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Part of MAP-ZINE Bi-Monthly Series

MAP-ZINE
VOLUME - 6 (Sample)
APRIL-MAY 2026

This volume includes coverage of: National Parks, Tiger Reserves, Wetlands, and Mountain Passes.



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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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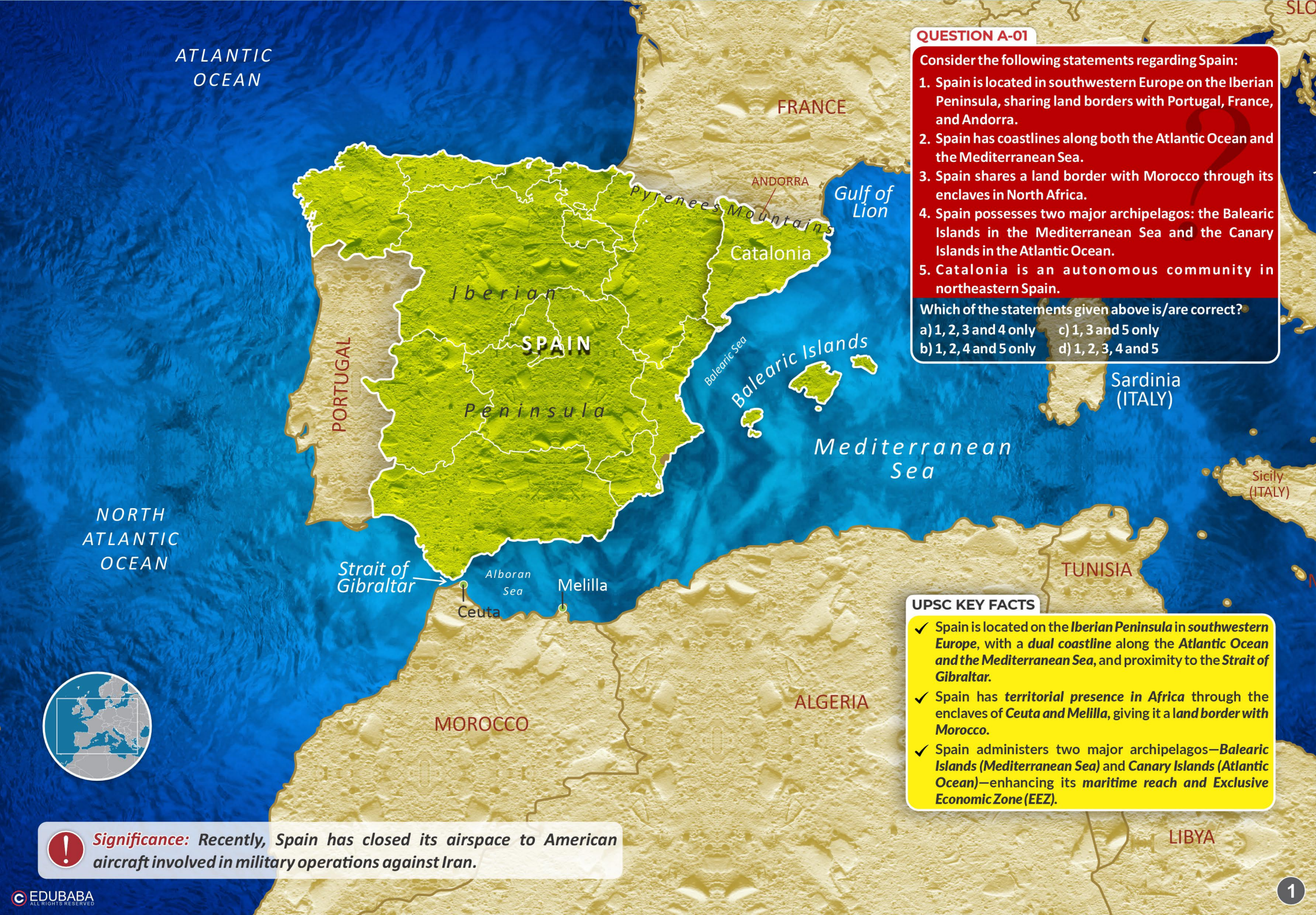
PLACES IN NEWS (MAY-APRIL 2026)

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IMPORTANT NATIONAL PARKS, TIGER RESERVES & BIOSPHERE RESERVES, IN NEWS

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QUESTION A-01

Consider the following statements regarding Spain:

1. Spain is located in southwestern Europe on the Iberian Peninsula, sharing land borders with Portugal, France, and Andorra.
2. Spain has coastlines along both the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea.
3. Spain shares a land border with Morocco through its enclaves in North Africa.
4. Spain possesses two major archipelagos: the Balearic Islands in the Mediterranean Sea and the Canary Islands in the Atlantic Ocean.
5. Catalonia is an autonomous community in northeastern Spain.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

