



# TARGET PRELIMS 2024

## BOOKLET-36

### PRELIMS MASTERS PROGRAM 2024

## INTERNATIONAL MAPPING AND PLACES IN NEWS-3

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## 1. INDIAN OCEAN

### 1) AGALEGA ISLANDS

Agalega Islands consist of two outer islands located in the Indian Ocean. It is located 1050 km north of Mauritius Island. Agalega is a dependency of Mauritius.

The two islands have a total area of 26 sq km and a native population of about 300 people.

Agalega is run directly by PM of Mauritius through the Prime Minister's Office to the Outer Island Development Corporation (OIDC).

In Feb 2024, PM of India, Shri Narendra Modi and Mauritian PM Pravind Jugnauth jointly inaugurated an airstrip and the St. James Jetty on North Agalega Island in the Indian Ocean.

- » The development of the islands is in the socio-economic and national interest of the Mauritius and also aligns with India's vision for Indian Ocean.
- » The new jetty and the air strip will enable a large and more credible government presence on the islands.
- » It will also enable stationing or forward deployment of ships of the Mauritius Coast Guard.

**Benefits for India:**

- » Increased trust between the two countries.
- » The joint development of the islands underscores India's commitment to the vision of Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR), and its willingness to assist smaller maritime nations in building capacity and developing capabilities.



**Will Agalega become India's military base?**

**No.** India understands the importance of sovereignty, and the sensitiveness of smaller nations when they interact with larger one. (Vice Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta (Retd) is a former Commander in Chief of the Eastern Naval Command, Indian Navy).

## 2. ARAL SEA

The Aral sea is situated in Central Asia, between the southern part of Kazakhstan and Northern Uzbekistan.

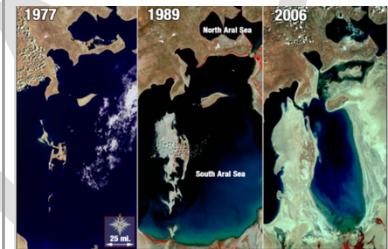
Till 1960s, it was the world's fourth largest saline lake (after Caspian, Balkash (Kazakhstan), Turkana (Kenya, Ethiopia)).

**Two important rivers** that feed into the lake are Syr Darya and Amu Darya rivers, reaching the sea through north and south respectively.

- Until the 1960s, the two rivers accounted for around 75-80% of the water supplied to the lake (rest was rainfall).



In 1960s, USSR decided to divert these rivers for irrigation purpose which has led to drastic reduction in the size of the sea.



#### Impact:

- Reduction in the size of the lake (the size of the lake has declined to less than 10% of its original size).
- Increase in salinity (lakes salinity level is risen from 10 gram/l to over 100 g/l );
- Death of marine species such as barbell, carps etc. (due to reducing water levels and salinity);

#### Restoration Strategy:

- The five central Asian countries adopted the Aral Sea Basin Program in 1994 as part of the restoration strategy. The program aimed to stabilize the basin's environment, rehabilitate the area around the sea, and improve the lake's water management.

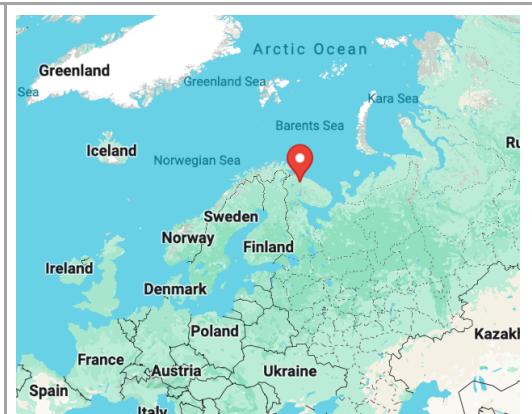
### 3. RUSSIA

#### 1) MURMANSK PORT

Murmansk is a seaport located in the Northwestern Russia. It lies 200 km north of Arctic circle and is on the eastern shore of Kola Bay, 48 kms from the ice-free Barents sea.

The town was founded in 1915 as a supply port in WW-1. It was a base for the British, French, and American expeditionary forces against the Bolsheviks in 1918.

In WW-2 also the port served as the main port for the Anglo-American convoys carrying war supplies to the USSR through Arctic ocean.



**Current scenario:** Now, it is an important fish port having one of the largest fish processing facilities of Europe. It's ice-free harbour makes it Russia's only port with unrestricted access to the Atlantic and world sea route. From Dec - May it replaces the icebound St. Petersburg as the major port of the northwest. It is connected by railroad to St Petersburg and Moscow.

**News:** India's engagement with Russia's Arctic region has been strengthening with India-bound goods constituting the maximum share of cargo handled in 2023 (Jan-July) by Murmansk port.

- Coal was the main item imported in India from this Russian port.

**Note:** Kola peninsula is a peninsula in the extreme northwest of Russia, and one of the largest peninsula of Europe. It lies almost completely inside arctic circle and is bordered by Barent sea to the north and White sea to the east and north-east.

## 2) DAGESTAN (REPUBLIC OF DAGESTAN)

**Dagestan** is a province of Russia within the Russian Federation. Its official name is 'Republic of Dagestan'. It is the southernmost tip of Russia.

Dagestan translates as "land of the mountains". It is a mountainous territory located in the eastern part of the North Caucasus. It has Georgia and Chechnya to its west and Azerbaijan to its south. To its east is Caspian sea.

**Diversity:** The Republic of Dagestan has mainly Muslim population. It is linguistically and ethnically a varied region. It is Russia's most diverse region. There are at least 40 different ethnicities in the region along with more than 30 spoken languages.

