

GENERAL AWARENESS – PHYSICAL, SOCIAL & ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY OF INDIA AND WORLD

Chapter: Physical, Social, and Economic Geography of India and World

Subject:	General Awareness – Geography
Total Questions:	70 MCQs
Question Type:	Multiple Choice (Single Correct Answer)
Exam Relevance:	UPSC, SSC CGL/CHSL, IBPS, RRB NTPC, State PSC, NDA, CDS, Defence Exams
Topics Covered:	Physical Geography, Rivers, Climate, Soils, Agriculture, Population, World Geography, National Parks
Based On:	Static GK + Latest Current Affairs 2024–2026

★ ■■ PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY OF INDIA – MOUNTAINS & RELIEF ★

Q1. The Himalayas are divided into three parallel ranges from north to south. Which is the correct order?

- A) Shiwaliks → Himachal → Himadri
- B) Himadri → Himachal → Shiwaliks
- C) Himachal → Himadri → Shiwaliks
- D) Shiwaliks → Himadri → Himachal

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Himadri → Himachal → Shiwaliks**

■ *Explanation: From north to south, the three parallel Himalayan ranges are: Himadri (Greater Himalayas – highest, avg 6000m), Himachal (Lesser Himalayas – Shimla, Mussoorie, Nainital), and Shiwaliks (Outer Himalayas – foothills, 600–1500m). The Himalayan ranges stretch ~2,400 km from Indus to Brahmaputra.*

Q2. The highest peak in India (located entirely within Indian territory) is:

- A) Kanchenjunga
- B) Nanda Devi
- C) K2 (Godwin-Austen)
- D) Kamet

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Nanda Devi**

■ *Explanation: Nanda Devi (7,816 m) in Uttarakhand is the highest peak entirely within India. Kanchenjunga (8,586 m) is higher but lies on the India-Nepal border. K2 (8,611 m) is in Pakistan-administered Kashmir and is the world's second highest peak.*

Q3. The Western Ghats run parallel to the west coast of India. The highest peak of the Western Ghats and of South India is:

- A) Doddabetta
- B) Makurti Peak
- C) Anamudi
- D) Brahmagiri

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Anamudi**

■ *Explanation: Anamudi (2,695 m) in the Anaimalai Hills of Kerala is the highest peak of the Western Ghats and peninsular India. It is often called the 'Everest of South India'. Doddabetta (2,637 m) is the highest in the Nilgiris.*

Q4. The Deccan Plateau is bounded by the Western Ghats on the west and Eastern Ghats on the east. The plateau slopes towards:

- A) West (towards Arabian Sea)
- B) East (towards Bay of Bengal)
- C) North (towards Vindhya range)
- D) South (towards Indian Ocean)

✓ **Correct Answer: B) East (towards Bay of Bengal)**

■ *Explanation: The Deccan Plateau slopes gently from west to east, which is why most major peninsular rivers (Godavari, Krishna, Mahanadi, Cauvery) flow eastward into the Bay of Bengal. The Western Ghats being higher (1000–2000m) than Eastern Ghats (600m avg) causes this eastward tilt.*

Q5. The Thar Desert (Great Indian Desert) is primarily located in which Indian state?

- A) Gujarat
- B) Haryana
- C) Rajasthan
- D) Punjab

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Rajasthan**

■ *Explanation: The Thar Desert (Great Indian Desert) is mainly located in western Rajasthan, extending into Gujarat, Punjab, and Haryana. The Luni is the only significant river in the Thar Desert region, which is characterised by sand dunes called barchans.*

Q6. The Aravalli Range — one of the world's oldest fold mountains — runs across which states?

- A) Rajasthan and Gujarat
- B) Rajasthan, Haryana, Delhi and Gujarat
- C) Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra
- D) Uttar Pradesh and Bihar

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Rajasthan, Haryana, Delhi and Gujarat**

■ *Explanation: The Aravalli Range, one of the world's oldest fold mountain systems, runs ~800 km from Gujarat through Rajasthan, Haryana, and Delhi. It acts as a climatic barrier preventing the Arabian Sea monsoon from reaching the Thar Desert region, but is mostly too low and broken to be fully effective.*

Q7. India's only active volcano is located at Barren Island, which is part of which Union Territory?

- A) Lakshadweep
- B) Puducherry
- C) Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- D) Dadra & Nagar Haveli

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Andaman & Nicobar Islands**

■ *Explanation: Barren Island in the Andaman Sea (part of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands UT) is India's only confirmed active volcano. The Andaman Islands are of volcanic origin, while Lakshadweep Islands are of coral origin (atolls).*

Q8. The Chota Nagpur Plateau is a major mineral-rich plateau located in which state and is called the 'Ruhr of India'?

