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- Latest Places in News
- Static Geography Maps
- Visually rich, region-specific maps
- MCQs with explanations
- Significance & exam-oriented notes
- Practice maps for revision

Part of MAP-ZINE Bi-Monthly Series

MAP-ZINE
VOLUME - 1 (Sample)
JUNE-JULY 2025

This volume includes coverage of:
Latitude & Longitude | India – Size & Extent



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Preface

Mapwork is no longer a supplementary area in competitive examinations — it is a decisive one. In recent years, questions increasingly test spatial awareness, location intelligence, and the ability to connect current events with geography.

However, the challenge for aspirants lies not in the absence of information, but in its excess. Vast atlases, scattered notes, and unstructured reading often lead to confusion rather than clarity.

MAP-ZINE has been designed to address this gap.

Instead of overwhelming learners with bulky general maps, we have focused on region-specific, exam-oriented maps that reflect how questions are actually framed in UPSC Prelims. Each map is accompanied by structured MCQs, elimination logic, and concise significance notes to build both accuracy and confidence.

The emphasis throughout the book is on:

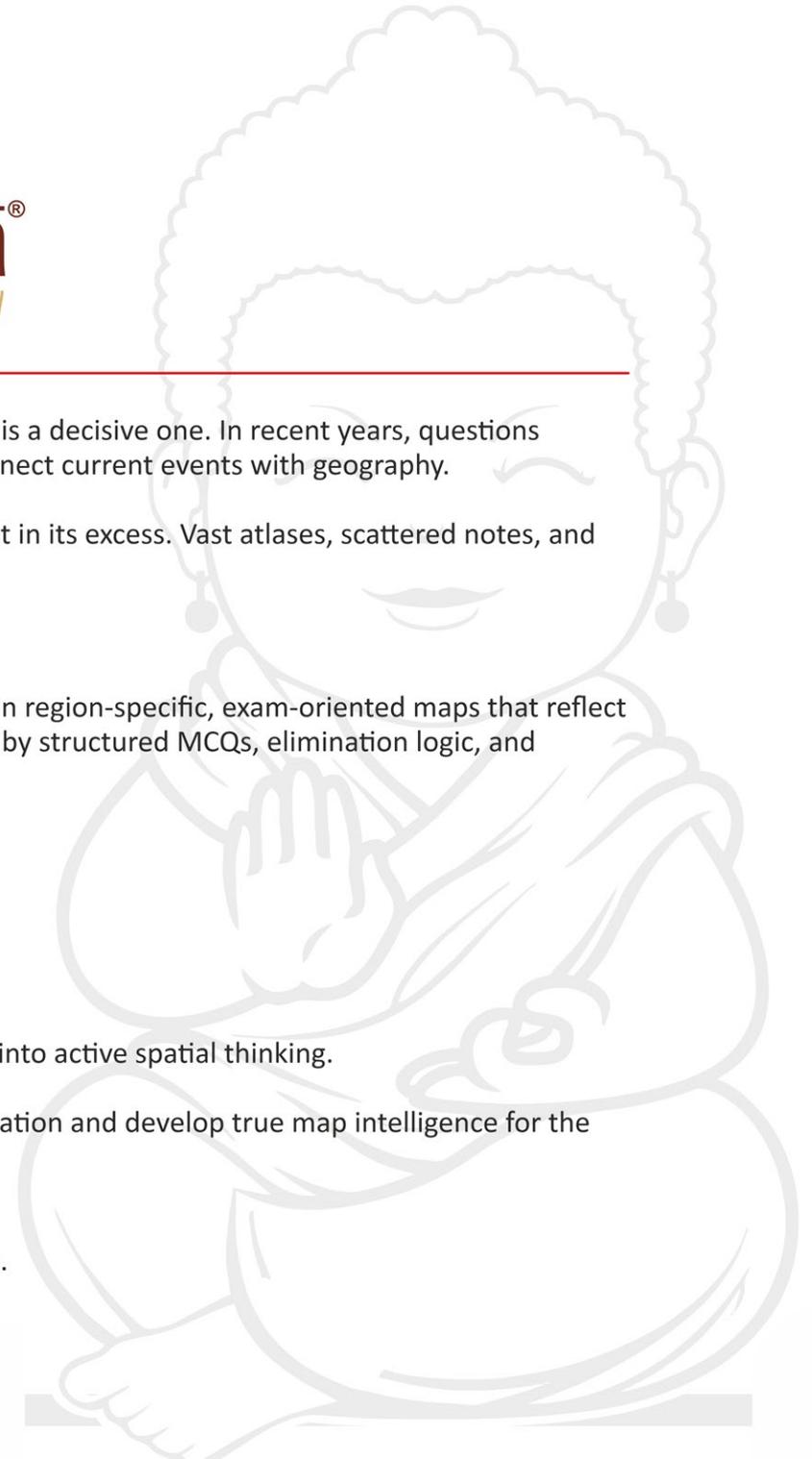
- *Places in News*
- *Static–Current integration*
- *Visual memory reinforcement*
- *Practice through exam-style questions*