**News:** Anti-Israel Protestors (numbered in 100s) stormed an airport in Makhachkala (capital of Dagestan) on 30th Oct 2023. This resulted in a chaos and injured more than 20 people. Israel expressed concern and urged Russia to protect Israelis in Dagestan and also inside the airport.



(Image: Wikimedia Commons)

**Makhachkala**, the capital of Republic of Dagestan is located on the Caspian sea coast.

## 3) CHECHNYA

Chechnya (officially the Chechen Republic) is a republic of Russia. It is located in North Caucasus region.

The republic forms a part of the North Caucasian Federal District. It is bordered by Russia proper on the north, Dagestan republic on the east and southeast, the country of Georgia on the southwest, and Ingushetia republic on the west.

#### Insurgency: History

Chechen-Ingush was designated as a republic in 1936.

Secessionist sentiments emerged in 1991 with the disintegration of USSR.

- A coup against local communist government was carried out in 1991, and the coup leader Dzhokhar Dudayev unilaterally declared **Chechnya's independence from Russian Federation** (subsequently Russia).
- In 1992, Chechnya-Ingushetia divided into **two separate republics** with Ingushetiya favoring Russia and Chechnya leader favoring independence.
- **Russian forces took over the capital of Chechnya (Grozny)** in March 1995 and Dudayev was killed in 1996. A peace treaty was signed in 1997.
- But after a bombing killed scores of civilians in Russia, the then PM Vladimir Putin blamed Chechnya and the **Russian forces re-entered Chechnya in 1999**.



Eventually in 2003, Chechan voters approved a new constitution that devolved great powers to the Chechen government, but kept the republic in the federation.

In 2004, Russian backed Ahmad Kadyrov became the President of Chechen. But he was killed in a bomb blast. With Russia's backing in 2006, his son Ramzan Kadyrov, gained the presidency. He had maintained support of Russia and in early 2009 he claimed that insurgency had been crushed.

As of 2023, Ramzan Kadyrov continues to be President of Chechnya.

Nevertheless, sporadic outbreak of violence including guerrilla attacks continue to occur. In addition, Jihadist group associated with IS exist in the region.

## 4) MOSCOW AND MARCH 2024 TERROR ATTACK

Moscow is the capital and the largest city of Russia. The city is located on Moskva River in central Russia. It is the most populous city of entire Europe and the largest city by land area on the European continent.

**Note:** In 1712, under the reign of Peter the Great, the Russian capital was moved to the newly founded St. Petersburg which diminished the Moscow's role and influence. But after, Russian revolution the capital was moved back to Moscow in 1918, where it became the political center of USSR and later of Russia.

### March 2024 Terror Attack:

- The terror attack took place at Crocus City Hall on the outskirts of Russia on 22nd March and killed around 150 people. This is the deadliest terror attack Russia has seen in a decade.
- **Who has claimed the attack?**
  - Islamic State (IS) has claimed responsibility for the attack.
  - American officials have attributed it to ISIS-K, a branch of the group.
- **Russian authorities** have accused four men from Tajikistan of being behind the attack. Russian President Vladimir Putin have said that "Russian Islamists" carried out the attack, but also claimed without proof that a "window" had been prepared for the attackers to escape to Ukraine. Kyiv has denied the allegations.

### Who are ISIS-K?

ISIS-K was formed in 2015 and has been active in AF, PAK, and Iran. It is branch of ISIS, the terror group that emerged in Iraq and Syria and at its peak, controlled a huge stretch of territory.

### Why attack Russia?

Russia has been at the top or near the top of the list of ISIS for many years. Moscow's crucial role in the Syrian Civil War, when it intervened in support of the Syrian government and against ISIS is a primary reason.

ISIS propaganda has long targeted Russia for its brutal tactics in Chechen wars.



## 5) LAKE BAIKAL

It's a large rift lake in Russia. Lake Baikal is basically a rift valley, created by earth's crust slowly moving apart. In geological term is rift is young and active and widens about 4 mm per year. The fault zone is also seismically active.

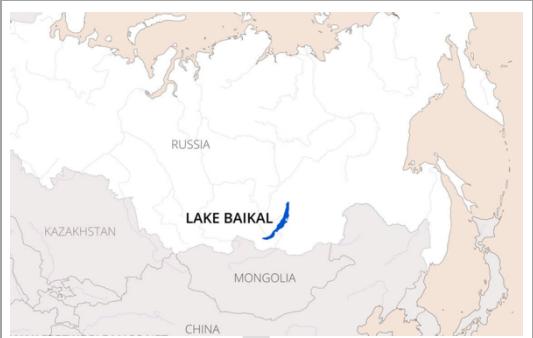
It is located in the southern Siberia.

7th largest lake in the world in terms of surface area and the largest in Asia.

It is also the world's largest freshwater lake in terms of volume of water. It stores more than 20% of world's fresh surface water. This is more than all the North America's great lake combined.

It is also the deepest lake (depth of 1620 km) in the world. (Lake Tanganyika (1436m); Caspian Sea (1,025 m); Vostok (900 m); Lake Martin (836 m));

It is also one of the UNESCO's World Heritage Site.



## 4. KACHIN PROVINCE

Location: It is the northernmost state of Myanmar bordering China in the north and east and India in the west.

**China's claim:** Various Chinese government over the years have claims over northern half of the Kachin state as Chinese territory since 18th century.

