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MAP-ZINE HIGHLIGHTS:

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- Static Geography Maps
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- MCQs with explanations
- Significance & exam-oriented notes
- Practice maps for revision

Part of MAP-ZINE Bi-Monthly Series

MAP-ZINE
VOLUME - 2 (Sample)
AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2025

This volume includes coverage of:
important rivers of India and the world.



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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:

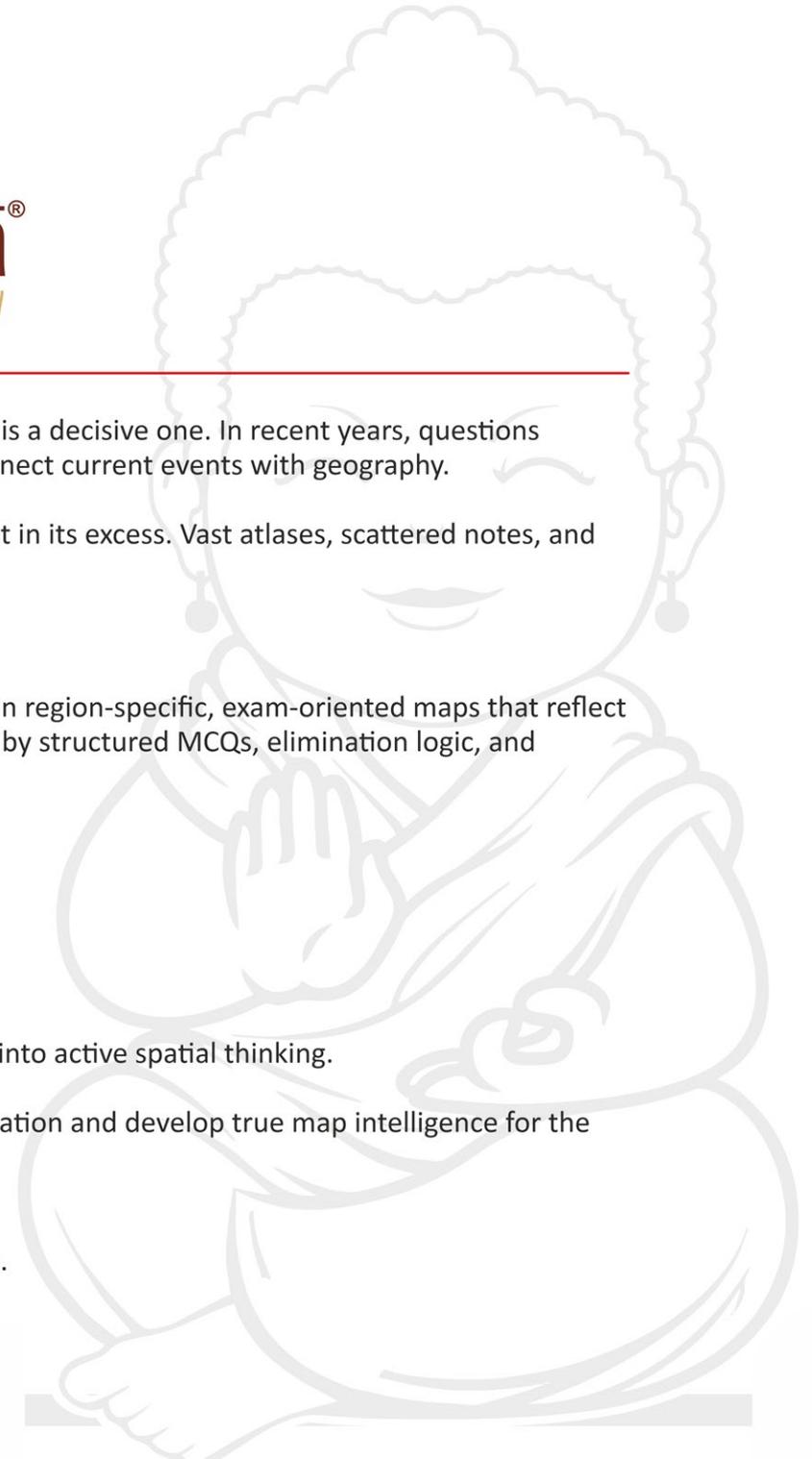
- *Places in News*
- *Static–Current integration*
- *Visual memory reinforcement*
- *Practice through exam-style questions*