Our objective is simple — to transform map preparation from passive reading into active spatial thinking.

We hope this structured approach helps aspirants move beyond rote memorisation and develop true map intelligence for the examination.

MAP-ZINE is not just a compilation of maps — it is a preparation framework. Because in UPSC, knowing the map is not enough — you must think through it.

— Team Edubaba



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PLACES IN NEWS (JUNE - JULY 2025)

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LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE, INDIA- SIZE AND EXTENT

SECTION - B

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QUESTION A-04

Identifies the countries marked 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 on the given Central Asia map?

Match them with the map labels:

- a) 1-Kazakhstan, 2-Turkmenistan, 3-Uzbekistan, 4-Kyrgyzstan, 5-Tajikistan
- b) 1-Kazakhstan, 2-Uzbekistan, 3-Kyrgyzstan, 4-Turkmenistan, 5-Tajikistan
- c) 1-Uzbekistan, 2-Kazakhstan, 3-Tajikistan, 4-Kyrgyzstan, 5-Turkmenistan
- d) 1-Kazakhstan, 2-Kyrgyzstan, 3-Tajikistan, 4-Uzbekistan, 5-Turkmenistan

QUESTION A-05

Central Asia: Must-Know UPSC Questions:

1. What makes Central Asia a strategic link between Europe and Asia?
2. Which key steppes, deserts, mountains, and rivers shape Central Asia's geography?
3. Which Central Asian states are landlocked or double-landlocked, and how does their Soviet legacy influence them?
4. Why is Central Asia a major zone of energy, mineral, and geopolitical competition?
5. How does India maintain strategic and connectivity partnerships with Central Asian nations?

UPSC KEY FACTS

- ✓ Kazakhstan is the **largest landlocked** country in the world and borders both Russia and China.
- ✓ Uzbekistan is one of only two **double-landlocked** countries globally and borders all Central Asian nations.
- ✓ Turkmenistan has Central Asia's **longest Caspian Sea coastline** and is dominated by the Karakum Desert.
- ✓ Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan form the high-mountain region (**Tien Shan & Pamir**), the source of major rivers like **Amu Darya** and **Syr Darya**.

Significance: The Fourth India–Central Asia Dialogue strengthens regional connectivity, security cooperation, and India's strategic engagement with all five Central Asian republics.



UPSC KEY FACTS

- ✓ Turkey is a **transcontinental country** spanning Europe and Asia, divided by the **Bosphorus Strait** in Istanbul.
- ✓ It controls the **Turkish Straits** (Bosphorus & Dardanelles), governed by the **Montreux Convention**, giving Turkey power over naval access to the Black Sea.
- ✓ Turkey shares land borders with eight countries: **Greece, Bulgaria, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan (Nakhchivan), Iran, Iraq, and Syria.**
- ✓ The **Anatolian Plateau, Taurus Mountains** (south), and **Pontic Mountains** (north) shape Turkey's rugged terrain and climatic zones.