**Reasons for insurgency in Kachin:**

**Removal of autonomy:** When Kachin state was formed after the independence of Myanmar, it was allocated a lot of autonomy. But it changed after the 1962 Burmese coup d'etat. The Ne Win regime which came into power in 1962 unilaterally abrogated the Constitution.

**Declaration of Buddhism as state religion:** Kachin armed group was established in 1960, after the U Nu government announced the state religion as Buddhism. The Kachin people stopped believing in the government administration system, established after the federal union was agreed upon in 1947 agreement.

**Kachin Independence Organization:** With the unilateral abrogation of the Union of Burma Constitution by the Ne Win government in 1962, Kachin forces withdrew from Burmese army and formed the **Kachin Independence Army (KIA)** under the **Kachin Independence Organization (KIO)**.

The conflict between KIA and Myanmar forces have extended into 2020s.



## 5. GWADAR PORT

It is situated on Arabian Sea in Pakistan's Baluchistan Province. It is located around 170 km east of Chabahar Port.

It is under administrative control of the Maritime Secretary of Pakistan.

The port has substantial Chinese investment and features prominently in China Pakistan Economic Corridor.

**News:** On March 20, 2024, Pakistan security forces thwarted a complex coordinated attack on Gwadar Port Authority Complex in a



two hour long battle and claimed to have neutralized all eight militants. Two soldiers have been killed in action.

**The Majeed Brigade** of the Baluchistan Liberation Army (BLA), claimed the responsibility for the attack. They stressed that their fighters have targeted Pakistan's ISI and military intelligence facilities.

**Note:** Balochistan and Gwadar port are immensely important for Pakistan, especially for the army that has taken on responsibility of making the CPEC and its end port, Gwadar, a success story of China's BRI.

## 6. BALOCHISTAN PROVINCE

Balochistan is located in the southwest of Pakistan.

It is the country's largest and most sparsely populated province.

It has huge natural resources like oil reserves and abundant natural resources. But the ethnic Baloch are Pakistan's poorest and most under-represented people

**Capital:** Quetta



## 7. INSURGENCY IN BALOCHISTAN

### 1) HISTORY

- At the time of partition, Balochistan comprises of multiple chiefdoms owing allegiance to the British. Ahmed Yar Khan, the chief of Kalat, was the most powerful of these tribal chiefs, and hoped to secure an independent state for his people. However, he was forced to accede in 1948, after Pakistan invaded Kalat. This triggered the insurgency which continues even till today.
- **Other factors** which has fuelled insurgency in the region are:
  - » Economic deprivation
  - » Lack of political freedom
  - » Forced disappearance of thousands of men
  - » Extrajudicial killings of many of those reported missing
  - » Other forms of repression by Pakistani state.
- In many ways, China backed Gwadar port is a symbol of injustice for Balochi people. Despite rampant unemployment in the province, engineers and technical specialists were hired from Punjab, Sindh and even China. In recent years, Baloch militants have repeatedly targeted both Gwadar and Chinese nationals in the country.
- **Baloch armed groups** including, Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), Baloch Liberation Front (BLF), Baloch Nationalist Army (BNA), and Baloch Republican Guard (BRG) have created an operational umbrella

alliance under the banner of **Baloch Raaji Aajoi Sangar (BRAS)** in 2018 to coordinate their action on ground.

- » The BRAS have claimed more than 600 attacks and more than 600 casualties of armed forces in 2023.
- The Baloch insurgency in Pakistan is gaining momentum for the past two years and insurgents can regularly breach the perimeter security of Pakistan military and paramilitary installation across Balochistan in bold, frontal attacks.

## 2) MAJID BRIGADE

The Majeed Brigade is the separatist group of Baloch Liberation Army (BLA). It has claimed responsibility of the attack on complex outside Gwadar Port.

The Majed Brigade has been active since 2011 and is the BLA's dedicated suicide squad. The unit is named after two brothers, both of whom were called Majeed Langove (Sr and Jr).

### History:

In May 1972, the National Awami Party (NAP) came to power in Balochistan. Nationally, the NAP sat in opposition to Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP). The NAP had long advocated for greater regional autonomy in Pakistan, and it was emboldened by the secession of BD in 1971.

But, Bhutto was not willing to give an concession and created problems in the functioning of NAP government in Balochistan. The NAP government was finally dismissed in Feb 1973. This led to both the insurgency and the Pakistani state repression becoming worse in Balochistan. Between 1973, thousands of insurgents and military officials were killed.

In this background, Majeed Langove Senior, then a young Baloch man, decided to assassinate Bhutto. In 1974, when Bhutto arrived in Quetta to attend a public gathering, Majeed senior waited atop a tree, a grenade in hand. He had no plans to escape and was most certainly going to die. He eventually died. The grenade burst in Majid Senior's hand as he waited for Bhutto's motorcade.

### Junior's Sacrifice and formation of Majid Brigade:

The death of Majeed Senior was mythologized for posterity by the actions of his younger brother, Majeed Langove Junior, who was born two years after senior was killed. In 2010, Junior was killed in a fight against Pakistani forces. His death was mourned by nationalists across Balochistan. After it became widely known that he was the brother of Majid senior who too had given live four Balochi freedom, the Majeed Langrove brothers were raised to near mythical status.

When Aslam Achu, a BLA leader, decided to establish a suicide squad, he named it after 'Majeed' brothers as 'the Majeed Brigade'. The first attack by Majid brigade took place in 2011. After a long hiatus, the group became active again in 2018 and attacked Bus carrying chinese engineers in Dalbandin near the Pakistan-

Afghanistan border. The brigade has also attacked Chinese consulate in Karachi (2018), the Gwadar Pearl Continental Hotel (2019), and the Pakistani Stock Exchange in Karachi (2020).