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



Contents

| SECTION - A | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------|----------|
| S.No. | Maps | Page No. |
| 1 | Israel | 001 |
| 2 | Ben Gurion Canal Project | 002 |
| 3 | Golan Heights | 003 |
| 4 | Sea of Galilee | 004 |
| 5 | Palestinian Territories | 005 |
| 6 | Philadelphi Corridor | 006 |
| 7 | Dead Sea | 007 |
| 8 | Blue Line | 008 |
| 9 | Iran | 009 |
| 10 | Persian Gulf | 010 |
| 11 | Chabahar Port | 011 |
| 12 | INSTC | 012 |
| 13 | Syria | 013 |
| 14 | Kursk Region (kursk Oblast) | 014 |
| 15 | Ukraine | 015 |
| 16 | Finland | 016 |
| 17 | Nordic Countries | 017 |
| 18 | Arctic Circle | 018 |
| 19 | Baltic Sea | 019 |
| 20 | Baltic Countries | 020 |
| 21 | Nord Stream Pipelines | 021 |
| 22 | Lake Natron | 022 |

PLACES IN NEWS (AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2025)

| SECTION - B | | |
|-------------|--------------------------|----------|
| S.No. | Maps | Page No. |
| 23 | Ganga River System | 023 |
| 24 | Ganga River System | 024 |
| 25 | Ganga River System | 025 |
| 26 | Ganga River System | 026 |
| 27 | Ganga River System | 027 |
| 28 | Indus River System | 028 |
| 29 | Indus River System | 029 |
| 30 | Indus River System | 030 |
| 31 | Indus River System | 031 |
| 32 | Brahmaputra River System | 032 |
| 33 | Brahmaputra River System | 033 |
| 34 | Brahmaputra River System | 034 |
| 35 | Brahmaputra River System | 035 |
| 36 | Yamuna River System | 036 |
| 37 | Yamuna River System | 037 |
| 38 | Yamuna River System | 038 |
| 39 | Narmada River | 039 |
| 40 | Tapi River | 040 |
| 41 | Mahi River | 041 |
| 42 | Sabarmati River | 042 |
| 43 | Mahanadi River System | 043 |
| 44 | Mahanadi River System | 044 |

IMPORTANT RIVERS OF INDIA

Contents

| SECTION - B | | | |
|---------------------------|-------|------------------------------------|-----|
| | S.No. | Page No. | |
| IMPORTANT RIVERS OF INDIA | 45 | Godavari River System | 045 |
| | 46 | Godavari River System | 046 |
| | 47 | Godavari River System | 047 |
| | 48 | Godavari River System | 048 |
| | 49 | Godavari River System | 049 |
| | 50 | Krishna River System | 050 |
| | 51 | Krishna River System | 051 |
| | 52 | Krishna River System | 052 |
| | 53 | Krishna River System | 053 |
| | 54 | Krishna - Godavari River System | 054 |
| | 55 | Kaveri River System | 055 |
| | 56 | Kaveri River System | 056 |
| | 57 | Kaveri River System | 057 |
| | 58 | R. Pennar, R. Ponnaiyar, R. Vaigai | 058 |
| RIVERS OF THE WORLD | 59 | Amazon River | 059 |
| | 60 | Nile River | 060 |
| | 61 | Volga River | 061 |
| | 62 | Danube River | 062 |
| | 63 | Rhine River | 063 |
| | 64 | Mississippi River | 064 |
| | 65 | Mekong River | 065 |
| | 66 | Tigris–Euphrates river | 066 |

| SECTION - B | | | |
|---------------------|-------|-------------------------------------|-----|
| | S.No. | Page No. | |
| RIVERS OF THE WORLD | 67 | Murray River | 067 |
| | 68 | Po River | 068 |
| | 69 | Rhine River | 069 |
| | 70 | Dnieper River | 070 |
| | 71 | Rhône River | 071 |
| | 72 | Dnieper River | 072 |
| | 73 | Nile River | 073 |
| | | SOLUTIONS & EXPLANATIONS | |
| | | PRACTICE MAPS | |

QUESTION A-01

Which of the following statements about Israel is TRUE?

1. It shares a border with Lebanon.
2. It is a narrow country located in the Middle East along the Mediterranean Sea.
3. The Dead Sea, a saltwater lake, is located to the east of Israel.
4. The Negev Desert covers a significant portion of Israel.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) Only 1 c) Only 4
b) Only 2 and 3 d) All of the above