Significance: Turkey's transcontinental location and control over the Bosphorus–Dardanelles straits make it central to NATO, Russia–Ukraine conflict logistics, and global grain corridor negotiations.

QUESTION A-21

Which of the following statements about the Black Sea transport and chokepoints is/are TRUE?

1. The Bosphorus Strait is the narrowest part of the passage linking the Black Sea to the Mediterranean.
2. The Montreux Convention gives Turkey full control over the military passage of warships through the Turkish Straits.
3. The Black Sea has only one natural entry/exit point for maritime trade.

Select the correct answer:

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

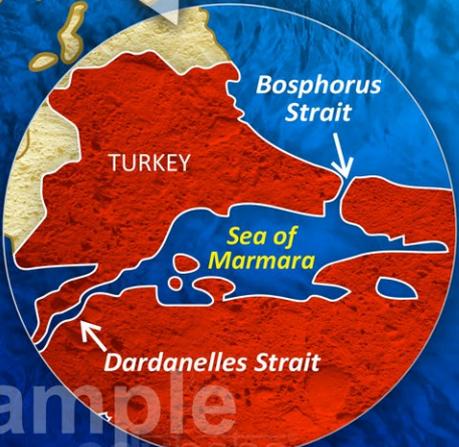
QUESTION A-22

Consider the following statements regarding Turkey's geographical position:

1. It is a transcontinental country located at the crossroads of Europe and Asia.
2. The Bosphorus Strait divides Turkey's Asian and European parts.
3. Turkey shares land borders with both Iraq and Iran.

Select the correct answer:

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



QUESTION A-23

Consider the following statements regarding the Kerch Strait:

1. It connects the Black Sea with the Sea of Azov.
2. It separates the Crimean Peninsula from the Taman Peninsula of Russia.
3. The Kerch Bridge, one of Europe's longest, crosses this strait.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

QUESTION A-24

Consider the following statements regarding the Sea of Azov:

1. It is connected to the Black Sea through the Kerch Strait.
2. It receives the Don and Kuban rivers.
3. It is one of the deepest inland seas in Europe.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

UKRAINE

RUSSIA

Black Sea

BULGARIA

TURKEY

Bosphorus Strait

Sea of Marmara

TURKEY

GEORGIA

Crimean Peninsula

Taman Peninsula

Kerch Strait

Sea of Azov

Kerch Bridge

UPSC KEY FACTS

- ✓ The Sea of Azov is the *shallowest sea in the world* (avg depth ~7 m); easily freezes in winter.
- ✓ It is Linked to the Black Sea through the *Kerch Strait* – its only outlet.
- ✓ It is Bordered by *Ukraine (north & west)* and *Russia (east & south)*.
- ✓ Major rivers entering: *Don River (Russia)* and *Kuban River (Russia)*
- ✓ Key Ukrainian ports: *Mariupol, Berdyansk*; Russian ports: *Taganrog, Yeysk*.



Significance: The Kerch Strait remains a strategic flashpoint as attacks on the Crimean Bridge disrupt Russia's military logistics and its access between Crimea and mainland Russia.