- A) Chhattisgarh
- B) Madhya Pradesh
- C) Jharkhand
- D) Odisha

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Jharkhand**

■ *Explanation: The Chota Nagpur Plateau in Jharkhand is called the 'Ruhr of India' (after Germany's industrial Ruhr valley) because it is one of the richest mineral regions in Asia, containing vast deposits of coal, iron ore, manganese, bauxite, and mica.*

★ ■ RIVERS OF INDIA ★

Q9. The Ganga originates from which glacier in Uttarakhand?

- A) Siachen Glacier
- B) Zemu Glacier
- C) Gangotri Glacier
- D) Milam Glacier

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Gangotri Glacier**

■ *Explanation: The Ganga originates from the Gangotri Glacier in the Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand, emerging as the Bhagirathi river. It meets the Alaknanda river at Devprayag to form the Ganga. The river flows ~2,525 km before meeting the Bay of Bengal through the Sundarbans delta.*

Q10. The Brahmaputra river is known by which name in Tibet (China)?

- A) Jamuna
- B) Padma
- C) Tsangpo (Yarlung Tsangpo)
- D) Dihang

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Tsangpo (Yarlung Tsangpo)**

■ *Explanation: The Brahmaputra is called Yarlung Tsangpo in Tibet (China), Dihang/Siang when it enters India through Arunachal Pradesh, Brahmaputra in Assam, and Jamuna in Bangladesh. It forms the world's largest river island — Majuli — in Assam.*

Q11. The Godavari river, called the 'Ganga of the South' (Dakshin Ganga), originates from which state?

- A) Andhra Pradesh
- B) Maharashtra (Trimbakeshwar, Nashik)
- C) Telangana
- D) Karnataka

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Maharashtra (Trimbakeshwar, Nashik)**

■ *Explanation: The Godavari, the longest river in peninsular India (~1,465 km), originates from Trimbakeshwar near Nashik, Maharashtra. It flows eastward through Telangana and Andhra Pradesh before joining the Bay of Bengal. It is called the 'Ganga of the South'.*

Q12. Which river flows through the Palghat Gap (Palakkad Gap), the lowest pass in the Western Ghats?

- A) Krishna
- B) Cauvery
- C) Bharathapuzha (Nila River)
- D) Periyar

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Bharathapuzha (Nila River)**

■ *Explanation: The Bharathapuzha (also called Nila), Kerala's second-longest river, flows through the Palghat (Palakkad) Gap — the lowest pass (~150m) in the Western Ghats. This gap is significant because it allows moisture-laden southwest monsoon winds to reach Tamil Nadu.*

Q13. The Narmada and Tapi rivers are unique because they flow in the opposite direction to most peninsular rivers. They flow:

- A) Northward into the Ganga
- B) Westward into the Arabian Sea through rift valleys
- C) Eastward into the Bay of Bengal
- D) Southward into the Indian Ocean

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Westward into the Arabian Sea through rift valleys**

■ *Explanation: The Narmada and Tapi (Tapti) are exceptions among peninsular rivers — they flow westward into the Arabian Sea through tectonic rift valleys (faults). The Narmada forms a spectacular gorge at Marble Rocks (Bhedaghat) near Jabalpur and a waterfall at Dhuandhar.*

Q14. The Indira Gandhi Canal (world's longest canal system), which irrigates Rajasthan's Thar Desert, draws water from which rivers?

- A) Ganga and Yamuna
- B) Ravi and Chenab
- C) Sutlej and Beas (via Harike Barrage)
- D) Narmada and Tapi

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Sutlej and Beas (via Harike Barrage)**

■ *Explanation: The Indira Gandhi Canal (formerly Rajasthan Canal), at ~650 km the longest canal system in India, draws water from the Sutlej and Beas rivers at the Harike Barrage in Punjab. It has transformed arid Rajasthan into fertile agricultural land.*

Q15. Which Indian river creates the world's largest river delta — the Sundarbans?

- A) Mahanadi
- B) Ganga and Brahmaputra (combined)
- C) Godavari
- D) Krishna

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Ganga and Brahmaputra (combined)**

■ *Explanation: The Sundarbans delta — the world's largest river delta (~80,000 sq km) — is formed by the combined Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna river system in West Bengal and Bangladesh. It is also the world's largest mangrove forest and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.*

Q16. India's climate is classified as 'tropical monsoon type'. The word 'monsoon' is derived from which language?

