reference to Reforestation, consider the following statements:

1. Reforestation is the establishment of trees in an area where no previous tree cover exists.
2. Reforestation can be used to rebuild natural habitats and mitigate global warming.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Reforestation:

- Reforestation is the natural or intentional restocking of existing forests that have been previously depleted or degraded.
- Reforestation can be used to rebuild natural habitats and ecosystems, mitigate global warming since forests facilitate bio-sequestration of atmospheric carbon dioxide, etc.
- Reforestation need not be only used for recovery of accidentally destroyed forests. It is also done intentionally. For e.g. in many countries where pulp and paper industry is dominant, trees are planted to replace those that have been cut down.

Sources: NCERT

Q.10) Which of the following statements is incorrect regarding Regur soils?

- a) These suit leguminous crops
- b) These are good for citrus fruits
- c) These are highly fertile
- d) Regur soils on uplands are more productive

ANS: D

Explanation: Regur soils:

- Black soils are essentially mature and fertile soils which have been produced by relief and climate, rather than by a particular type of rock. Chemically, the black soils are rich in lime, iron, magnesia, and alumina. Owing to their iron-rich granular structure makes them resistant to wind and water erosion. They are poor in humus yet highly moisture-retentive, thus responding well to irrigation. They also contain potash.
- This soil has been used for growing a variety of crops for centuries without adding fertilizers and manures, with little or no evidence of exhaustion. These soils are best suited for cotton crops. Hence these soils are called regur and black cotton soils. Other major crops grown on the black soils include leguminous crops, wheat, jowar, linseed, Virginia tobacco, castor, sunflower and millets.
- Rice and sugarcane are equally important where irrigation facilities are available. Large varieties of vegetables and fruits including citrus fruits are also successfully grown on the black soils.
- A typical black soil is highly argillaceous with a large clay factor, 62 percent or more. In general, black soils of uplands are of low fertility while those in the valleys are very fertile.

Sources: NCERT