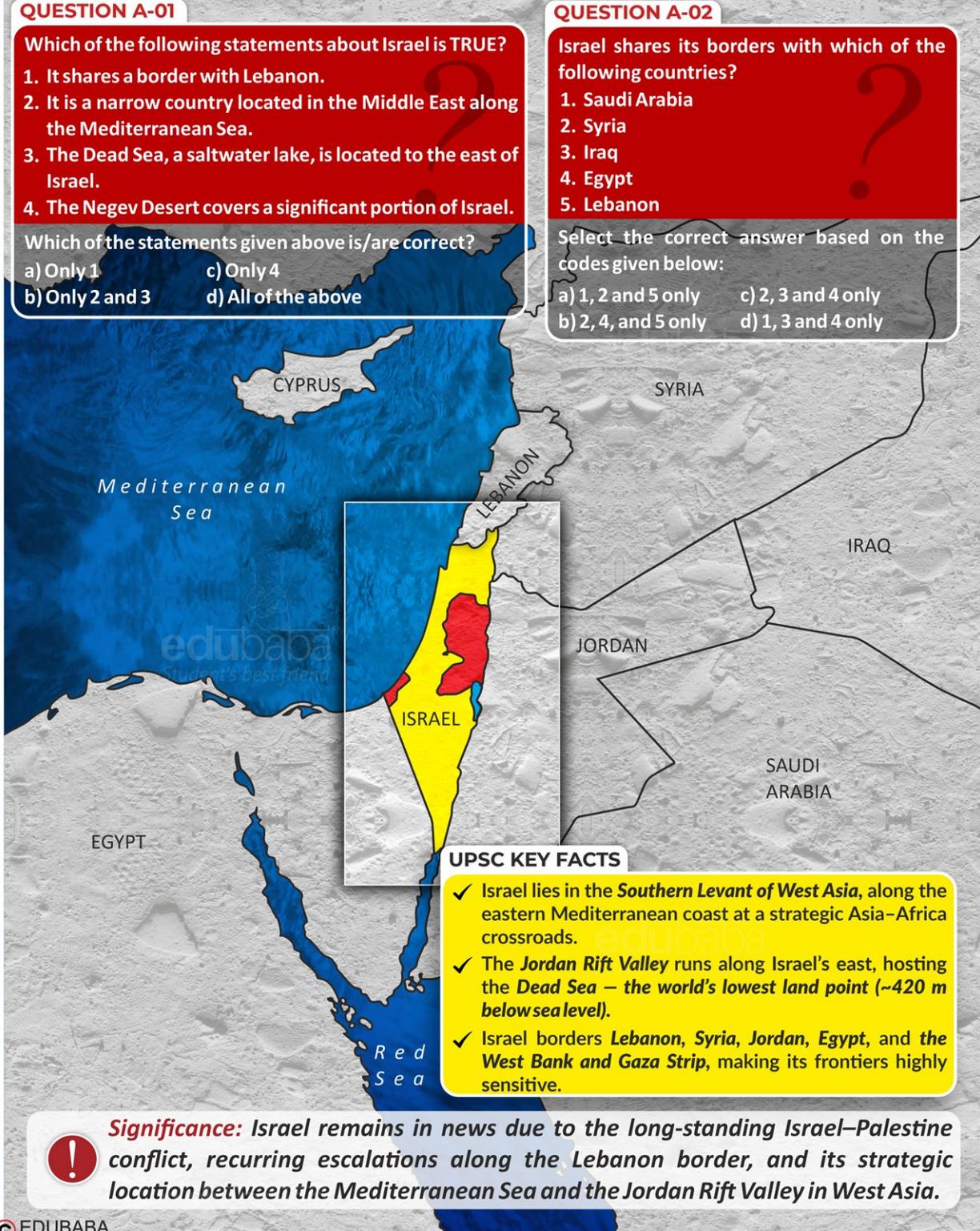
QUESTION A-02

Israel shares its borders with which of the following countries?

