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Map-Zine Highlights:

- Stay updated with the latest **places in the news.**
- Experience top-quality, visually captivating, **region-specific maps.**
- Engage with **map-based questions** on current affairs.
- Gain insights through detailed **solutions and explanations.**
- Hone your mapping skills with **provided practice maps.**

**This volume includes coverage of Important
Deserts of the World**

MAP-ZINE

VOLUME - 4 (Sample)

DECEMBER 2023 - JANUARY 2024

A map module for UPSC, PCS & Other Competitive Exams



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Preface

Mapwork is one of the most complicated learning requirements of many of the present-day examinations. It demands great attention to detail across a large volume of information. Not only is Mapwork a challenge for exam aspirants, it is also a difficult proposition for authors and publishers.

While it is not a viable option to leave out information, packing too much of it is also not conducive to learning.

We have tried our best to make the maps given in the book visually appealing and content-rich.

The most obvious and effective way of learning is a little bit at a time. So rather than confounding the student with broad and wastefully general maps we have taken smaller and specific regions in this book for greater understanding and retention.

Furthermore, we have tried to ensure that the student has an opportunity to practice the newly acquired learning with relative ease by providing practice maps.

All this in the book is supplemented by the corresponding video-lectures provided on a dedicated YouTube channel for more detailed explanations and reinforcement.

But the primary feature that sets our effort apart is something else. Almost all examinations these days are gravitating towards a more Current-Affairs-centric approach. Not matter what the topic or subject, the questions framed these days are mostly related to the current happenings across the globe. We have identified this pattern and set our questions relevant to the most important current-affairs topics of the present time. This is sure to benefit the examinees in a major way.

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PLACES IN NEWS (DECEMBER 2023 - JANUARY 2024)

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IMPORTANT DESERTS OF INDIA

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	<i>PRACTICE MAPS</i>	

A-1 Which of the subsequent sets of countries shares borders with the Golan Heights?

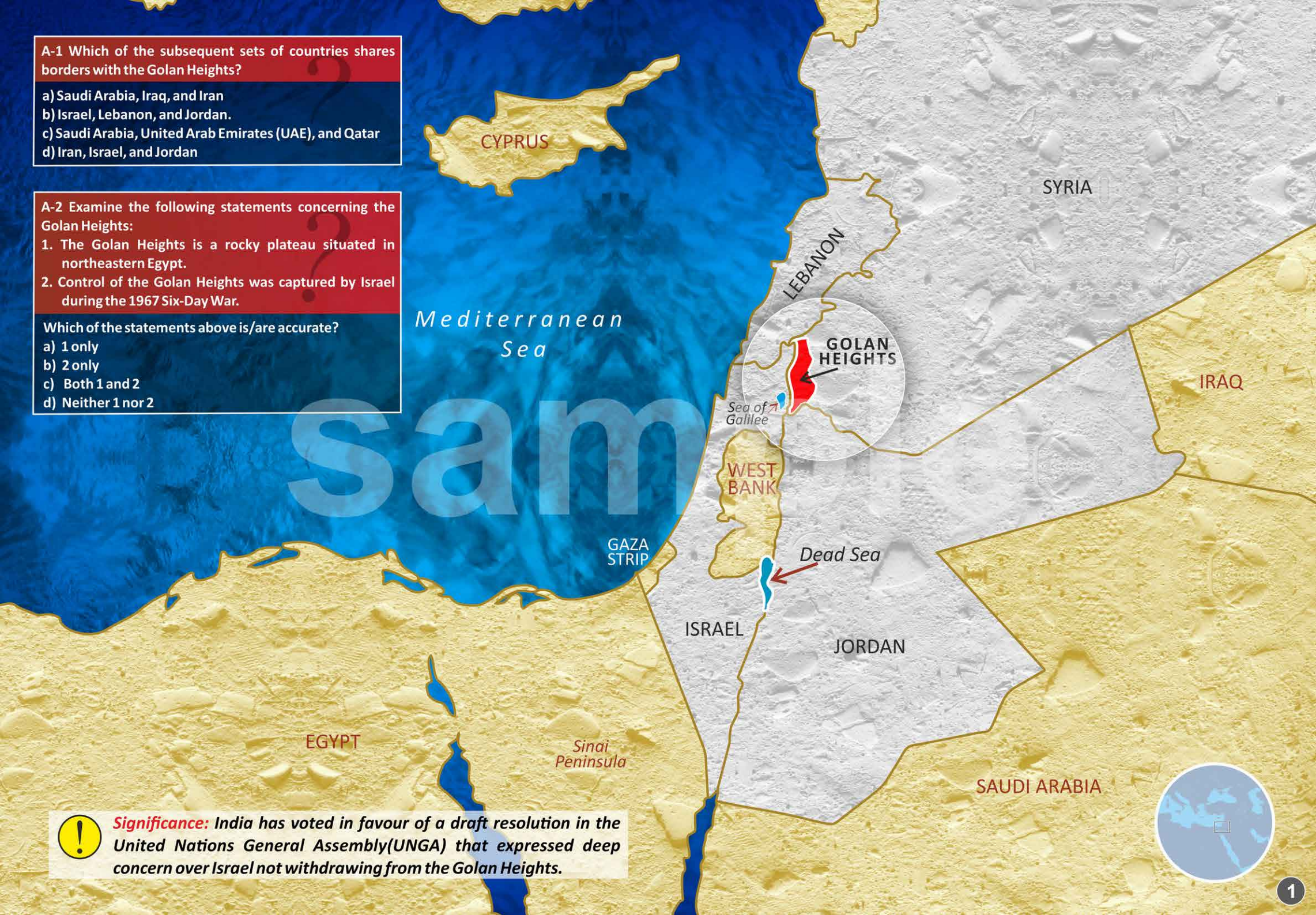
- a) Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Iran
- b) Israel, Lebanon, and Jordan.
- c) Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Qatar
- d) Iran, Israel, and Jordan