Tropic of Cancer 23°30' N

68°7' E

37°6' N

Standard Meridian of India
82°30' E

97°25' E

Tropic of Cancer 23°30' N

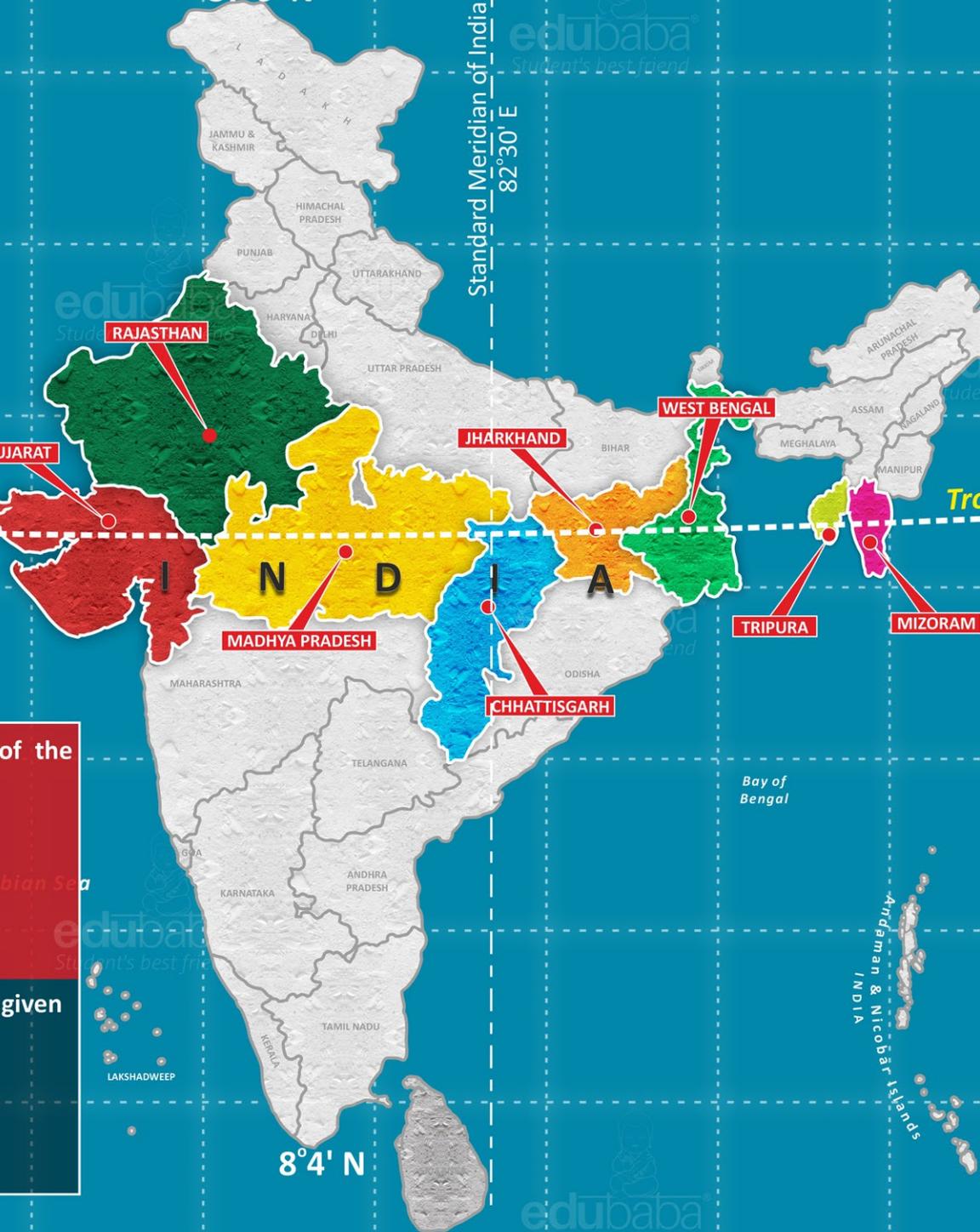
B-21 Tropic of Cancer cuts through which of the following Indian states?

1. Chhattisgarh
2. Tripura
3. Mizoram
4. Manipur
5. Rajasthan

Select the correct answer based on codes given below:

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

sample





SOLUTIONS & EXPLANATIONS

Detailed, clear understanding for every map-based question

SECTION A — PLACES IN NEWS (JUNE–JULY)