1. Saudi Arabia
2. Syria
3. Iraq
4. Egypt
5. Lebanon

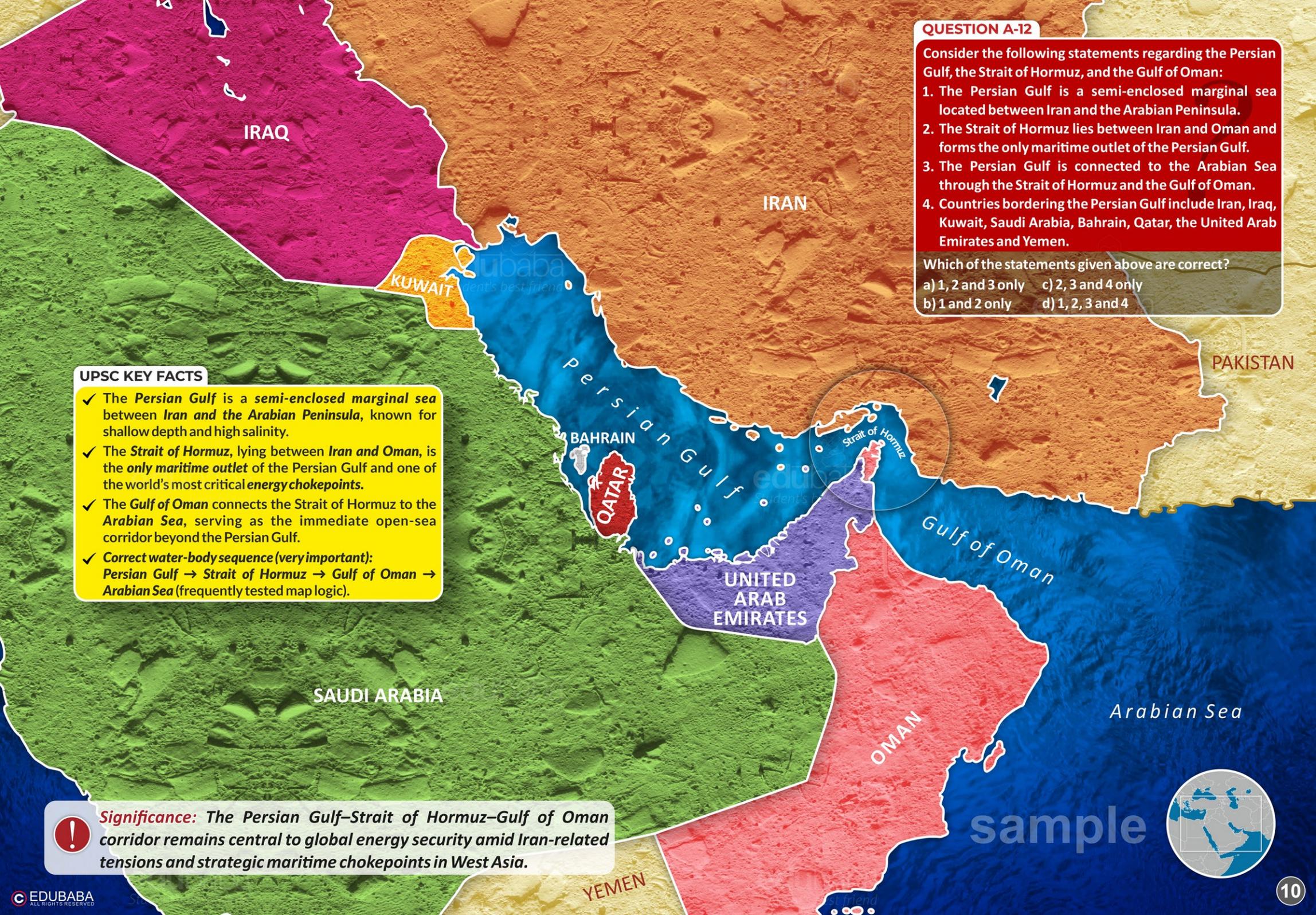
Select the correct answer based on the codes given below:

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



ISRAEL





QUESTION A-12

Consider the following statements regarding the Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz, and the Gulf of Oman:

1. The Persian Gulf is a semi-enclosed marginal sea located between Iran and the Arabian Peninsula.
2. The Strait of Hormuz lies between Iran and Oman and forms the only maritime outlet of the Persian Gulf.
3. The Persian Gulf is connected to the Arabian Sea through the Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf of Oman.
4. Countries bordering the Persian Gulf include Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