- A) Sanskrit – 'monsun' meaning seasons
- B) Arabic – 'mausim' meaning season/weather
- C) Portuguese – 'monção' meaning wind
- D) Dutch – 'monsson' meaning heavy rain

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Arabic – 'mausim' meaning season/weather**

■ *Explanation: The word 'monsoon' is derived from the Arabic word 'mausim' meaning season. The Indian Monsoon is divided into: Southwest Monsoon (June–September, brings 80% of India's annual rainfall) and Northeast Monsoon (October–December, brings rain mainly to Tamil Nadu and SE coasts).*

★ ■■ CLIMATE OF INDIA ★

Q17. Mawsynram in Meghalaya receives the highest annual rainfall in the world. Which of the following is the reason?

- A) Proximity to the Bay of Bengal cyclones
- B) Funnel-shaped topography and orographic rainfall from the southwest monsoon
- C) Dense forest cover causing condensation
- D) Location on the Western Ghats

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Funnel-shaped topography and orographic rainfall from the southwest monsoon**

■ *Explanation: Mawsynram (and nearby Cherrapunji/Sohra) in Meghalaya receive the world's highest rainfall (~11,872 mm/year) because the funnel-shaped hills force moisture-laden southwest monsoon winds to rise rapidly, causing intense orographic (relief) rainfall. The Khasi Hills' orientation magnifies this effect.*

Q18. Which cold ocean current reduces rainfall on the western coast of South Africa and causes fog along the Namib Desert?

- A) Benguela Current
- B) Agulhas Current
- C) Canary Current
- D) Humboldt Current

✓ **Correct Answer: A) Benguela Current**

■ *Explanation: The Benguela Current is a cold upwelling ocean current along the southwestern coast of Africa. It inhibits rainfall, creating the Namib Desert, one of the world's driest deserts. Similarly, the cold Canary Current creates the Sahara Desert's coastal extension on northwest Africa.*

Q19. The retreating monsoon (Northeast Monsoon) brings heavy rainfall to which Indian coast during October-December?

- A) Malabar Coast (Kerala)
- B) Konkan Coast (Maharashtra)
- C) Coromandel Coast (Tamil Nadu & SE Andhra Pradesh)
- D) Sundarbans Coast (West Bengal)

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Coromandel Coast (Tamil Nadu & SE Andhra Pradesh)**

■ *Explanation: When the southwest monsoon withdraws (retreats), it picks up moisture from the Bay of Bengal and deposits it on the Coromandel Coast (Tamil Nadu and SE Andhra Pradesh) as the Northeast Monsoon. Chennai and Tamil Nadu receive most of their rainfall during October–December.*

Q20. Black cotton soil (Regur soil), ideal for cotton cultivation, is formed from the weathering of what type of rock?

- A) Granite
- B) Limestone
- C) Basaltic lava (Deccan Trap rocks)
- D) Sandstone

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Basaltic lava (Deccan Trap rocks)**

■ *Explanation: Black cotton soil (Regur/Vertisol) is formed by the weathering of Deccan Trap basaltic lava rocks. It is rich in iron, aluminium, and calcium carbonates, and has high water-retention capacity. It is found in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, and parts of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.*

Q21. Laterite soil, formed under high temperature and heavy rainfall conditions, is found in which parts of India?

- A) Indo-Gangetic Plains
- B) Rajasthan desert regions
- C) Humid regions of Western Ghats, Eastern Ghats and Northeastern India
- D) Himalayan foothills

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Humid regions of Western Ghats, Eastern Ghats and Northeastern India**

■ *Explanation: Laterite soil forms in tropical humid regions with alternating wet and dry seasons. It is found in the Western Ghats (Karnataka, Kerala), Eastern Ghats, Odisha, Assam, and Meghalaya. It is poor in fertility but supports tea, coffee, rubber, and cashew cultivation.*

Q22. India is the world's largest producer of which of the following agricultural commodities?

- A) Wheat
- B) Rice
- C) Milk (Buffalo Milk)
- D) Cotton

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Milk (Buffalo Milk)**

■ *Explanation: India is the world's largest producer of milk (including buffalo milk), accounting for about 22% of global milk production. India is also the world's largest producer of spices, pulses, and jute; the second-largest producer of wheat, rice, and sugarcane.*

★ ■ **AGRICULTURE & ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY OF INDIA** ★

Q23. The Green Revolution in India was mainly associated with the introduction of HYV (High Yielding Variety) seeds for which crops in the late 1960s?

- A) Pulses and oilseeds
- B) Cotton and jute
- C) Wheat and rice
- D) Sugarcane and maize

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Wheat and rice**

■ *Explanation: The Green Revolution (mid-1960s) in India was led by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan (Father of Green Revolution in India) and involved introduction of HYV seeds, chemical fertilisers, and irrigation for wheat and rice. Punjab, Haryana, and western UP became the granary of India.*

Q24. The Blue Revolution in India refers to rapid development of which sector?