A-2 Examine the following statements concerning the Golan Heights:

1. The Golan Heights is a rocky plateau situated in northeastern Egypt.
2. Control of the Golan Heights was captured by Israel during the 1967 Six-Day War.

Which of the statements above is/are accurate?

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



Significance: India has voted in favour of a draft resolution in the United Nations General Assembly(UNGA) that expressed deep concern over Israel not withdrawing from the Golan Heights.

A-18 How many of the following statements about “Kra Isthmus Project is/are TRUE?

1. The Kra Isthmus, located on the Malay Peninsula in Thailand,
2. The Kra Isthmus Project will connect the Andaman Sea and Gulf of Thailand.
3. The project could change global shipping routes, reducing reliance on the Malacca Strait.

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



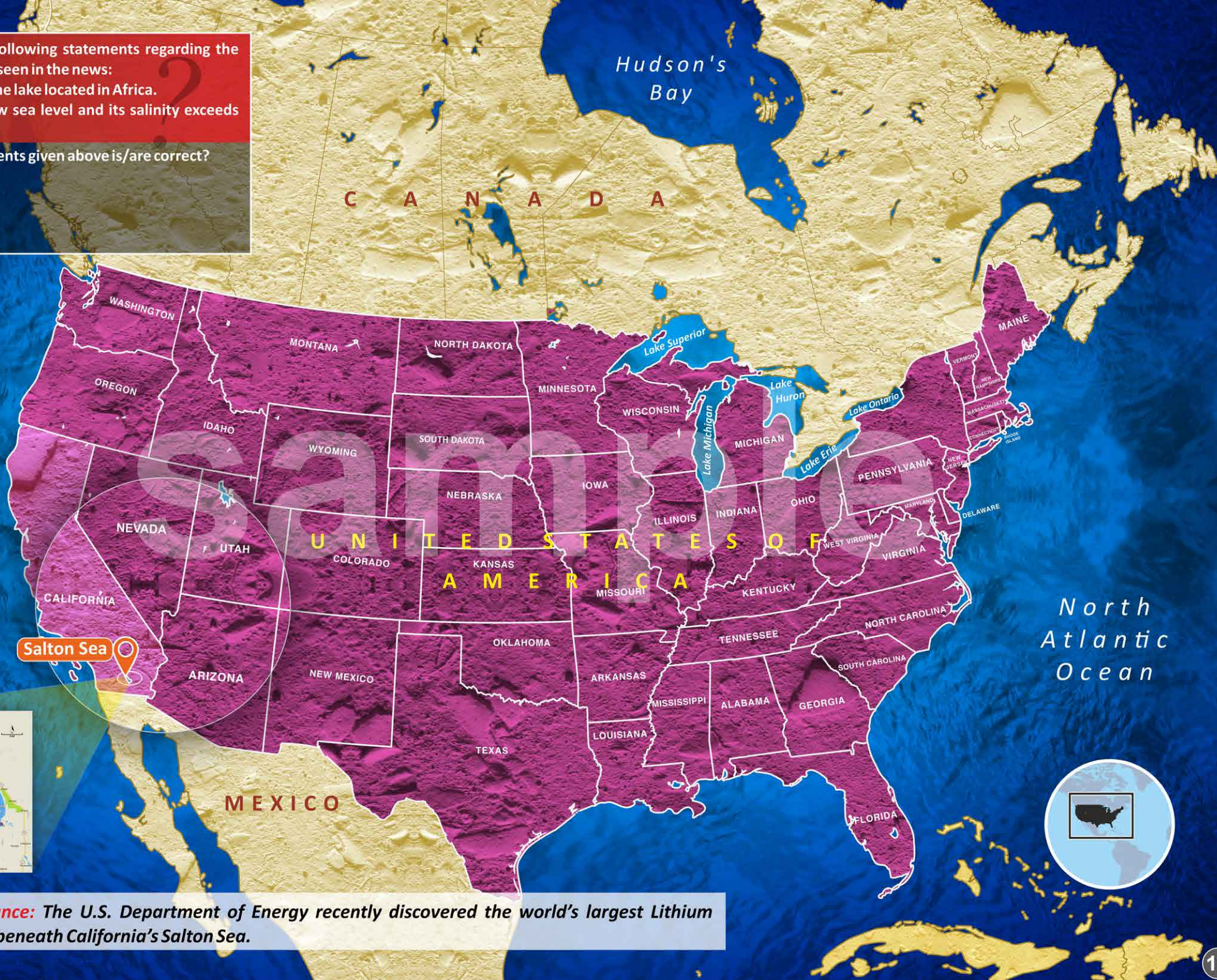
Significance: Thai PM Srettha seeks foreign investors for land bridge across Kra Isthmus

A-28 Consider the following statements regarding the Salton Sea, recently seen in the news:

1. It is a shallow, saline lake located in Africa.
2. It is located below sea level and its salinity exceeds that of seawater.

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



North Pacific Ocean

North Atlantic Ocean

Salton Sea