## 8. EUROPE

### 1) CATALONIA

Catalonia is a historic region of Spain including north-eastern provinces of Girona, Barcelona, Tarragona, and Lleida. The autonomous community of Catalonia occupies a triangular area in the north-eastern corner of Spain.

It is bordered by France and Andorra to the north, the Mediterranean sea to the south and East. It also borders autonomous community of Valencia to the south and the autonomous community of Aragon, to the west.

The Pyrenees separate Catalonia from France.

**Growing call for Independence:** Since 2010s, there has been a growing support for Catalan independence.

- In Oct 2017, the Catalan Parliament unilaterally declared independence following a referendum that was deemed unconstitutional by the Spanish state.
- The Spanish senate voted in favor of direct rule by removing Catalan government and calling a snap regional election. The Spanish Supreme Court also imprisoned seven former ministers of the Catalan government on charges of rebellion and misuse of public funds. But in 2021, all those in Prison were pardoned by Spanish government.

In Dec 2023, Pere Aragones, the President of government of Catalonia wrote in Financial Times that Catalonia is a nation with a rich historical legacy, which is diverse and modern and is bound by its language, Catalan. A nation with persistent desire for self-governance dating back centuries. A nation that wants to be free, that wants to be able to be democratically and peacefully decide how it governs itself, want to create a new state, independent of Spain, but working together with it within the European Framework.



## 9. AFRICA

### 1) LAKE FAGUIBINE

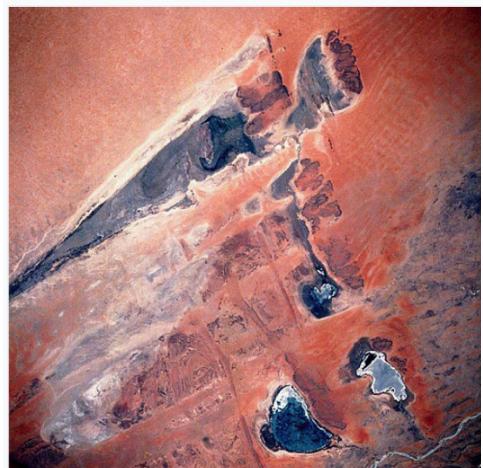
It was a lake in Mali on the southern edge of the Sahara desert. It was situated 75 km north of Niger river to which it is connected by system of smaller lakes and channels.

During heavy flooding the water from Niger river reaches the lake. But since the Sahel drought of 1970s and 80s the lake has mostly remained dry. Water has reached the lake in very few cases. All this has contributed to the partial collapse of the ecosystem of the region.

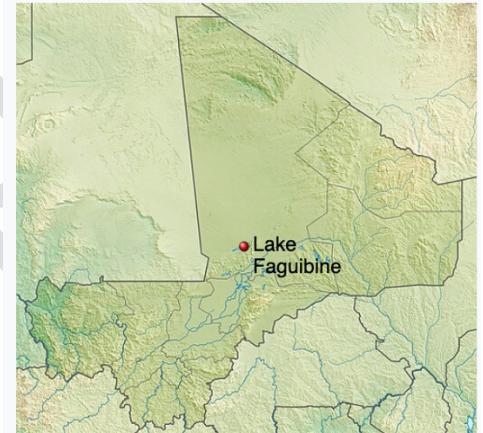
In the **year 2021**, the lake was completely dry.

**The Lake Faguibine system:** The lake forms a system of five interconnected low lying depressions which fill to different extent every year based on the level of rainfall and flood.

Lake Faguibine



Lake Faguibine (spear-shaped) from space, April 1991. The River Niger is shown at the bottom right hand corner, Lake Oro at the lower left and Lake Fati lower right



## 2) LAKE VOLTA

Lake Volta is an artificial lake in Ghana. It is formed by the Akosombo Dam over Volta river.

With a storage capacity of 153 Billion cubic meter, it is one of the largest artificial lakes in the world. It covers around 8502 sq km (3.6% of Ghana's area). The lake lies completely within Ghana.

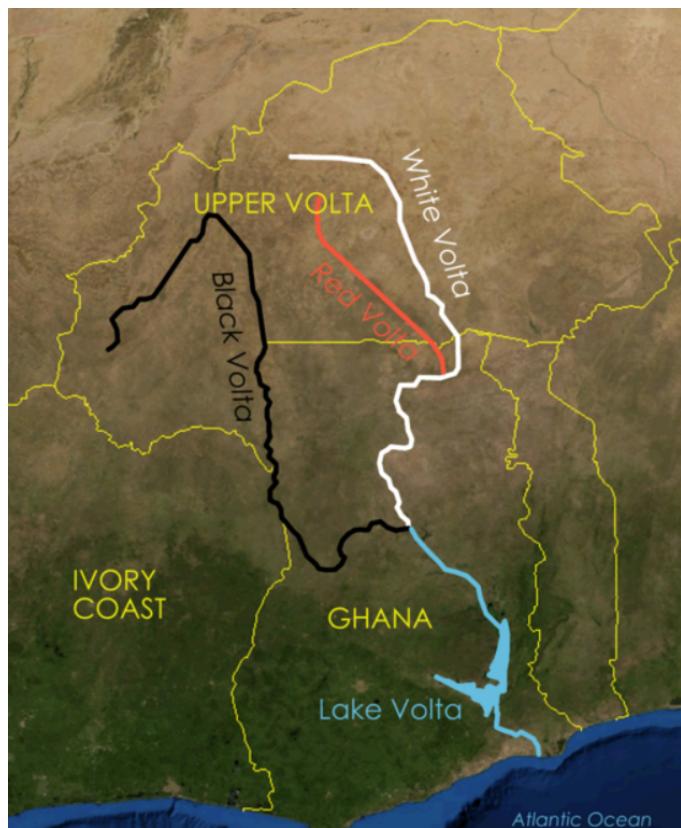
The lake is located on Prime Meridian.