A-12 The Correct Answer is: c) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: GERD is located on the Blue Nile River near Ethiopia–Sudan border — CORRECT**
 - GERD is built on the Blue Nile (locally called Abay River).
 - It is approximately 15–20 km from the Sudanese border, making it a **critical transboundary water infrastructure**.
 - Because of this location, GERD directly influences the volume and timing of water flowing into Sudan and Egypt.
 - This proximity is the main reason Sudan and Egypt closely monitor the dam's filling schedule and annual releases.
- **Statement 2: Blue Nile originates in Lake Tana — CORRECT**
 - Lake Tana, situated in the Ethiopian Highlands, is the **primary source of the Blue Nile**.
 - The river flows southward initially, then turns west and northwest, crossing Ethiopia into Sudan.
 - Lake Tana lies at an elevation of around 1,788 metres, giving the Blue Nile a steep gradient and high erosion potential.
 - Around 60–70% of the annual Nile water reaching Egypt comes from the Blue Nile (mainly during monsoon/July–September).
 - Because of this hydrological contribution, Ethiopia's control over the Blue Nile through GERD has strategic implications for the entire Nile Basin.
- **Statement 3: GERD lies upstream of both Sudan and Egypt — CORRECT**
 - The **Blue Nile flows from Ethiopia → Sudan → Egypt**, making Ethiopia the upper riparian state.
 - Sudan is the middle riparian, and Egypt is the lower riparian.
 - GERD's reservoir—called the **Millennium Reservoir**—can store up to ~74 billion cubic meters of water.
 - Control over water release gives Ethiopia significant hydrological leverage over downstream flows.
 - This upstream positioning is what has triggered diplomatic tensions and negotiations among the three countries (Nile Basin Initiative, mediation, etc.).

Significance: Completion of Ethiopia's GERD on the Blue Nile strengthens Ethiopia's upstream control over Nile waters, heightens water-security concerns for Sudan and Egypt, and marks a major shift in Nile Basin geopolitics.

A-13 The Correct Answer is: d) All of the above

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: The White Nile's major source lies in Lake Victoria. — TRUE**
 - The White Nile is considered the longer but less voluminous tributary of the Nile.
 - Its major source is **Lake Victoria**, Africa's largest lake, **shared by Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania**.
 - Although the furthest Nile source is located in the Nyungwe Forest, Rwanda, hydrologically Lake Victoria provides the White Nile's main outflow.
 - The river exits the lake near Jinja, Uganda, then flows northward through Lake Kyoga and Lake Albert before entering South Sudan.
- **Statement 2: The Blue Nile originates from Lake Tana in Ethiopia. — TRUE**
 - The Blue Nile (Abay River) begins at Lake Tana, located in the northwestern Ethiopian Highlands.



SOLUTIONS & EXPLANATIONS

Detailed, clear understanding for every map-based question

SECTION A — PLACES IN NEWS (JUNE–JULY)

- Capital: Nicosia — only divided capital in Europe.
- Split into Republic of Cyprus (south) & Northern Cyprus (Turkey-backed).
- Key physical features: Troodos Mountains, Mt. Olympus, Kyrenia Range, Mesaoria Plain.

Significance: *The first Indian Prime Ministerial visit in 23 years revitalizes India–Cyprus political engagement at the highest level.*

- *Strengthens India–Cyprus ties to balance the growing Turkey–Pakistan partnership. Cyprus supports India’s positions, while Turkey backs Pakistan on Kashmir and sided with Pakistan even during Operation Sindoor, making closer India–Cyprus cooperation strategically important.*

