Geography

DAILY PRACTICE 06/11/2026 · UPSC CSE · Geography

Q1.

With reference to earthquakes and seismic activity in the Himalayan region, consider the following statements:

1. The Himalayan region is seismically active due to the ongoing convergence of the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates.
2. The magnitude of an earthquake measures the energy released at its source.
3. Earthquake intensity remains identical at all locations irrespective of distance from the epicentre and local geological conditions.
4. Seismic waves can travel across international boundaries without being restricted by political borders.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 1, 2 and 4 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct answer: Option B — 1, 2 and 4 only

Explanation

Correct Answer: (b) — Statements 1, 2 and 4 are correct.

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** Indian plate movement beneath the Eurasian plate makes the Himalayas highly earthquake-prone.
2. **Statement 2 is correct:** Earthquake magnitude represents the energy released at the source.
3. **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Intensity varies with distance, depth, local geology and building conditions.
4. **Statement 4 is correct:** Seismic waves propagate through the Earth's crust irrespective of national boundaries.

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Q2.

Among the following cities, which one lies on a longitude closest to that of Delhi?

A. Bengaluru

B. Hyderabad

C. Nagpur

D. Pune

Correct answer: Option A — Bengaluru

Explanation

Correct Answer: (a) — Bengaluru:

Delhi lies approximately at 77.2° East longitude.

Bengaluru lies approximately at 77.6° East longitude, making it the closest among the given options.

Hyderabad is around 78.5° East, Nagpur around 79.1° East and Pune around 73.9° East.

Therefore, Bengaluru is geographically closest to Delhi in terms of longitude.

Q3.

Consider the following statements:

1. In India, State Governments do not have the power to auction non-coal mines.
2. Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand do not have gold mines.
3. Rajasthan has iron ore mines.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 and 2

B. 2 only

C. 1 and 3

D. 3 only

Correct answer: Option D — 3 only

Explanation

Correct Answer: (d) — 3 only:

Statement 1 is incorrect. State Governments have powers under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, to grant mineral concessions and conduct auctions for several non-coal minerals, subject to the applicable legal framework.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Both Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand have reported gold-bearing mineral deposits.

Statement 3 is correct. Rajasthan has iron ore deposits, including deposits of different grades in districts such as Jaipur, Alwar and Jhunjhunu.

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Q4.

With reference to solar power production in India, consider the following statements:

1. India is the third largest in the world in the manufacture of silicon wafers used in photovoltaic units.
2. The solar power tariffs are determined by the Solar Energy Corporation of India.

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

Correct answer: Option D — Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation

Correct Answer: (d) — Neither 1 nor 2:

Statement 1 is incorrect. India was not the world's third-largest manufacturer of silicon wafers used in photovoltaic units in the context of this examination.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) facilitates solar power development, tenders and procurement. It does not independently determine solar power tariffs. Tariff determination and

adoption fall within the regulatory framework involving the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) and State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs), as applicable.

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Q5.

With reference to the development of North-Eastern India, consider the following statements:

1. The North-Eastern Region of India comprises eight states.
2. The HIRA strategy focuses on Highways, Internet, Railways and Airways connectivity.
3. PM-DevINE aims to support infrastructure and development projects in the North-Eastern Region.
4. The Act East Policy seeks to strengthen India's economic and strategic engagement with ASEAN and other Indo-Pacific countries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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A. 1 and 2 only

B. 1, 2 and 3 only

C. 1, 3 and 4 only

D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct answer: Option D — 1, 2, 3 and 4

Explanation

Correct Answer: (d) — All four statements are correct

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** The region comprises Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.
2. **Statement 2 is correct:** HIRA stands for Highways, Internet, Railways and Airways.
3. **Statement 3 is correct:** PM-DevINE supports infrastructure and development in the North-Eastern Region.
4. **Statement 4 is correct:** The Act East Policy promotes India's engagement with ASEAN and the wider Indo-Pacific.

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Q6.

Which of the following has/have shrunk immensely/dried up in the recent past due to human activities?

1. Aral Sea
2. Black Sea
3. Lake Baikal

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

A. 1 only

B. 2 and 3

C. 2 only

D. 1 and 3

Correct answer: Option A — 1 only

Explanation

Correct Answer: (a) — 1 only

1. **Aral Sea:** Correct. It has shrunk dramatically due to the diversion of rivers feeding it, mainly for large-scale irrigation projects in Central Asia.
2. **Black Sea:** Incorrect. Although it faces environmental challenges, it has not undergone comparable human-induced shrinkage.
3. **Lake Baikal:** Incorrect. It is the world's deepest freshwater lake and has faced ecological threats, but it has not dried up or shrunk immensely in the manner described.