Significance: The U.S. Department of Energy recently discovered the world's largest Lithium reserve beneath California's Salton Sea.



Canary Islands (SPAIN)

WESTERN SAHARA

23.5° N
Tropic of Cancer

S A H A R A
D E S E R T

Mediterranean Sea

LEBANON
ISRAEL

SYRIA
IRAQ

JORDAN

SAUDI ARABIA

EGYPT

Red Sea

MAURITANIA

MALI

NIGER

CHAD

SUDAN

ERITREA

SENEGAL

GAMBIA

GUINEA-BISSAU

GUINEA

BURKINA FASO

BENIN

NIGERIA

SIERRA LEONE

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

GHANA

TOGO



Gulf of Guinea

B-1 Which of the following statements is/ are correct regarding the Sahara Desert?

1. Located in northern Africa, it is the largest desert in the world.
2. Both the Tropic of Cancer and the Equator cuts through the Sahara Desert.

Select the correct answer based on the codes given below:

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

B-2 Which of the following is/ are NOT the spanning countries of the Sahara Desert?

1. Mali
2. Nigeria
3. Tunisia
4. Burkina Faso
5. Mauritania
6. South Sudan

Select the correct answer based on the codes given below:

- a) 2, 4 and 6 only
- b) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6
- c) 1, 3, 4 and 5 only
- d) 2, 3, 5 and 6 only

A-14 The Correct Answer is: c) Only three

Explanation: -Russia or the Russian Federation, is a country spanning Eastern Europe and Northern Asia. It is the largest country in the world by area, extending across eleven time zones.