**Akosombo Dam** holds back both the White Volta River and the Black Volta river which formerly converged where the middle of reservoir lies now, to form a single volta river.

The **present volta river** flows from the outlet of the dam's power house and spillways to the Atlantic Ocean in southern Ghana.



It is navigable and provides a cheap route connecting Ghana's Savanna to coastal region.



### 3) MOZAMBIQUE

It's a country located in south eastern Africa with capital as **Maputo**. It has a tropical climate. It has extensive coastline, fronting the Mozambique Channel, which separates mainland Africa from the Island of Madagascar.

**Bordering countries:** South Africa and Swaziland in south and southwest; It is bordered by Zimbabwe to its west; Zambia and Malawi on its north west and Tanzania to its north.



The **great Zambezi river** has provided ample water for irrigation and the basis for a regionally important hydroelectricity power industry.

It gained independence from Portugal in 1975. But it was soon engulfed in civil war.

**1977-92:** Civil War: Mozambican civil war between Frelimo government, with support from Cuba and USSR, and anti-communist Mozambican National

Resistance (Renamo) rebels, combined with sabotage from the neighbouring states of Rhodesia and South Africa. Over a million people die in the fighting and subsequent famines.

1990: Constitution was amended to allow multi-party system and first multi-party elections were held in 1994.

2017: A jihadist insurgency has begun in the northern side.

#### 4) CABO DELGADO

**Cabo Delgado:** It is the northernmost province of Mozambique and borders Tanzania to its north and Indian Ocean to its east.

Starting 2017, armed Islamist extremists linked to the Islamic State of Iraq and Levant launched a jihadist insurgency in the Cabo Delgado region. The insurgent group sometimes referred itself as Shabaab. (Please note that they are different from Somali-Al Shabaab).

March 2024: More than 70 children are missing following recent jihadist attack in Mozambique's northern Cabo Delgado. They became separated from their family as thousands fled to a neighbouring province in recent weeks. There are fears that some of them may have been kidnapped by fighters linked to ISIS.



Cabo Delgado, Province of Mozambique

## 10. NORTH AMERICA

### 1) THE POPOKATEPETL VOLCANO

#### The Popocatepetl Volcano:

It is Mexico's most dangerous volcano. It is located just outside the Mexico city (72 kms southeast).

**Note:** Popocatepetl means "smoking mountain" in the Aztec Nahuatl language.

In Feb 2024, it erupted 13 times in a single day. It spewed thick plumes of volcanic ash into the sky causing flights to be grounded. It has also blanketed the capital and the surrounding area with thick plumes of ash.



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01

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03

## MENTORSHIP & PERSONAL GUIDANCE

04

### 11.PYQS

2023	
Q1	<p>Which one of the following is a part of the Congo Basin?</p> <p>(a) Cameroon (b) Nigeria (c) South Sudan (d) Uganda</p>
Q2	<p>Consider the following pairs:</p> <p>Area of conflict mentioned in news: Country where it is located</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Donbas: Syria</li><li>2. Kachin: Ethiopia</li><li>3. Tigray: North Yemen</li></ol> <p>How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?</p> <p>(a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All three (d) None</p>

3	<p>Consider the following countries:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bulgaria</li> <li>2. Czech Republic</li> <li>3. Hungary</li> <li>4. Latvia</li> <li>5. Lithuania</li> <li>6. Romania</li> </ol> <p>How many of the above-mentioned countries share a land border with Ukraine?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Only two</li> <li>(b) Only three</li> <li>(c) Only four</li> <li>(d) Only five</li> </ul>
4	<p>In the recent years Chad, Guinea, Mali and Sudan caught the international attention for which one of the following reasons common to all of them?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Discovery of rich deposits of rare earth elements</li> <li>(b) Establishment of Chinese Military bases</li> <li>(c) Southward expansion of Sahara Desert</li> <li>(d) Successful coups</li> </ul>
5	<p>Consider the following pairs:</p> <p>Regions often Reason for being in news</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. North Kivu and Ituri : War between Armenia and Azerbaijan</li> <li>2. Nagorno-Karabakh : Insurgency in Mozambique</li> <li>3. Kherson and Zaporizhzhia : Dispute between Israel and Lebanon</li> </ol> <p>How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Only one</li> <li>(b) Only Two</li> <li>(c) All three</li> <li>(d) None</li> </ul>

2022	
6	<p>Which one of the following lakes of West Africa has become dry and turned into a desert?</p> <p>(a) Lake Victoria          (b) Lake Faguibine          (c) Lake Oguta          (d) Lake Volta</p>
7	<p>The term "Levant" often heard in the news roughly corresponds to which of the following regions?</p> <p>(a) Region along the eastern Mediterranean shores          (b) Region along North African shores stretching from Egypt to Morocco          (c) Region along Persian Gulf and Horn of Africa          (d) The entire coastal areas of Mediterranean Sea</p>
8	<p>Consider the following countries:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Azerbaijan</li> <li>2. Kyrgyzstan</li> <li>3. Tajikistan</li> <li>4. Turkmenistan</li> <li>5. Uzbekistan</li> </ol> <p>Which of the above have borders with Afghanistan?</p> <p>(a) 1, 2 and 5 only          (b) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only          (c) 3, 4 and 5 only          (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5</p>
IB	<p>Consider the following countries:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Armenia</li> </ol>