- A) Water conservation and management
- B) Fisheries and aquaculture
- C) Sky and satellite communication
- D) Solar energy and wind power

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Fisheries and aquaculture**

■ *Explanation: The Blue Revolution refers to the rapid growth in fish and seafood production through aquaculture and fisheries development in India. India is the world's third-largest fish-producing country and second-largest in aquaculture.*

Q25. Which Indian state is the largest producer of tea?

- A) West Bengal (Darjeeling)
- B) Assam
- C) Tamil Nadu (Nilgiris)
- D) Kerala

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Assam**

■ *Explanation: Assam is India's largest tea-producing state, accounting for about 50% of India's total tea production. Assam Tea (CTC and orthodox) is world-famous. Darjeeling tea (West Bengal) is called the 'Champagne of teas' and has a GI tag.*

Q26. The 'Golden Quadrilateral' highway project connects which four metro cities of India?

- A) Delhi–Mumbai–Kolkata–Chennai
- B) Delhi–Bengaluru–Mumbai–Chennai
- C) Delhi–Hyderabad–Chennai–Kolkata
- D) Mumbai–Pune–Nashik–Nagpur

✓ **Correct Answer: A) Delhi–Mumbai–Kolkata–Chennai**

■ *Explanation: The Golden Quadrilateral is a National Highway network of 5,846 km connecting India's four largest cities: Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, and Kolkata — forming a quadrilateral shape on the map. It is managed by NHAI (National Highways Authority of India).*

Q27. Which major Indian port is called the 'Gateway of India' and handles the maximum container traffic?

- A) Chennai Port
- B) Jawaharlal Nehru Port (Nhava Sheva), Mumbai
- C) Kandla Port
- D) Kolkata Port

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Jawaharlal Nehru Port (Nhava Sheva), Mumbai**

■ *Explanation: JNPT (Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, also called Nhava Sheva) near Mumbai is India's largest container port, handling about 55% of India's container traffic. Kandla (DVPT) in Gujarat handles the maximum cargo by volume/tonnage among Indian ports.*

Q28. According to Census 2011, India's population was approximately:

- A) 100 crore (1 billion)
- B) 103 crore
- C) 121 crore (1.21 billion)
- D) 130 crore

✓ **Correct Answer: C) 121 crore (1.21 billion)**

■ *Explanation: According to Census 2011, India's population was 1,21,01,93,422 (approximately 121 crore or 1.21 billion). The next Census (Census 2027) is expected to show India's population has exceeded 1.44 billion, making it the world's most populous country (surpassing China in 2023).*

★ ■ POPULATION & SOCIAL GEOGRAPHY OF INDIA ★

Q29. Which state in India has the highest population density (persons per sq km) as per Census 2011?

- A) West Bengal
- B) Bihar
- C) Kerala
- D) Uttar Pradesh

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Bihar**

■ *Explanation: Bihar has the highest population density in India at 1,106 persons per sq km as per Census 2011. West Bengal ranks second (1,028). Among Union Territories, Delhi has the highest density (~11,320 persons/sq km). The national average is 382 persons/sq km.*

Q30. Which state has the highest literacy rate in India as per Census 2011?

- A) Goa
- B) Mizoram
- C) Himachal Pradesh
- D) Kerala

✓ **Correct Answer: D) Kerala**

■ *Explanation: Kerala has the highest literacy rate in India at 93.91% (Census 2011). Bihar has the lowest literacy rate (61.80%). India's overall literacy rate was 74.04% in 2011. The gap between male (82.14%) and female (65.46%) literacy has been a major social challenge.*

Q31. The sex ratio in India (females per 1000 males) as per Census 2011 was:

- A) 933
- B) 940
- C) 943
- D) 950

✓ **Correct Answer: C) 943**

■ *Explanation: India's sex ratio was 943 females per 1,000 males as per Census 2011 (up from 933 in 2001). Kerala has the highest sex ratio (1,084) and Haryana the lowest (879). The child sex ratio (0–6 years) was 914 — a matter of serious concern.*

Q32. Mount Everest (8,848.86 m), the world's highest peak, is located on the border of which two countries?

- A) India and China
- B) Nepal and Tibet (China)
- C) Nepal and India
- D) Bhutan and China

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Nepal and Tibet (China)**

■ *Explanation: Mount Everest (called Sagarmatha in Nepali and Chomolungma in Tibetan) stands at 8,848.86 m on the border of Nepal and Tibet (China). It was first summited on 29 May 1953 by Sir Edmund Hillary (New Zealand) and Tenzing Norgay Sherpa (India/Nepal).*

Q33. Which is the longest river in the world?