- Once the pre-eminent republic of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (U.S.S.R. is commonly known as the Soviet Union), Russia became an independent country after the dissolution of the Soviet Union in December 1991.
- By far the world's largest country, it covers nearly twice the territory of Canada, the second largest. It extends across the whole of northern Asia and the eastern third of Europe, spanning 11 time zones and incorporating a great range of environments and landforms, from deserts to semiarid steppes to deep forests and Arctic tundra.
- Russia contains Europe's longest river, the Volga, and its largest lake, Ladoga.
- Russia also is home to the world's deepest lake, Baikal, and the country recorded the world's lowest temperature outside the North and South poles.
- Russia is bounded to the north and east by the Arctic and Pacific oceans, and it has small frontages in the northwest on the Baltic Sea at St. Petersburg.
- Kaliningrad is indeed an exclave of Russia, meaning it's a geographically separated territory surrounded by another country (Lithuania and Poland in this case). Its unique strategic location makes it a vital hub for Russia's Baltic Sea interests. (Source: Council on Foreign Relations)
- To the south, Russia borders North Korea, China, Mongolia, and Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, and Georgia.
- To the southwest and west, it borders Ukraine, Belarus, Latvia, and Estonia, as well as Finland and Norway.
- While Russia does share borders with China and Norway, **it does not share a land border with Turkey.** They are separated by the Black Sea. (Source: Britannica)

Significance: *The recent Moscow visit by India's Foreign Minister is of considerable significance in the framework of India-Russia relations, extending beyond the established special and privileged partnership. In the evolving global geopolitical landscape a high level of political engagement on international issues and bilateral matters is expected.*

A-15 The Correct Answer is: b) Baltic Sea

Explanation: The Russian enclave Kaliningrad is located on the Baltic Sea. It is sandwiched between Lithuania and Poland. It was captured by the USSR from Nazi Germany in April 1945. It became part of the USSR territory as the result of the Potsdam Agreement.

- As Russia's westernmost federal entity, the Kaliningrad Oblast occupies 15,000 sq km and houses under 1 million people. Russia is divided into 85 such oblasts, or states.
- It is situated almost 300-km away from mainland Russia, and shares no borders with it.
- Home to the deployment of Moscow's Iskander missiles and the Russian Baltic Fleet, Kaliningrad has been called the Kremlin's "unsinkable aircraft carrier".

Significance: *Russian President sends a stern message to the West in his rare trip to Kaliningrad.*

- *Russian President Putin's surprise visit to Kaliningrad, a strategic European exclave, raises regional tensions. Sandwiched between Poland and Lithuania on the Baltic Sea*
- *Kaliningrad's history includes annexation by the USSR from Germany after World War II. During the visit, Putin warns the West, emphasizing the removal of Soviet memorials.*