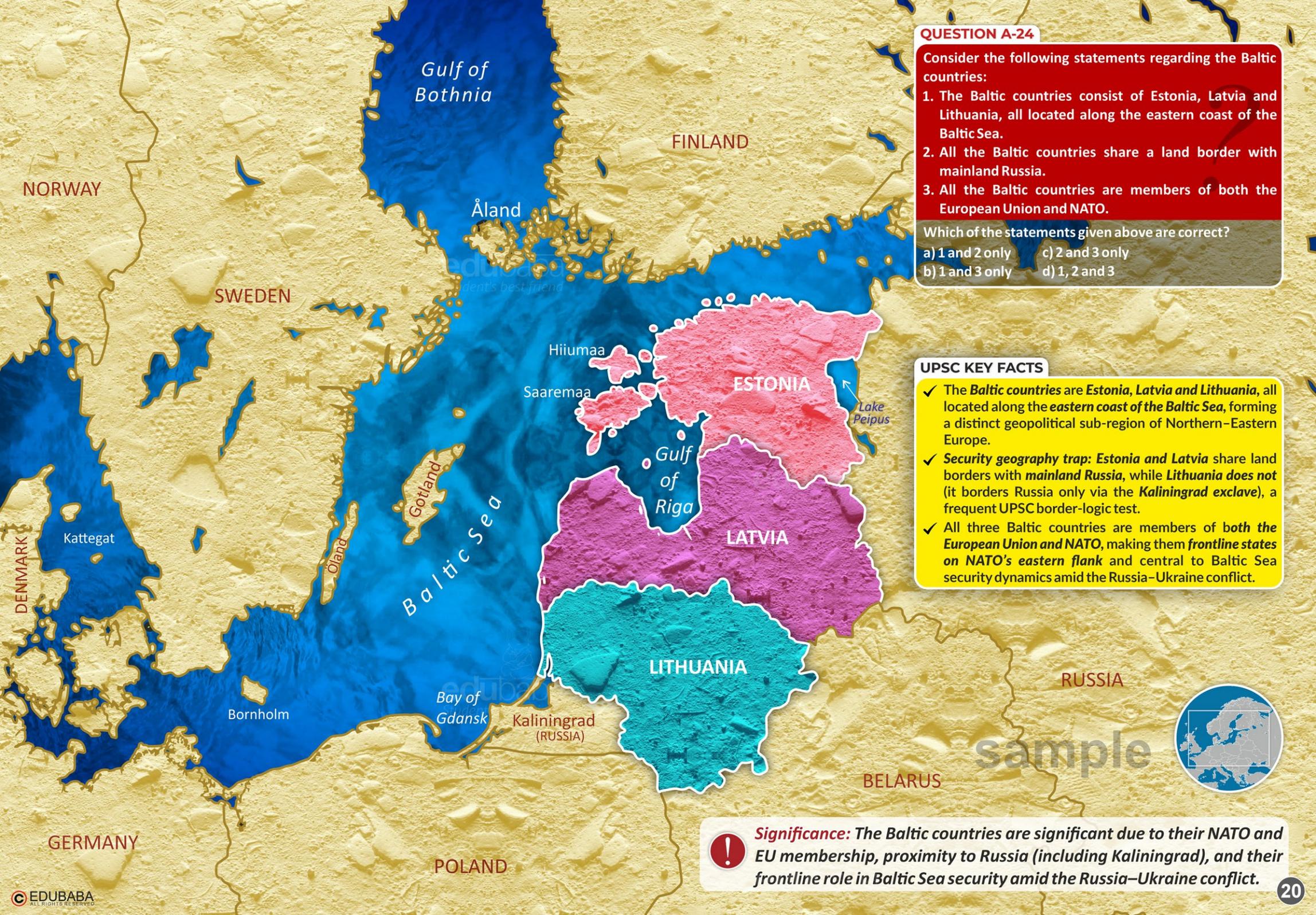
- a) 1, 2 and 3 only c) 2, 3 and 4 only
 b) 1 and 2 only d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

UPSC KEY FACTS

- ✓ The **Persian Gulf** is a **semi-enclosed marginal sea** between **Iran and the Arabian Peninsula**, known for shallow depth and high salinity.
- ✓ The **Strait of Hormuz**, lying between **Iran and Oman**, is the **only maritime outlet** of the Persian Gulf and one of the world's most critical **energy chokepoints**.
- ✓ The **Gulf of Oman** connects the Strait of Hormuz to the **Arabian Sea**, serving as the immediate open-sea corridor beyond the Persian Gulf.
- ✓ **Correct water-body sequence (very important):** Persian Gulf → Strait of Hormuz → Gulf of Oman → Arabian Sea (frequently tested map logic).

Significance: The Persian Gulf–Strait of Hormuz–Gulf of Oman corridor remains central to global energy security amid Iran-related tensions and strategic maritime chokepoints in West Asia.





QUESTION A-24

Consider the following statements regarding the Baltic countries:

1. The Baltic countries consist of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, all located along the eastern coast of the Baltic Sea.
2. All the Baltic countries share a land border with mainland Russia.
3. All the Baltic countries are members of both the European Union and NATO.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

UPSC KEY FACTS

- ✓ The *Baltic countries* are *Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania*, all located along the *eastern coast of the Baltic Sea*, forming a distinct geopolitical sub-region of Northern–Eastern Europe.
- ✓ *Security geography trap*: *Estonia and Latvia* share land borders with *mainland Russia*, while *Lithuania does not* (it borders Russia only via the *Kaliningrad enclave*), a frequent UPSC border-logic test.
- ✓ All three Baltic countries are members of both the *European Union and NATO*, making them *frontline states on NATO's eastern flank* and central to Baltic Sea security dynamics amid the Russia–Ukraine conflict.



Significance: The Baltic countries are significant due to their NATO and EU membership, proximity to Russia (including Kaliningrad), and their frontline role in Baltic Sea security amid the Russia–Ukraine conflict.