- A) Amazon River
- B) Nile River
- C) Yangtze River
- D) Mississippi-Missouri

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Nile River**

■ *Explanation: The Nile River in Africa is traditionally considered the world's longest river at approximately 6,650 km, flowing northward through Egypt into the Mediterranean Sea. Some studies suggest the Amazon may be longer, but the Nile is widely accepted as the longest.*

Q34. The Amazon Rainforest (Amazon Basin) is primarily located in which country?

- A) Colombia
- B) Venezuela
- C) Brazil
- D) Peru

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Brazil**

■ *Explanation: About 60% of the Amazon Rainforest is located in Brazil. The Amazon River (world's largest by water discharge) flows through it. The Amazon Rainforest is the world's largest tropical rainforest — called the 'Lungs of the Earth' — covering approximately 5.5 million sq km.*

Q35. The Sahara Desert, the world's largest hot desert, is located in which continent?

- A) Asia
- B) Australia
- C) Africa
- D) South America

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Africa**

■ *Explanation: The Sahara Desert in North Africa is the world's largest hot desert, covering about 9.2 million sq km across 11 countries. The world's largest cold desert is Antarctica (~14 million sq km). The second largest hot desert is the Arabian Desert in West Asia.*

Q36. The Pacific Ocean is the world's largest and deepest ocean. Its deepest point is the Mariana Trench at approximately:

- A) 8,000 m
- B) 10,935 m (Challenger Deep)
- C) 7,258 m
- D) 9,500 m

✓ **Correct Answer: B) 10,935 m (Challenger Deep)**

■ *Explanation: The Mariana Trench in the western Pacific Ocean is the world's deepest oceanic trench. Its deepest point — Challenger Deep — is approximately 10,935 metres (35,876 feet) below sea level. The Pacific Ocean covers about 165 million sq km — larger than all land masses combined.*

Q37. The Great Barrier Reef — the world's largest coral reef system — is located off the coast of which country?

- A) Philippines
- B) Indonesia
- C) Australia (Queensland)
- D) Papua New Guinea

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Australia (Queensland)**

■ *Explanation: The Great Barrier Reef lies along the northeast coast of Australia (Queensland) in the Coral Sea. Stretching over 2,300 km, it is the world's largest coral reef system, visible from space, and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is threatened by coral bleaching due to climate change.*

Q38. International Date Line (IDL) roughly follows which meridian?

- A) 0° (Prime Meridian/Greenwich)
- B) 90°E Meridian
- C) 180° Meridian (with deviations)
- D) 90°W Meridian

✓ **Correct Answer: C) 180° Meridian (with deviations)**

■ *Explanation: The International Date Line roughly follows the 180° meridian (with deviations to avoid splitting countries) in the Pacific Ocean. Crossing it eastward: subtract a day; westward: add a day. The Prime Meridian (0°) passes through Greenwich, London.*

Q39. The Suez Canal connects which two water bodies and is located in which country?

- A) Pacific and Atlantic Oceans – Panama
- B) Mediterranean Sea and Red Sea – Egypt
- C) Black Sea and Caspian Sea – Turkey
- D) Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal – India

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Mediterranean Sea and Red Sea – Egypt**

■ *Explanation: The Suez Canal (193 km) in Egypt connects the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea, allowing ships to travel between Europe and Asia without circumnavigating Africa. It was opened in 1869 and is one of the world's most important shipping routes.*

Q40. Which is the smallest continent in the world?

- A) Europe
- B) Antarctica
- C) Australia (Oceania)
- D) South America

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Australia (Oceania)**

■ *Explanation: Australia is the world's smallest continent at approximately 7.7 million sq km. It is also the flattest continent and has the lowest average elevation. Antarctica, though often called a continent, is classified separately — Australia is the smallest continental landmass.*

★ ■ WORLD ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY ★

Q41. Which country is the world's largest producer of crude oil as of 2025?

- A) Saudi Arabia
- B) Russia
- C) USA
- D) Iraq

✓ **Correct Answer: C) USA**

■ *Explanation: The United States is the world's largest crude oil producer since 2018, thanks to the shale oil revolution. The USA produces over 12–13 million barrels per day. Saudi Arabia (OPEC leader) and Russia are the 2nd and 3rd largest producers respectively.*

Q42. OPEC stands for Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries. Its headquarter is in:

- A) Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
- B) Baghdad, Iraq
- C) Vienna, Austria
- D) Abu Dhabi, UAE

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Vienna, Austria**

■ *Explanation: OPEC was founded in 1960 in Baghdad, Iraq, but its headquarters has been in Vienna, Austria since 1965. It currently has 13 member countries including Saudi Arabia, Iraq, UAE, Iran, Kuwait, and Venezuela. OPEC+ includes Russia and other non-OPEC producers.*

Q43. Silicon Valley, the global hub of technology companies and startups, is located in which US state?