A-16 The Correct Answer is: b) 1 Only

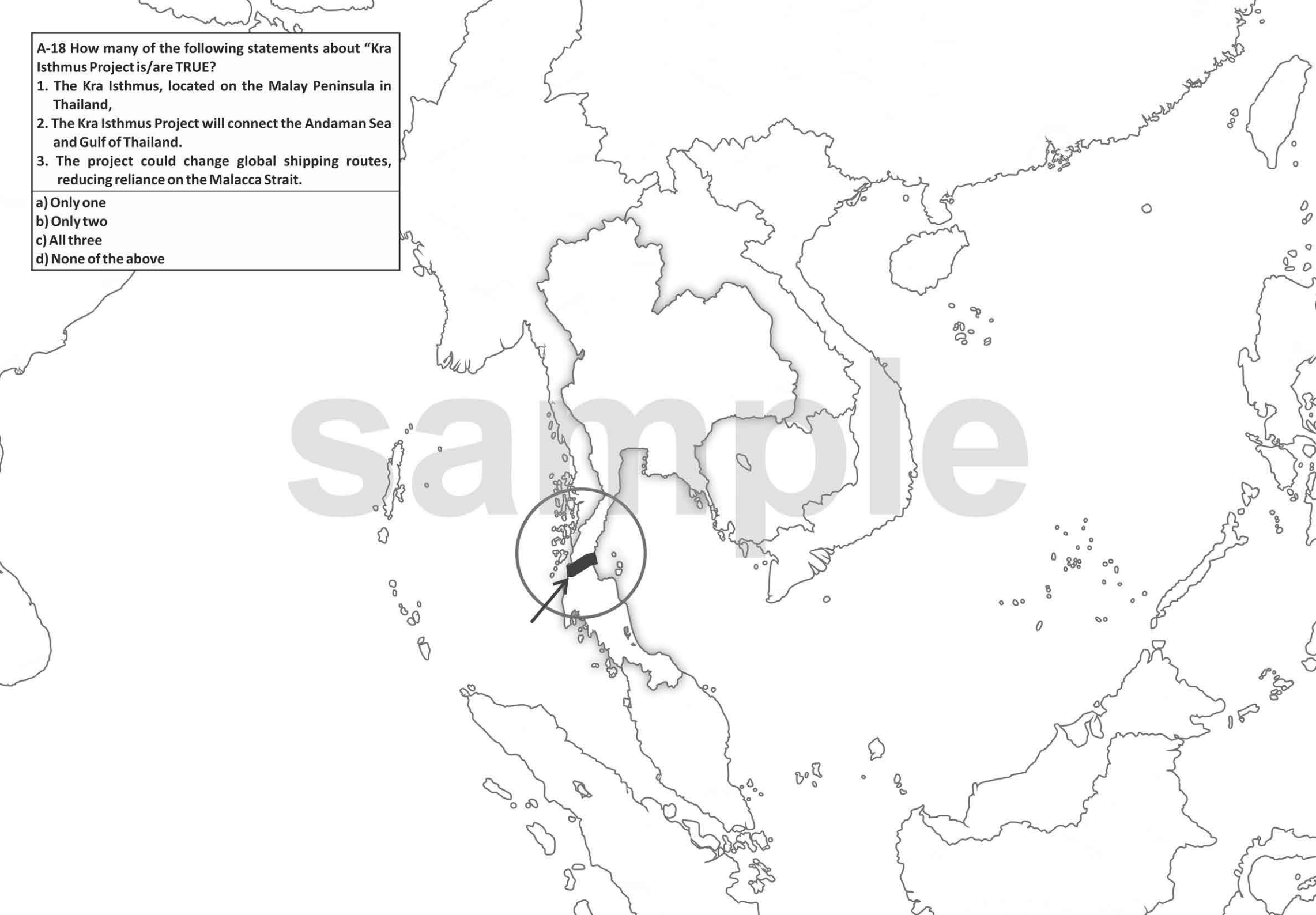
Explanation: - Lake Baikal is located in the southern part of eastern Siberia within the republic of Buryatia and Irkutsk oblast (province) of Russia.

- It is the oldest existing freshwater lake on Earth (20 million–25 million years old), as well as the deepest continental body of water. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- It is also the world's largest freshwater lake by volume, containing about one-fifth of the fresh water on Earth's surface. Hence, statement 2 is NOT correct.
- It is the second-longest after Lake Tanganyika. Hence, statement 3 is NOT correct.

A-18 How many of the following statements about “Kra Isthmus Project is/are TRUE?

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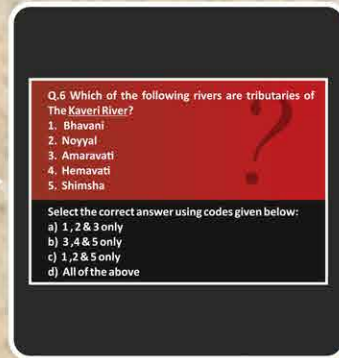
HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

STEP-1



Study the Map
Excellent Quality,
Content-Rich Maps.

STEP-2



Attempt the Questions
Map based questions
specific to current affairs
and ongoing events.

STEP-3



Check the Solution
Clear solutions with
detailed explanations for
optimal understanding.

STEP-4



Practice the Map
Check your understanding
by attempting the practice
maps provided.

STEP-5



Reinforce
Supplement your learning
with videos and related
resources on Youtube and
Edubaba website.



TESTIMONIAL # 1

I found this book wonderfully effective for targeted map-work practice. Thank you Edubaba.

-TANYA SETHI
M.B.A.



TESTIMONIAL # 2

I suggested this book to my own students for Civil Services Exams. The results have been impressive. Good effort!!

-ABHISHEK TIWARI
Teacher, M.Sc., B.Ed.



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