B-1 Examine the following statements and select the correct answer by using codes given below:

1. Vishnuprayag is located at the confluence of the Dhauliganga and Alaknanda rivers.
2. Nandaprayag is located at the confluence of the Mandakini and Alaknanda rivers.
3. Karnaprayag is located at the confluence of the Pindar and Alaknanda rivers.
4. Rudraprayag is located at the confluence of the Nandakini and Alaknanda rivers.
5. Devaprayag is located at the confluence of the Bhagirathi and Alaknanda rivers.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) 1 & 2 Only
- b) 1, 2 & 3 Only
- c) 1, 3 & 5 Only
- d) All of the above





SOLUTIONS & EXPLANATIONS

Detailed, clear understanding for every map-based question

SECTION A — PLACES IN NEWS (AUGUST –SEPTEMBER)

A-07 The Correct Answer is: a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct**
 - The **Philadelphi Corridor** is:
 - A **narrow strip of land** running along the **Gaza Strip–Egypt border**
 - Extending from the **Mediterranean coast** to the **Rafah area**
 - It has historically functioned as a **buffer / security corridor**, *making it a precise map-based location for UPSC.*
- **Statement 2 – Correct**
 - The Philadelphi Corridor's importance is tied to:
 - **Security arrangements under the Israel–Egypt peace framework**
 - Border control and demilitarisation understandings
 - Egypt's role in managing Gaza-related security concerns
 - *Because of this, the corridor frequently appears in current affairs linked to Gaza ceasefire and post-conflict arrangements.*
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect (Very Important UPSC Trap)**
 - The Philadelphi Corridor **does NOT lie between Gaza and Israel**
 - It lies between **Gaza and Egypt**
 - It is **NOT part of the Green Line**
 - **The Green Line (1949 Armistice Line)** separates **Israel and the West Bank**, not Gaza–Egypt borders.
 - *Mixing the Green Line with the Philadelphi Corridor is a classic UPSC trap.*