- A) New York
- B) Texas
- C) California (San Francisco Bay Area)
- D) Washington

✓ **Correct Answer: C) California (San Francisco Bay Area)**

■ *Explanation: Silicon Valley is located in the southern San Francisco Bay Area of California, encompassing cities like San Jose, Palo Alto, Mountain View, and Cupertino. It is home to companies like Apple, Google, Meta, Intel, and hundreds of startups. The name refers to silicon chips used in electronics.*

Q44. The Panama Canal connects the Atlantic Ocean (Caribbean Sea) to the Pacific Ocean and is located in:

- A) Colombia
- B) Mexico
- C) Panama
- D) Costa Rica

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Panama**

■ *Explanation: The Panama Canal (77 km) connects the Caribbean Sea (Atlantic side) to the Pacific Ocean across the Isthmus of Panama in Central America. Opened in 1914, it dramatically shortened shipping routes between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Panama took full control of the canal in 1999.*

Q45. Which country has the world's largest coal reserves?

- A) China
- B) India
- C) Russia
- D) United States

✓ **Correct Answer: D) United States**

■ *Explanation: The United States has the world's largest proven coal reserves (~248 billion tonnes), followed by Russia (~162 billion tonnes) and Australia (~150 billion tonnes). China is the world's largest producer and consumer of coal, while India ranks 4th in reserves and 2nd in production.*

Q46. The Strait of Malacca — one of the world's most important shipping lanes — connects the Indian Ocean with which sea?

- A) South China Sea
- B) East China Sea
- C) Philippine Sea
- D) Yellow Sea

✓ **Correct Answer: A) South China Sea**

■ *Explanation: The Strait of Malacca (800 km long, 2.8 km wide at its narrowest) lies between Malaysia/Singapore and Indonesia (Sumatra), connecting the Indian Ocean with the South China Sea and the Pacific Ocean. About 25% of the world's trade and one-third of all crude oil shipments pass through it.*

★ ■ **CURRENT AFFAIRS – GEOGRAPHY & DEVELOPMENT** ★

Q47. India became the world's most populous country surpassing China in which year?

- A) 2022
- B) 2023
- C) 2024
- D) 2025

✓ **Correct Answer: B) 2023**

■ *Explanation: According to UN projections, India surpassed China to become the world's most populous country in mid-2023, with a population of approximately 1.428 billion. India's population is projected to peak around 1.7 billion around 2060 before declining.*

Q48. The Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2024 ranked India at which position out of 127 countries?

- A) 55th
- B) 78th
- C) 105th
- D) 122nd

✓ **Correct Answer: C) 105th**

■ *Explanation: India ranked 105th out of 127 countries in the Global Hunger Index 2024, with a GHI score of 27.3 (categorised as 'Serious'). This is slightly better than 111th in 2023. The Indian government has consistently disputed GHI methodology.*

Q49. Which Indian state became the first to achieve 100% tap water connection to households under the 'Har Ghar Jal' (Jal Jeevan Mission)?

- A) Gujarat
- B) Kerala
- C) Goa
- D) Himachal Pradesh

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Goa**

■ *Explanation: Goa was the first state in India to achieve 100% tap water connection to every rural household under the Jal Jeevan Mission (Har Ghar Jal) programme. The Jal Jeevan Mission aims to provide potable tap water to every rural household in India by 2024.*

Q50. PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan, launched in 2021, is an integrated infrastructure planning platform. How many ministries does it integrate?

- A) 5 ministries
- B) 10 ministries
- C) 16 ministries
- D) 25+ ministries

✓ **Correct Answer: C) 16 ministries**

■ *Explanation: PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan, launched on 13 October 2021, integrates planning across 16 ministries (roads, railways, ports, airports, waterways, logistics, etc.) using a GIS-based digital platform to eliminate silos and reduce infrastructure project delays.*

★ ■ NATIONAL PARKS & BIOSPHERE RESERVES ★

Q51. Jim Corbett National Park — India's first national park — is located in which state?

- A) Madhya Pradesh
- B) Uttarakhand
- C) Assam
- D) Rajasthan

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Uttarakhand**

■ *Explanation: Jim Corbett National Park in Uttarakhand, established in 1936 (as Hailey National Park), is India's first national park and the first to come under Project Tiger (1973). It is named after hunter-turned-conservationist Jim Corbett and is famous for Bengal tigers.*

Q52. Kaziranga National Park, famous for the Indian One-Horned Rhinoceros, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site located in which state?