	<p>2. Azerbaijan 3. Croatia 4. Romania 5. Uzbekistan</p> <p>Which of the above are members of the Organization of Turkic States?</p> <p>(a) 1, 2 and 4 (b) 1 and 3 (c) 2 and 5 (d) 3, 4 and 5</p>
9	<p>Which one of the following statements best reflects the issue with Senkaku Islands, sometimes mentioned in the news?</p> <p>(a) It is generally believed that they are artificial islands made by a country around South China Sea. (b) China and Japan engage in maritime disputes over these islands in East China Sea. (c) A permanent American military base has been set up there to help Taiwan to increase its defence capabilities. (d) Through International Court of Justice declared them as no man's land, some South-East Asian countries claim them.</p>
10	<p>Consider the following pairs: Region often mentioned in the news Country</p> <p>1. Anatolia – Turkey 2. Amhara – Ethiopia 3. Cabo Delgado – Spain 4. Catalonia – Italy</p> <p>How many pairs given above are correctly matched?</p> <p>(a) Only one pair (b) Only two pairs (c) Only three pairs (d) All four pairs</p>

<b>2020</b>	
11	<p>In which one of the following groups are all the four countries members of G20?</p> <p>(a) Argentina, Mexico, South Africa and Turkey          (b) Australia, Canada, Malaysia and New Zealand          (c) Brazil, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Vietnam          (d) Indonesia, Japan, Singapore and South Korea</p>
12	<p>Consider the following pairs:</p> <p>River : Flows into</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mekong : Andaman Sea</li> <li>2. Thames : Irish Sea</li> <li>3. Volga : Caspian Sea</li> <li>4. Zambezi : Indian Ocean</li> </ol> <p>Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?</p> <p>(a) 1 and 2 only          (b) 3 only          (c) 3 and 4 only          (d) 1, 2 and 4 only</p>
<b>2019</b>	
13	<p>Consider the following pairs:</p> <p>Sea : Bordering country</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Adriatic Sea : Albania</li> <li>2. Black Sea : Croatia</li> <li>3. Caspian Sea : Kazakhstan</li> <li>4. Mediterranean Sea : Morocco</li> <li>5. Red Sea : Syria</li> </ol> <p>Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?</p> <p>(a) 1, 2 and 4 only</p>

	<p>(b) 1, 3 and 4 only</p> <p>(c) 2 and 5 only</p> <p>(d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5</p>
14	<p>Which of the following has/have shrunk immensely/dried up the recent past due to human activities?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Aral Sea</li> <li>2. Black Sea</li> <li>3. Lake Baikal</li> </ol> <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <p>(a) 1 only</p> <p>(b) 2 and 3</p> <p>(c) 2 only</p> <p>(d) 1 and 3</p>
15	<p>Consider the following pairs:</p> <p>Towns sometimes mentioned in news - Country</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Aleppo - Syria</li> <li>2. Kirkuk - Yemen</li> <li>3. Mosul - Palestine</li> <li>4. Mazar-i-sharif - Afghanistan</li> </ol> <p>Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?</p> <p>(a) 1 and 2</p> <p>(b) 1 and 4</p> <p>(c) 2 and 3</p> <p>(d) 3 and 4</p>
16	<p>Consider the following pairs:</p> <p>Regions sometimes mentioned in news - Country</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Catalonia - Spain</li> <li>2. Crimea - Hungary</li> </ol>

3. Mindanao - Philippines

4. Oromia - Nigeria

Which of the pair given above are correctly matched?

(a) 1, 2 and 3

(b) 3 and 4 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 2 and 4 only

**2017**

**17** Mediterranean Sea is a border of which of the following countries?

1. Jordan

2. Iraq

3. Lebanon

4. Syria

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1, 2 and 3

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 3 and 4 only

(d) 1, 3 and 4 only

**18** Which of the following is geographically closest to Great Nicobar?

(a) Sumatra

(b) Borneo

(c) Java

(d) Sri Lanka

**2015**

**19** The area known as 'Golan Heights' sometimes appears in the news in the context of the events related to

	<p>(a) Central Asia          (b) Middle East          (c) South-East Asia          (d) Central Africa</p>
<b>20</b>	<p>Which one of the following countries of South-West Asia does not open out to the Mediterranean Sea?</p> <p>(a) Syria          (b) Jordan          (c) Lebanon          (d) Israel</p>
<b>2014</b>	
<b>21</b>	<p>Consider the following pairs:</p> <p>Region often in news: Country</p> <p>1. Chechnya: Russian Federation          2. Darfur: Mali          3. Swat Valley: Iraq</p> <p>Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?</p> <p>(a) 1 only          (b) 2 and 3 only          (c) 1 and 3 only          (d) 1, 2 and 3</p>
<b>22</b>	<p>Turkey is located between</p> <p>(a) Black Sea and Caspian Sea          (b) Black Sea and Mediterranean Sea          (c) Gulf of Suez and Mediterranean Sea          (d) Gulf of Aqaba and Dead Sea</p>

**23**

What is the correct sequence of occurrence of the following cities in South-East Asia as one proceeds from south to north?