Significance: *The Philadelphi Corridor remains in focus amid the Gaza conflict due to its role in Egypt–Gaza border management, post-conflict security arrangements, and humanitarian access via the Rafah crossing.*

A-08 The Correct Answer is: a) 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct**
 - The **Dead Sea** is the **lowest point on Earth's land surface**, located at approximately **–430 metres below mean sea level**.
 - It lies within the **Jordan Rift Valley**, part of the larger **Great Rift system**
 - *This extreme depression is a key physical geography fact frequently tested by UPSC*
- **Statement 2 – Correct**
 - The Dead Sea:
 - Lies between **Israel and Jordan**
 - Has the **West Bank along its western shore**

sample



SOLUTIONS & EXPLANATIONS

Detailed, clear understanding for every map-based question

SECTION A — PLACES IN NEWS (AUGUST –SEPTEMBER)

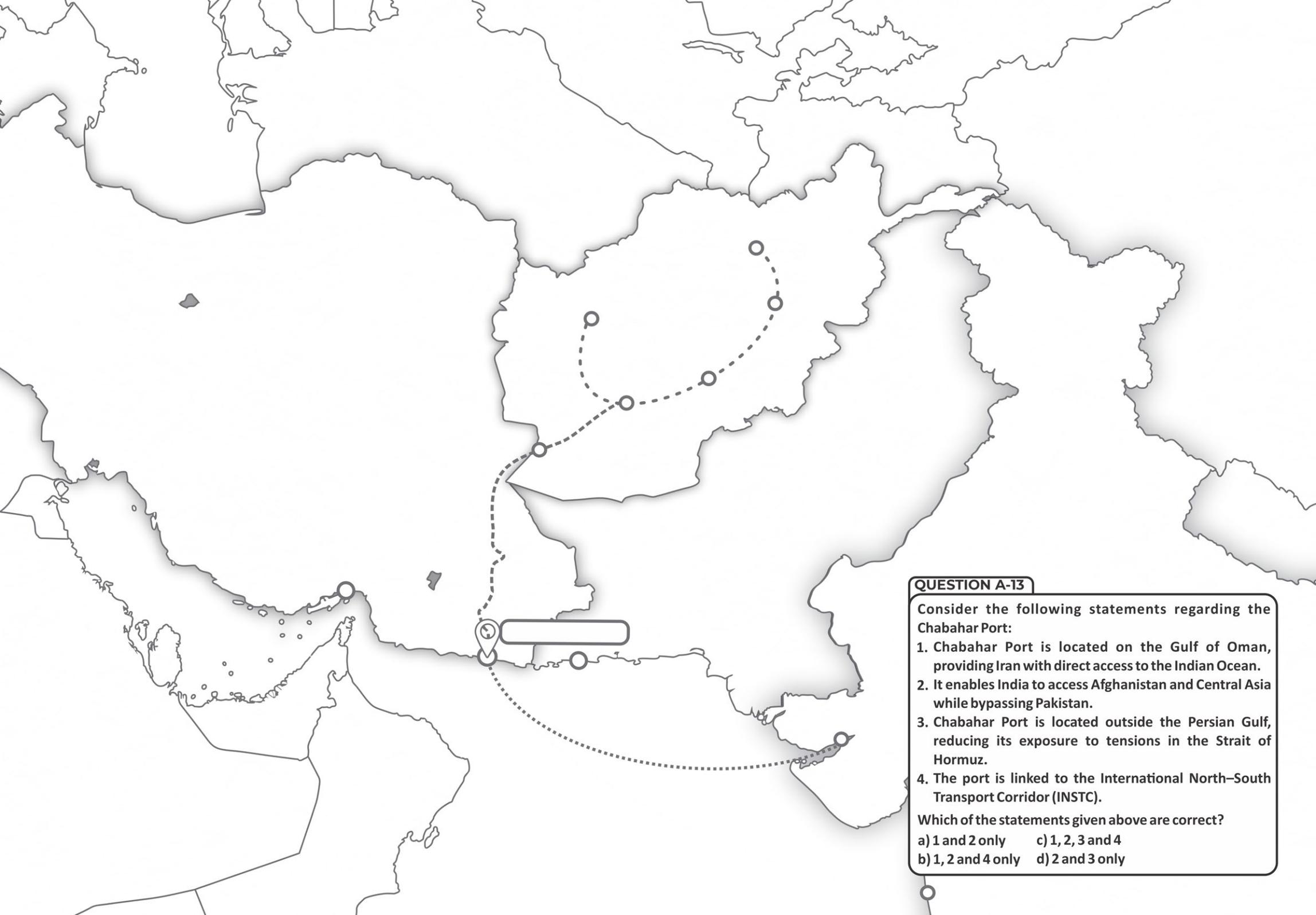
- Shallow depth
- High salinity
- Strategic sensitivity
- **Statement 2 – Correct**
 - The **Strait of Hormuz**:
 - Lies between **Iran (north)** and **Oman (south)**
 - Forms the **only maritime outlet of the Persian Gulf**
 - Connects the Persian Gulf with the **Gulf of Oman**, leading to the Arabian Sea
 - This strait is one of the **world's most critical energy chokepoints**.
- **Statement 3 – Correct**
 - The correct water-body sequence is:
 - **Persian Gulf → Strait of Hormuz → Gulf of Oman → Arabian Sea**
 - *This linkage is a high-frequency UPSC map concept and is geographically accurate.*
- **Statement 4 – Incorrect (NOW 100% CLEAR TRAP)**
 - The list of Persian Gulf bordering countries is **incorrect** because it includes **Yemen**.
 - **Yemen** borders:
 - the **Red Sea**
 - the **Gulf of Aden**
 - the **Arabian Sea**
 - Yemen does **NOT** border the Persian Gulf
 - Correct Persian Gulf littoral states are:
 - **Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Oman**