A-08 The Correct Answer is: b) 1 & 2 only

Explanation

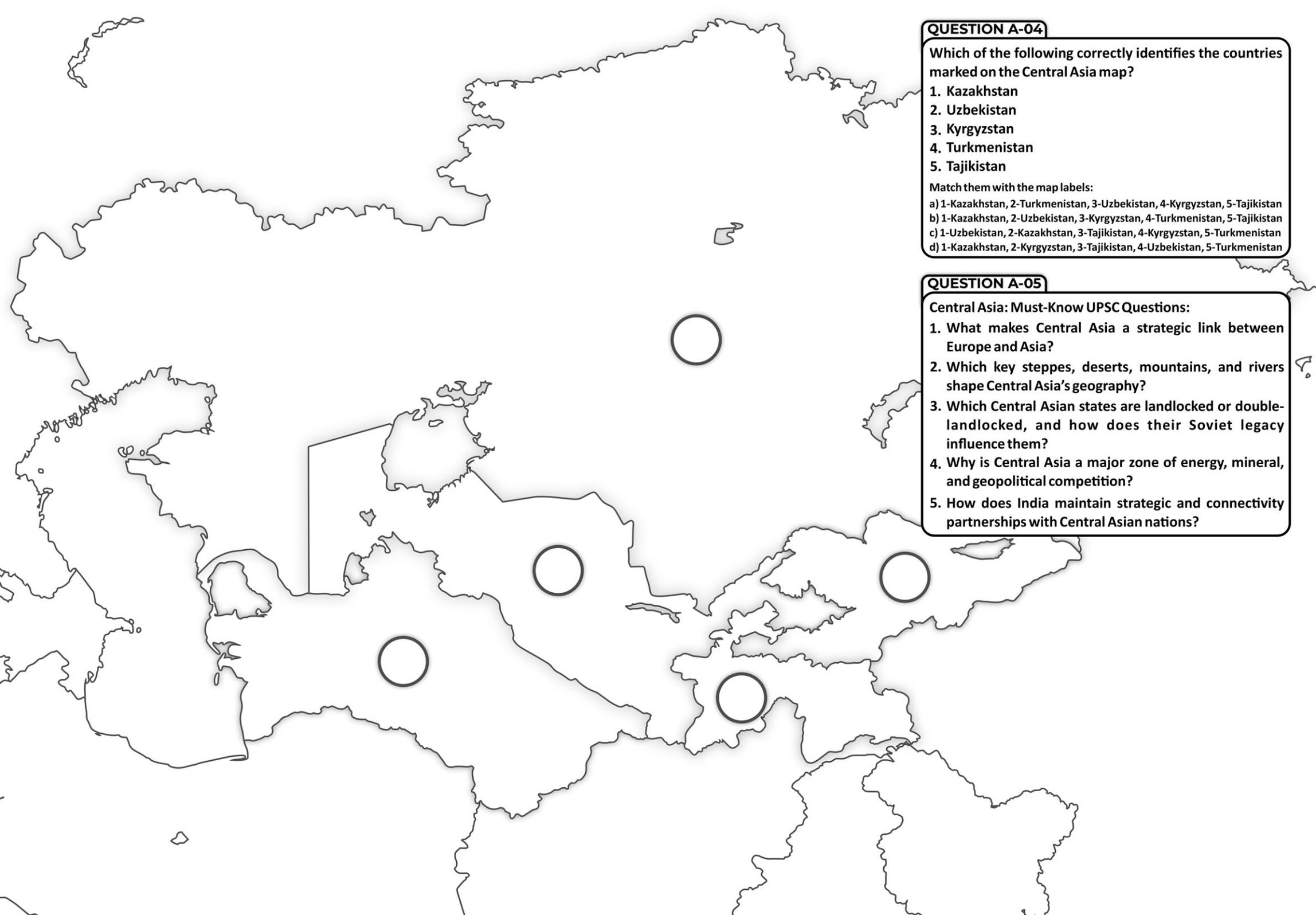
- The Red Sea is a long narrow inlet of the Indian Ocean located between Africa and Asia.
- It connects to the Indian Ocean in the south through the **Bab el Mandeb Strait** and **the Gulf of Aden**.
- In the north it meets the Sinai Peninsula, the Gulf of Aqaba and the Gulf of Suez.
- The Gulf of Suez leads into the **Suez Canal** which connects the Red Sea to the Mediterranean Sea.
- The Red Sea is divided into three parts: Red Sea proper, Gulf of Aqaba, Gulf of Suez.
- Six countries border the **Red Sea proper**:
 - Eastern shore: **Saudi Arabia, Yemen**
 - Western shore: **Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti**
 - Mnemonic: DESSEY (Djibouti, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Eritrea, Yemen)
- The **Gulf of Suez** is bordered entirely by **Egypt**.
- The **Gulf of Aqaba** is bordered by **Egypt, Israel, Jordan** and **Saudi Arabia**.
- The Red Sea sometimes appears reddish brown due to blooms and die-off of the algae **Trichodesmium erythraeum**.
- Somalia is sometimes included in the wider Red Sea region due to its proximity, geological similarity and political links with Red Sea countries.