1. Bangkok
2. Hanoi
3. Jakarta
4. Singapore

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**2013**

**24**

Which one of the following pairs is correctly matched?

Geographical Feature : Region

- (a) Abyssinian Plateau : Arabia
- (b) Atlas Mountains : North-Western Africa
- (c) Guiana Highlands : South-Western Africa
- (d) Okavango Basin : Patagonia

**2010**

**25**

Which one of the following can one come across if one travels through the Strait of Malacca:

- a) Bali
- b) Brunei
- c) Java
- d) Singapore

**2009**

**26**

Consider the following countries:

	<p>1. Australia 2. Namibia 3. Brazil 4. Chile</p> <p>Through which of the above does the Tropic of Capricorn pass?</p> <p>a) 1 only b) 2, 3 and 4 c) 1, 2 and 3 d) 1, 2, 3 and 4</p>
<b>2008</b>	
<b>27</b>	<p>Which one of the following cities is nearest to the equator?</p> <p>a) Colombo b) Jakarta c) Manila d) Singapore</p>
<b>28</b>	<p>Which one of the following straits is nearest to the International Date Line?</p> <p>a) Malacca Strait b) Bering Strait c) Strait of Florida d) Strait of Gibraltar</p>
<b>29</b>	<p>In which one of the following is Malta located?</p> <p>a) Baltic Sea b) Mediterranean c) Black Sea</p>

	d) North Sea
30	<p>Which of the following countries share borders with Moldova?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ukraine</li> <li>2. Romania</li> <li>3. Belarus</li> </ol> <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) 1 and 2 only</li> <li>b) 2 and 3 only</li> <li>c) 1 and 3 only</li> <li>d) 1,2 and 3</li> </ol>
31	<p>Through which one of the following Straits, does a tunnel connect the United Kingdom and France?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Davis Strait</li> <li>b) Denmark Strait</li> <li>c) Strait of Dover</li> <li>d) Strait of Gibraltar</li> </ol>
32	<p>Which one of the following cities does not have the same clock time as that of the other three cities at any given instant?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) London (U.K)</li> <li>b) Lisbon (Portugal)</li> <li>c) Accra (Ghana)</li> <li>d) Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)</li> </ol>
33	<p>Other than India and China, which of the following groups of countries border Myanmar?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Bangladesh, Thailand and Vietnam</li> </ol>

	b) Cambodia, Laos and Malaysia c) Thailand, Vietnam and Malaysia d) Thailand, Laos and Bangladesh
<b>2006</b>	
<b>34</b>	Through which one of the following groups of countries does the Equator pass?  a) Brazil, Zambia and Malaysia  b) Colombia, Kenya and Indonesia  c) Brazil, Sudan and Malaysia  d) Venezuela, Ethiopia and Indonesia
<b>35</b>	Huangpu River flows through which one of the following cities?  a) Beijing              b) Ho Chi Minh City  c) Shanghai            d) Manila
<b>2005</b>	
<b>36</b>	Which one of the following countries does not have border with Lithuania?  a) Poland                b) Ukraine  c) Belarus              d) Latvia
<b>37</b>	Which one of the following is the correct sequence of the given town of Pakistan while moving from the North towards the South?  a) Islamabad-Gujranwala-Peshawar-Multan  b) Peshawar-Gujranwala-Multan-Islamabad  c) Peshawar-Islamabad-Gujranwala-Multan  d) Islamabad-Multan-Peshawar-Gujranwala
<b>2004</b>	
<b>38</b>	Latvia does not share its borders with which one of the following countries?  a) Russia                b) Estonia  c) Lithuania             d) Poland

**39**

Match List-I (Sea) with List- II (Country) and select the correct answer using the codes given below the Lists:

List-I (Sea) List-II (Country)

- A. Black Sea 1. Bulgaria
- B. Red Sea 2. China
- C. Yellow Sea 3. Eritrea
- D. Caspian Sea 4. Kazakhstan

Codes:

A B C D

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

**40**

Which one of the following does not border Panama?

- a) Costa Rica
- b) Pacific Ocean
- c) Colombia
- d) Venezuela

**2003**

**41**

Which one of the following countries is land locked?

- a) Bolivia
- b) Peru
- c) Suriname
- d) Uruguay

**42**

Israel has common borders with:

- a) Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Egypt
- b) Lebanon, Syria, Turkey and Jordan
- c) Cyprus, Turkey, Jordan and Egypt

	d) Turkey, Syria, Iraq and Yemen
43	Which one of the following countries does NOT border the Caspian Sea?  a) Armenia      b) Azerbaijan c) Kazakhstan    d) Turkmenistan
2002	
44	Consider the following countries:  1. Albania 2. Bosnia Herzegovina 3. Croatia 4. Macedonia  Which of these countries has/have Adriatic Sea as a boundary?  a) 1 and 2      b) 1, 2 and 3 c) 4 only        d) 3 and 4
2001	
45	The given map shows four towns of the Central Asian region marked as 1, 2, 3, and 4. Identify these from the following list and select the correct answer using the codes given below:   Towns: A. Bishkek

B. Ashkhabad

C. Tashkent

D. Dushanbe

Codes:

a) A-3, B-1, C-2, D-4

b) A-3, B-1, C-4, D-2

c) A-1, B-3, C-2, D-4

d) A-1, B-3, C-4, D-2

**46**

Consider the following provinces of former Yugoslavia:

I. Bosnia

II. Croatia

III. Slovenia

IV. Yugoslavia

The correct sequence of these provinces from the east to the west is

a) IV, I, III, II      b) IV, I, II, III

c) I, IV, III, II      d) I, IV, II, III

**47**

Which one of the following lakes forms an international boundary between Tanzania and Uganda?