- A) West Bengal
- B) Meghalaya
- C) Assam
- D) Arunachal Pradesh

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Assam**

■ *Explanation: Kaziranga National Park in Assam is a UNESCO World Heritage Site (1985), famous for hosting over two-thirds of the world's population of the Great Indian One-Horned Rhinoceros. It also has the highest density of tigers among protected areas worldwide.*

Q53. Sundarbans National Park, the world's largest mangrove forest and home to the Royal Bengal Tiger, lies in:

- A) Odisha
- B) West Bengal and Bangladesh (shared)
- C) Andhra Pradesh
- D) Kerala

✓ **Correct Answer: B) West Bengal and Bangladesh (shared)**

■ *Explanation: Sundarbans spans the Ganga-Brahmaputra delta across West Bengal (India) and Bangladesh. The Indian portion is a UNESCO World Heritage Site (1987) and a Tiger Reserve. The entire Sundarbans region (~10,000 sq km) is the world's largest mangrove forest.*

Q54. The Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve — India's first and the world's only UNESCO-designated biosphere reserve in a tropical region — covers parts of which states?

- A) Karnataka and Kerala only
- B) Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Karnataka
- C) Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh
- D) Kerala and Tamil Nadu only

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Karnataka**

■ *Explanation: The Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve covers parts of Tamil Nadu (Nilgiris, Mudumalai), Kerala (Silent Valley, Wayanad), and Karnataka (Nagarhole, Bandipur). Established in 1986, it was India's first Biosphere Reserve and designated as a UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves site.*

★ ■■■ INDIAN STATES, CITIES & REGIONAL FACTS ★

Q55. Which Indian state has the longest coastline?

- A) Tamil Nadu
- B) Andhra Pradesh
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Gujarat

✓ **Correct Answer: D) Gujarat**

■ *Explanation: Gujarat has the longest coastline in India at approximately 1,600 km (including island coastlines, it exceeds 1,600 km). Among mainland states, it is followed by Andhra Pradesh. India's total coastline is approximately 7,517 km.*

Q56. Which is the largest state in India by area?

- A) Maharashtra
- B) Madhya Pradesh
- C) Uttar Pradesh
- D) Rajasthan

✓ **Correct Answer: D) Rajasthan**

■ *Explanation: Rajasthan is the largest Indian state by area at 3,42,239 sq km. It is followed by Madhya Pradesh (3,08,252 sq km) and Maharashtra. Goa is the smallest state. Among UTs, Ladakh (added 2019) is the largest at 59,146 sq km.*

Q57. Which Indian state is the largest producer of mica and is known as the 'Jharkhand of South India' for its mineral resources?

- A) Karnataka
- B) Telangana
- C) Andhra Pradesh
- D) Odisha

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Andhra Pradesh**

■ *Explanation: Andhra Pradesh is the largest producer of mica in India and also produces barite, limestone, and other minerals. Jharkhand is the largest producer of coal, iron ore, and other ferrous minerals. Odisha is rich in iron ore, bauxite, and manganese.*

Q58. The 'Terai' region is a strip of marshy and swampy land at the foothills of the Himalayas. It is located primarily in which states?

- A) Rajasthan and Punjab
- B) Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Uttarakhand
- C) Assam and Meghalaya
- D) West Bengal and Odisha

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Uttarakhand**

■ *Explanation: The Terai is a narrow belt of waterlogged, dense forest land along the Himalayan foothills in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Uttarakhand (and parts of Nepal). The Terai-Duar savannas are ecologically significant and home to elephants, rhinos, and tigers.*

Q59. Which country has the world's largest land area?

- A) Canada
- B) China
- C) Russia
- D) USA

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Russia**

■ *Explanation: Russia is the world's largest country by land area at 17.1 million sq km — nearly twice the size of Canada (second largest at 10 million sq km). Russia spans 11 time zones and covers parts of both Europe and Asia.*

Q60. The Tropic of Cancer passes through how many Indian states?

- A) 6 states
- B) 7 states
- C) 8 states
- D) 9 states

✓ **Correct Answer: C) 8 states**

■ *Explanation: The Tropic of Cancer (23.5°N) passes through 8 Indian states: Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Tripura, and Mizoram. India lies entirely in the Northern Hemisphere between 8°4'N and 37°6'N latitudes.*

★ ■ **WORLD GEOGRAPHY – CONTINENTS & COUNTRIES** ★

Q61. Which is the most urbanised continent in the world?

- A) North America
- B) Europe
- C) Australia/Oceania
- D) South America

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Australia/Oceania**

■ *Explanation: Australia/Oceania is the most urbanised continent, with about 86% of its population living in urban areas, mainly concentrated in a few coastal mega-cities (Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane). Latin America is the most urbanised developing region.*

Q62. The Equator passes through which of these African countries?