Significance: *Houthi forces in Yemen have intensified attacks on commercial vessels in the Red Sea, claiming to have sunk a cargo ship. The incident highlights growing risks for global shipping along the Bab-el-Mandeb route.*

A-09 The Correct Answer is: d) All of the above

Explanation

- Geographic Separator: Lies between Yemen (Arabia) and Djibouti–Eritrea (Horn of Africa).
- Waterbody Connection: **Red Sea → Bab-el-Mandeb → Gulf of Aden → Arabian Sea**.
- Only Natural Link: Only natural southern exit for Red Sea into Indian Ocean system.
- Highly strategic maritime chokepoint.



QUESTION A-04

Which of the following correctly identifies the countries marked on the Central Asia map?

1. Kazakhstan
2. Uzbekistan
3. Kyrgyzstan
4. Turkmenistan
5. Tajikistan

Match them with the map labels:

- a) 1-Kazakhstan, 2-Turkmenistan, 3-Uzbekistan, 4-Kyrgyzstan, 5-Tajikistan
- b) 1-Kazakhstan, 2-Uzbekistan, 3-Kyrgyzstan, 4-Turkmenistan, 5-Tajikistan
- c) 1-Uzbekistan, 2-Kazakhstan, 3-Tajikistan, 4-Kyrgyzstan, 5-Turkmenistan
- d) 1-Kazakhstan, 2-Kyrgyzstan, 3-Tajikistan, 4-Uzbekistan, 5-Turkmenistan

QUESTION A-05

Central Asia: Must-Know UPSC Questions:

1. What makes Central Asia a strategic link between Europe and Asia?
2. Which key steppes, deserts, mountains, and rivers shape Central Asia's geography?
3. Which Central Asian states are landlocked or double-landlocked, and how does their Soviet legacy influence them?
4. Why is Central Asia a major zone of energy, mineral, and geopolitical competition?
5. How does India maintain strategic and connectivity partnerships with Central Asian nations?

QUESTION A-19

Consider the following statements regarding the Black Sea:

1. It is connected to the Mediterranean Sea through the Bosphorus Strait and the Sea of Marmara.
2. It is bordered by six countries including Turkey, Russia, and Ukraine.
3. The Crimean Peninsula projects into the northern part of the Black Sea.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only one c) Only three
b) Only two d) All of the above