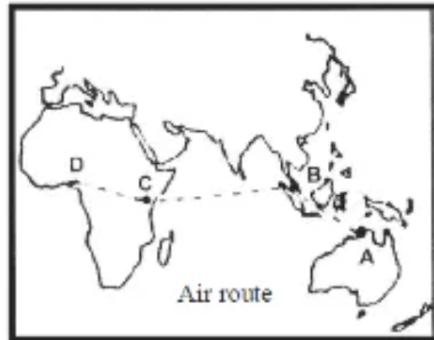
a) Chad                          b) Malawi

c) Victoria                        d) Zambezi

**1999**

**48** Match the cities labelled as A, B, C and D in the given map with the names of cities and select the correct answer using the codes given below the names of cities:

Names of Cities:



1. Darwin
2. Kuala Lumpur
3. Lagos
4. Nairobi
5. Singapore

Codes:

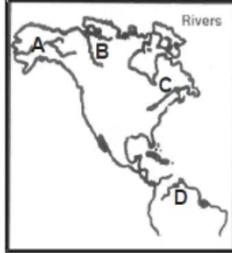
- a) A-1, B-2, C-4, D-3
- b) A-2, B-1, C-4, D-3
- c) A-1, B-4, C-5, D-2
- d) A-4, B-3, C-5, D-2

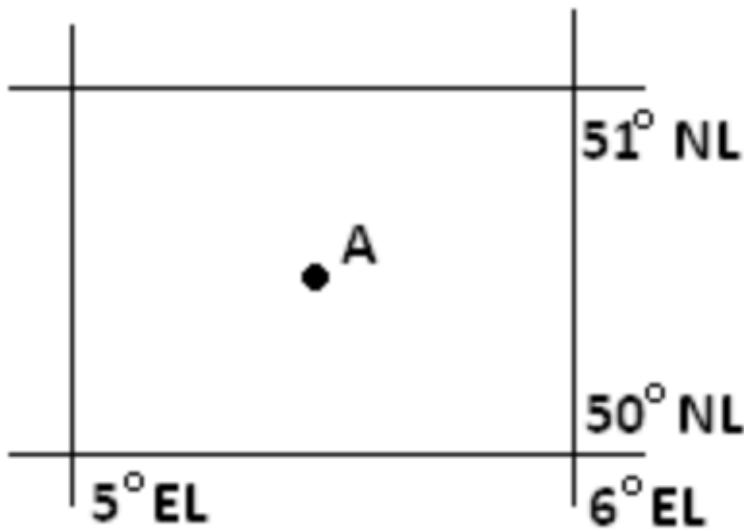
49

The physical regions marked as 1, 2, 3 and 4 on the given map are respectively:



- a) Andes, Brazilian Shield, Guyana Highlands and Amazon Basin

	<p>b) Andes, Guyana Highlands, Brazilian Shield and Amazon Basin</p> <p>c) Amazon Basin, Guyana Highlands, Brazilian Shield and Andes</p> <p>d) Guyana Highlands, Brazilian Shield, Andes and Amazon Basin</p>
<b>1998</b>	
<b>50</b>	<p>Match rivers labelled A, B, C and D on the given map with their names given in the list and select the correct answer using the codes given below the list:</p> <p>1. St. Lawrence</p> <p>2. Orinoco</p> <p>3. Mackenzie</p> <p>4. Amazon</p> <p>5. Yukon</p>
	<p>List-I</p> 
	<p>a) A-4, B-3, C-2, D-1</p> <p>b) A-5, B-3, C-1, D-2</p> <p>c) A-5, B-4, C-1, D-3</p> <p>d) A-3, B-1, C-4, D-2</p>
<b>1997</b>	
<b>51</b>	Consider the geographical details given in the following figure:



The point marked by A in the above figure indicates a country in:

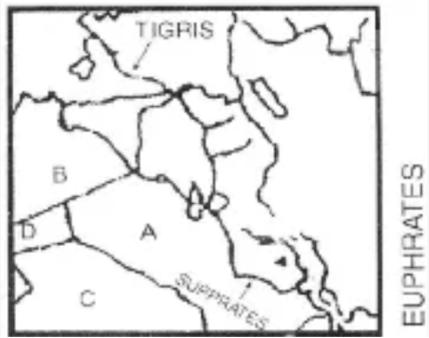
- a) North America      b) South America
- c) Europe                d) Asia

52	One will NOT have to pass through the Suez Canal while going from Mumbai to: a) Alexandria      b) Suez c) Port Said        d) Benghazi
----	---

53	During a flight from Delhi to Tokyo the following are the landing airports:  I. Hong Kong II. Hanoi III. Taipei IV Bangkok
----	---

The correct sequence of the landing at these airports during an onward journey is

- a) I, II, III, IV      b) IV, II, I, III
- c) III, IV, I, II       d) IV, I, II, III

1996	
54	<p>The rough outline map shows a portion of the Middle East. The countries labelled A, B, C and D are respectively:</p>  <p>a) Syria, Iraq, Jordan and Saudi Arabia  b) Syria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Jordan  c) Iraq, Syria, Saudi Arabia and Jordan  d) Iraq, Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia</p>
1995	
55	<p>Consider the map given below indicating four places frequently figuring in the news:</p>  <p>Which one of them is Chechenya?</p> <p>Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:</p>

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

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