Significance: *The Persian Gulf–Strait of Hormuz–Gulf of Oman corridor remains central to global energy security amid Iran-related tensions and strategic maritime chokepoints in West Asia.*

A-13 The Correct Answer is: c) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct**
 - The **Chabahar Port** is situated on the **Gulf of Oman**, giving Iran **direct access to the Indian Ocean**.
 - It lies **east of the Strait of Hormuz**
 - This distinguishes it from ports located inside the Persian Gulf



QUESTION A-13

Consider the following statements regarding the Chabahar Port:

1. Chabahar Port is located on the Gulf of Oman, providing Iran with direct access to the Indian Ocean.
2. It enables India to access Afghanistan and Central Asia while bypassing Pakistan.
3. Chabahar Port is located outside the Persian Gulf, reducing its exposure to tensions in the Strait of Hormuz.
4. The port is linked to the International North–South Transport Corridor (INSTC).

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

QUESTION A-23

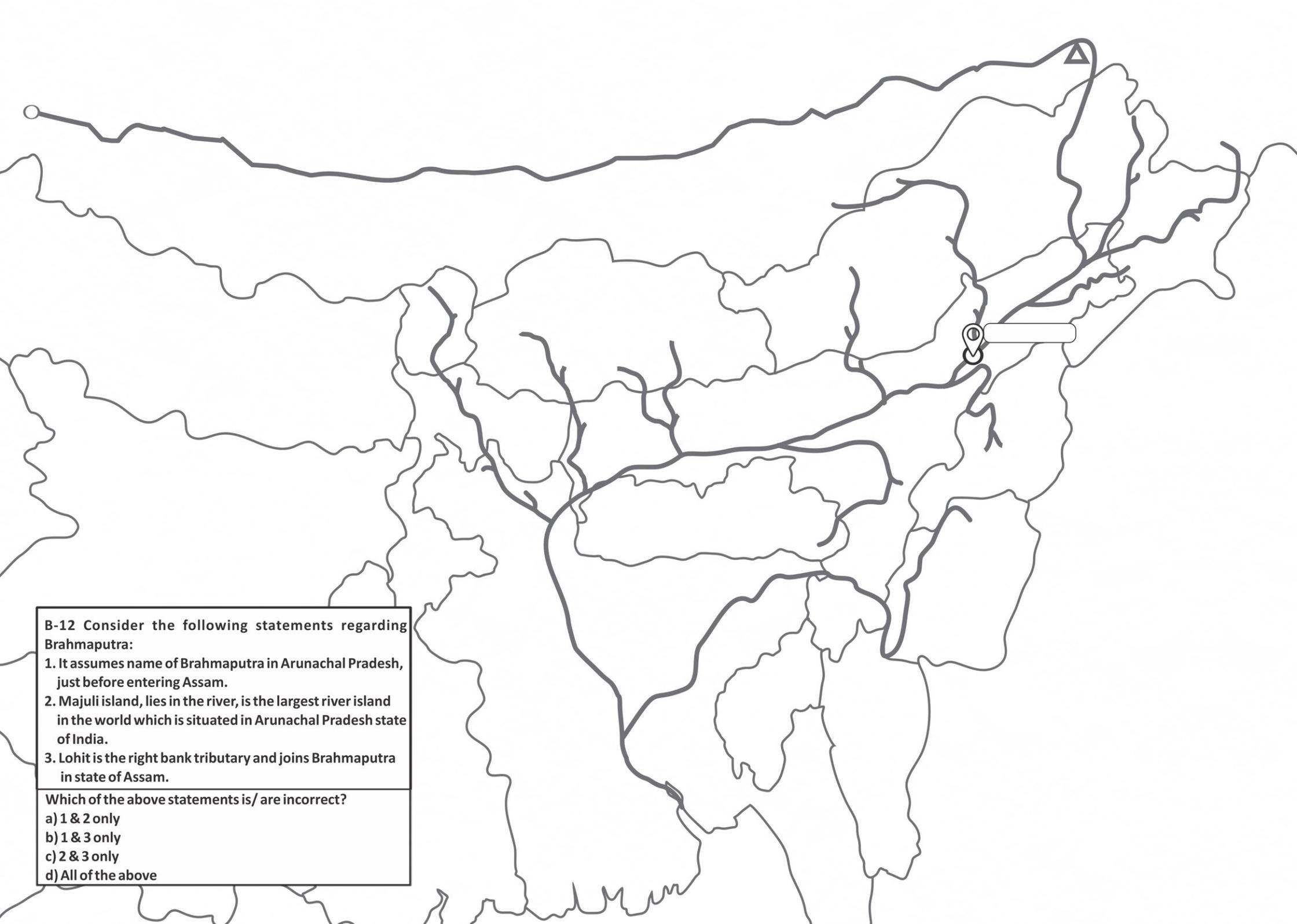
Consider the following statements regarding the Baltic Sea:

1. The Baltic Sea is a semi-enclosed marginal sea connected to the North Sea through the Danish Straits.
2. Countries bordering the Baltic Sea include Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Germany, Poland, Russia, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.
3. The Baltic Sea includes major gulfs such as the Gulf of Bothnia and the Gulf of Finland.
4. The largest island in the Baltic Sea is Gotland, which belongs to Sweden.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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





B-12 Consider the following statements regarding Brahmaputra:

- 1. It assumes name of Brahmaputra in Arunachal Pradesh, just before entering Assam.**
- 2. Majuli island, lies in the river, is the largest river island in the world which is situated in Arunachal Pradesh state of India.**
- 3. Lohit is the right bank tributary and joins Brahmaputra in state of Assam.**

Which of the above statements is/ are incorrect?

- a) 1 & 2 only**
- b) 1 & 3 only**
- c) 2 & 3 only**
- d) All of the above**

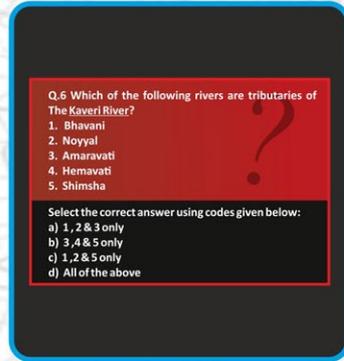
HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

STEP-1



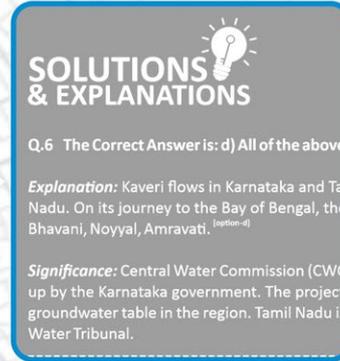
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STEP-2



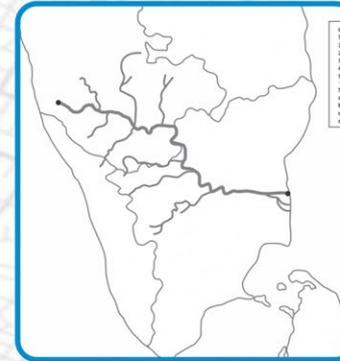
Attempt the Questions
Map based questions
specific to current affairs
and ongoing events.

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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