Q7.

In which one of the following States is Pakhui Wildlife Sanctuary located?

A. Arunachal Pradesh

B. Manipur

C. Meghalaya

D. Nagaland

Correct answer: Option A — Arunachal Pradesh

Explanation

Correct Answer: (a) — Arunachal Pradesh

(a) Correct. Pakhui Wildlife Sanctuary, also known as Pakke Wildlife Sanctuary, is located in Arunachal Pradesh. It is known for its rich biodiversity and hornbill conservation.

(b) Incorrect. Pakhui Wildlife Sanctuary is not located in Manipur.

(c) Incorrect. Pakhui Wildlife Sanctuary is not located in Meghalaya.

(d) Incorrect. Pakhui Wildlife Sanctuary is not located in Nagaland.

Q8.

With reference to Indian agriculture, the concept of "Conservation Agriculture" assumes significance. Which of the following fall under Conservation Agriculture?

1. Avoiding monoculture practices
2. Adopting minimum tillage
3. Avoiding the cultivation of plantation crops
4. Using crop residues to cover the soil surface
5. Adopting spatial and temporal crop sequencing/crop rotations

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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A. 1, 3 and 4

B. 2, 3, 4 and 5

C. 2, 4 and 5

D. 1, 2, 3 and 5

Correct answer: Option C — 2, 4 and 5

Explanation

Correct Answer: (c) — 2, 4 and 5

1. **Statement 1 is not included in the keyed combination:** Conservation Agriculture focuses on minimum soil disturbance, permanent soil cover and crop diversification. Avoiding monoculture

is consistent with diversification, but the supplied answer key does not include it.

2. **Statement 2 is correct:** Minimum or zero tillage reduces soil disturbance and helps conserve soil structure.
3. **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Conservation Agriculture does not require avoiding plantation crops.
4. **Statement 4 is correct:** Crop residues provide permanent soil cover, reduce erosion and help retain soil moisture.
5. **Statement 5 is correct:** Crop sequencing and rotation support diversification and improve soil health.

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Q9.

Consider the following statements:

1. The Earth's magnetic field has reversed every few hundred thousand years.
2. When the Earth was created more than 4,000 million years ago, there was 54% oxygen and no carbon dioxide.
3. When living organisms originated, they modified the early atmosphere of the Earth.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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A. 1 only

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 1 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

Correct answer: Option C — 1 and 3 only

Explanation

Correct Answer: (c) — 1 and 3 only

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** Geological evidence shows that the Earth's magnetic field has undergone repeated reversals, with irregular intervals that have often been in the range of hundreds of thousands of years.

2. **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The early atmosphere had very little free oxygen and contained gases such as carbon dioxide, water vapour and nitrogen.
3. **Statement 3 is correct:** Photosynthetic organisms, particularly early cyanobacteria, gradually released oxygen and transformed the Earth's atmosphere.

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Q10.

With reference to El Niño and the Indian southwest monsoon, consider the following statements:

1. El Niño conditions are generally associated with a weakening of the Indian southwest monsoon.
2. Every strong El Niño event necessarily results in drought conditions across India.
3. A positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) can help offset the adverse influence of El Niño on Indian monsoon rainfall.
4. The Madden–Julian Oscillation (MJO) can influence the timing and distribution of monsoon rainfall over India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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A. 1 and 2 only

B. 1, 3 and 4 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct answer: Option B — 1, 3 and 4 only

Explanation

Correct Answer: (b) — Statements 1, 3 and 4 only

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** El Niño involves abnormal warming of the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean. It can weaken the Walker circulation and reduce conditions favourable for the Indian summer monsoon, although the relationship is not uniform in every year.

2. **Statement 2 is incorrect:** A strong El Niño does not guarantee drought in India. Other oceanic and atmospheric factors can moderate its influence, allowing normal or even above-normal rainfall in some years.

3. **Statement 3 is correct:** A positive Indian Ocean Dipole, characterised by relatively warmer western Indian Ocean waters and cooler waters near the eastern Indian Ocean, can strengthen favourable circulation and moisture transport towards parts of the Indian subcontinent, potentially counteracting El Niño's effects.

4. **Statement 4 is correct:** The MJO is a large-scale tropical atmospheric disturbance involving changes in cloudiness, rainfall and winds. Its active and suppressed phases can influence monsoon activity, including the timing and distribution of rainfall over India.

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