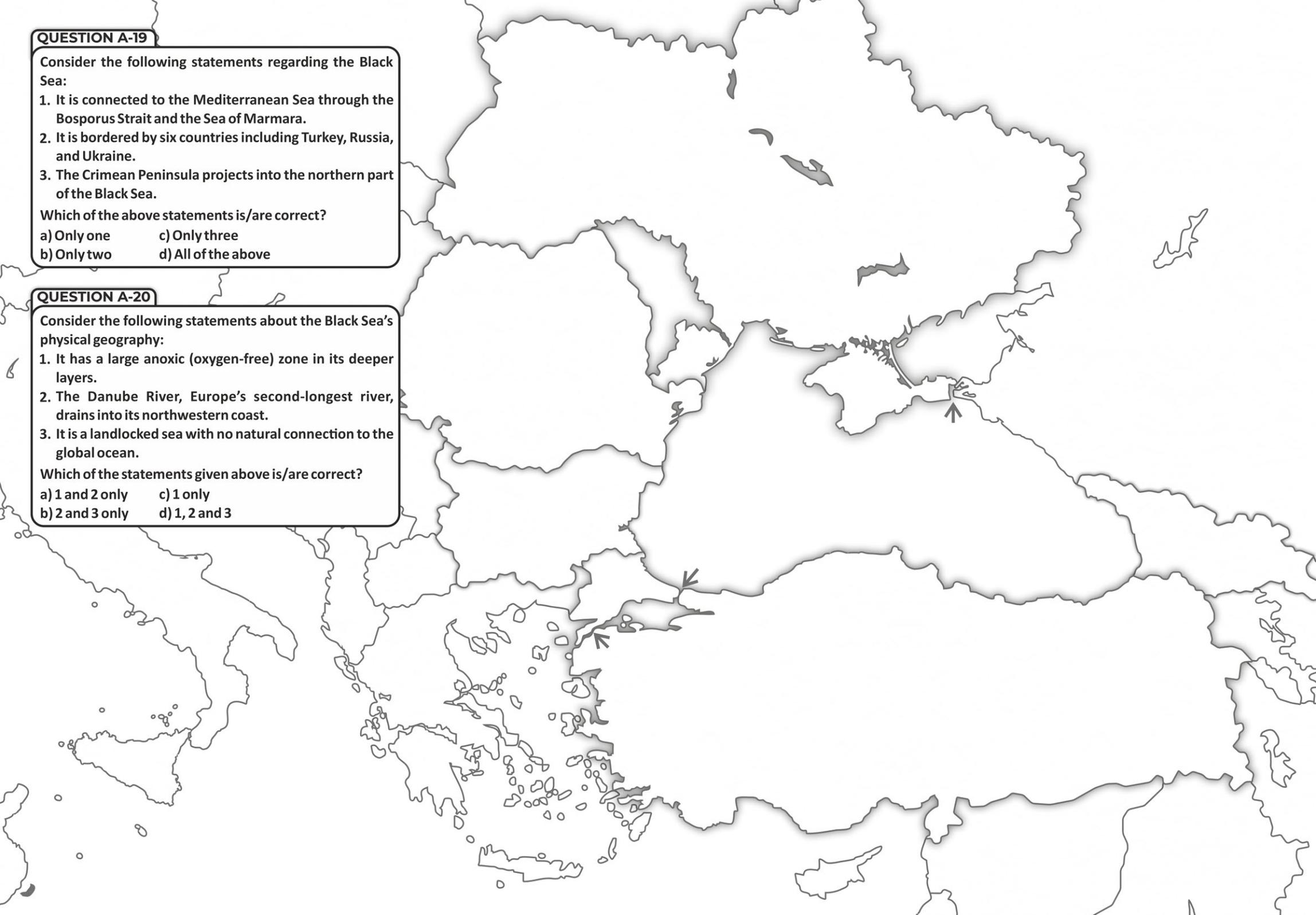
QUESTION A-20

Consider the following statements about the Black Sea's physical geography:

1. It has a large anoxic (oxygen-free) zone in its deeper layers.
2. The Danube River, Europe's second-longest river, drains into its northwestern coast.
3. It is a landlocked sea with no natural connection to the global ocean.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



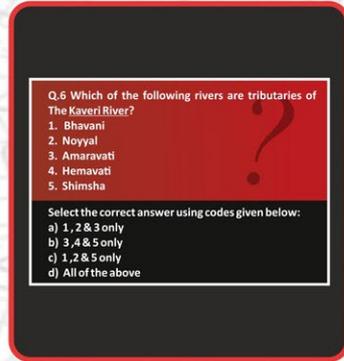
HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

STEP-1



Study the Map
Excellent Quality,
Content-Rich Maps.

STEP-2



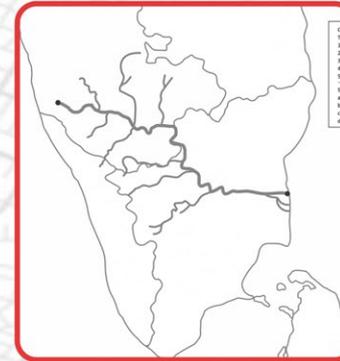
Attempt the Questions
Map based questions
specific to current affairs
and ongoing events.

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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