- A) Egypt and Sudan
- B) Kenya, Uganda, and Democratic Republic of Congo
- C) South Africa and Zimbabwe
- D) Morocco and Algeria

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Kenya, Uganda, and Democratic Republic of Congo**

■ *Explanation: The Equator (0° latitude) passes through several African countries including Kenya, Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Congo, and São Tomé & Príncipe. In South America, it passes through Brazil, Colombia, and Ecuador.*

Q63. The Indian Standard Time (IST) is UTC+5:30. India's standard meridian passes through which city/state?

- A) Delhi (77.5°E)
- B) Allahabad/Prayagraj (82.5°E)
- C) Kolkata (88°E)
- D) Mumbai (72.8°E)

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Allahabad/Prayagraj (82.5°E)**

■ *Explanation: India's Standard Meridian is 82.5°E longitude, passing through Mirzapur (near Prayagraj/Allahabad) in Uttar Pradesh. IST is 5 hours 30 minutes ahead of GMT/UTC. India has a single time zone despite spanning ~30° of longitude (68°7'E to 97°25'E).*

Q64. Cherrapunji (Sohra) in Meghalaya has the highest recorded rainfall in a single year on Earth. Which mountain range causes this extreme rainfall?

- A) Western Ghats
- B) Khasi Hills (part of Meghalaya Plateau)
- C) Himalayan foothills
- D) Aravalli Hills

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Khasi Hills (part of Meghalaya Plateau)**

■ *Explanation: Cherrapunji/Sohra and nearby Mawsynram receive extreme rainfall due to the Khasi Hills (Meghalaya Plateau). The funnel-shaped topography forces moisture-laden Bay of Bengal branch of the Southwest Monsoon to rise sharply, causing intense orographic (relief) precipitation.*

Q65. The Palk Strait separates India from which neighbouring country?

- A) Maldives
- B) Sri Lanka
- C) Bangladesh
- D) Myanmar

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Sri Lanka**

■ *Explanation: The Palk Strait (53–80 km wide) separates Tamil Nadu (India) from Northern Sri Lanka. Adam's Bridge (Ram Setu) — a chain of limestone shoals — connects Pamban Island (Rameswaram) in India with Mannar Island in Sri Lanka across the Palk Strait.*

Q66. India's Geographic Centre (approximate centroid) is located in which state?

- A) Madhya Pradesh (near Nagpur)
- B) Odisha
- C) Maharashtra (Nagpur – Zero Mile Stone)
- D) Chhattisgarh

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Maharashtra (Nagpur – Zero Mile Stone)**

■ *Explanation: The Zero Mile Stone in Nagpur, Maharashtra, traditionally marks the geographic centre of India. Nagpur is also called the 'Orange City' and is the 'Winter Capital' of Maharashtra. The British installed the Zero Mile Marker here during colonial rule.*

Q67. Which is the only river in India that flows from east to west through the Vindhya and Satpura ranges before meeting the Arabian Sea?

- A) Tapi
- B) Mahanadi
- C) Godavari
- D) Narmada

✓ **Correct Answer: D) Narmada**

■ *Explanation: The Narmada is the only large Indian river that flows from east to west through the Vindhya and Satpura ranges, emptying into the Arabian Sea (Gulf of Khambhat). It originates from Amarkantak plateau in Madhya Pradesh and is considered a sacred river in Hinduism.*

Q68. The UN World Urbanisation Prospects report 2024 projects India's urban population to reach what percentage by 2050?

- A) 40%
- B) 50%
- C) 57%
- D) 70%

✓ **Correct Answer: C) 57%**

■ *Explanation: The UN World Urbanisation Prospects projects India's urban population to reach approximately 57% of total population by 2050, up from about 36% in 2023. India will add about 400 million urban residents by 2050, primarily in smaller cities and towns, not just metros.*

Q69. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are separated from each other by which channel?

- A) Eight-Degree Channel
- B) Duncan Passage
- C) Ten-Degree Channel
- D) Palk Strait

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Ten-Degree Channel**

■ *Explanation: The Ten-Degree Channel (10°N latitude) separates the Andaman Islands (to the north) from the Nicobar Islands (to the south). The Nine-Degree Channel separates the Laccadive Islands from Minicoy Island in Lakshadweep. Duncan Passage separates South Andaman from Little Andaman.*

Q70. India's wettest region, Northeastern India, experiences which type of climate?

- A) Tropical Dry Climate
- B) Highland/Alpine Climate
- C) Tropical Monsoon with Wet and Dry Season
- D) Humid Sub-tropical with year-round rainfall (Cwb)

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Tropical Monsoon with Wet and Dry Season**

■ *Explanation: Northeastern India (especially Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram) has a humid tropical monsoon climate with very heavy rainfall (2000–12000mm/year) during June-September and comparatively dry winters. The Brahmaputra valley receives heavy rainfall due to orographic effects of the Himalayas and Meghalaya Plateau.*

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