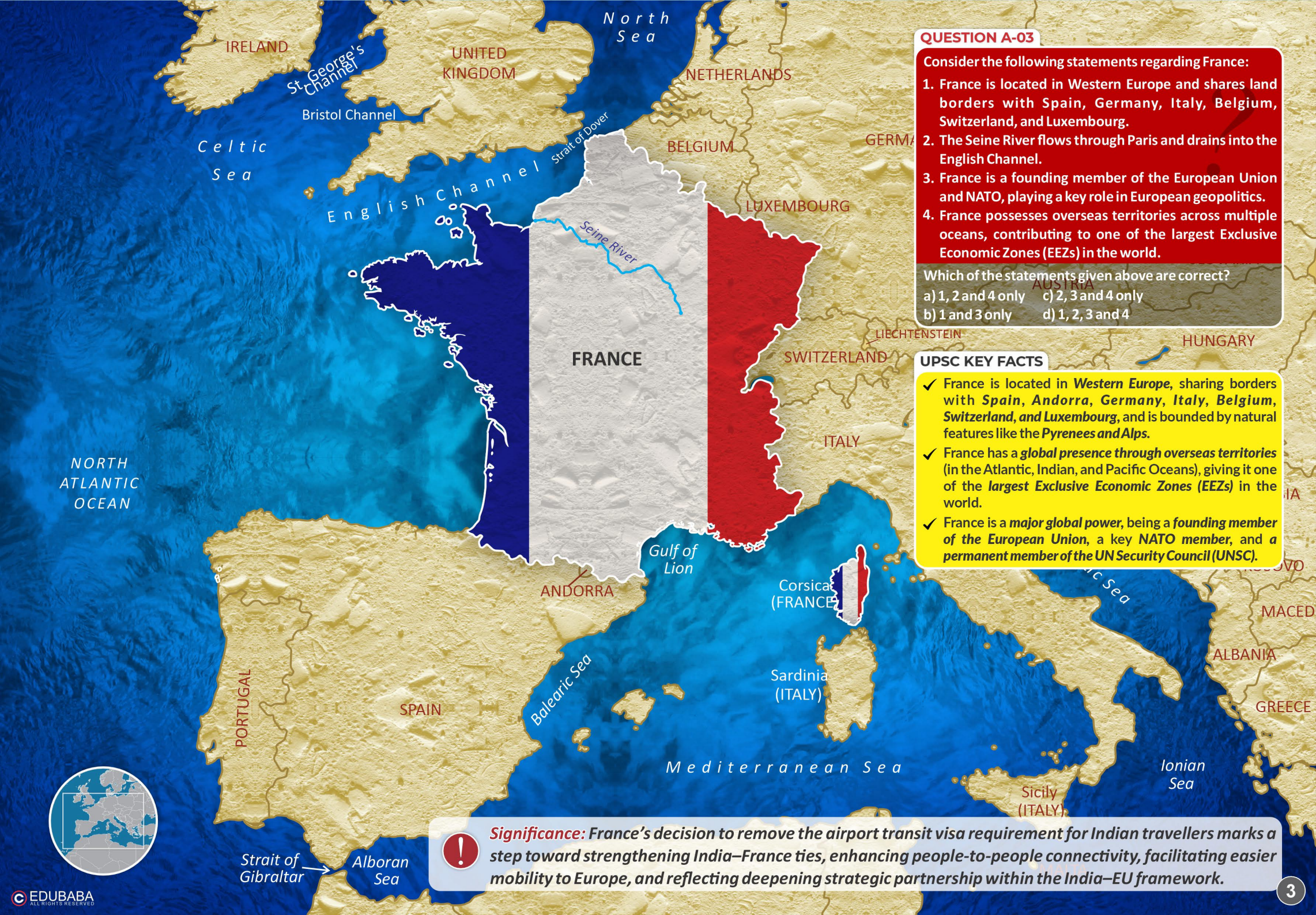
- a) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only c) 1, 3 and 5 only
b) 1, 2, 4 and 5 only d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

UPSC KEY FACTS

- ✓ Spain is located on the *Iberian Peninsula* in *southwestern Europe*, with a *dual coastline* along the *Atlantic Ocean* and the *Mediterranean Sea*, and proximity to the *Strait of Gibraltar*.
- ✓ Spain has *territorial presence* in *Africa* through the enclaves of *Ceuta and Melilla*, giving it a *land border* with *Morocco*.
- ✓ Spain administers two major archipelagos—*Balearic Islands (Mediterranean Sea)* and *Canary Islands (Atlantic Ocean)*—enhancing its *maritime reach* and *Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)*.



Significance: Recently, Spain has closed its airspace to American aircraft involved in military operations against Iran.



QUESTION A-03

Consider the following statements regarding France:

1. France is located in Western Europe and shares land borders with Spain, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Switzerland, and Luxembourg.
2. The Seine River flows through Paris and drains into the English Channel.
3. France is a founding member of the European Union and NATO, playing a key role in European geopolitics.
4. France possesses overseas territories across multiple oceans, contributing to one of the largest Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) in the world.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

UPSC KEY FACTS

- ✓ France is located in **Western Europe**, sharing borders with **Spain, Andorra, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Switzerland, and Luxembourg**, and is bounded by natural features like the **Pyrenees and Alps**.
- ✓ France has a **global presence through overseas territories** (in the Atlantic, Indian, and Pacific Oceans), giving it one of the **largest Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs)** in the world.
- ✓ France is a **major global power**, being a **founding member of the European Union**, a key **NATO member**, and a **permanent member of the UN Security Council (UNSC)**.



Significance: France's decision to remove the airport transit visa requirement for Indian travellers marks a step toward strengthening India–France ties, enhancing people-to-people connectivity, facilitating easier mobility to Europe, and reflecting deepening strategic partnership within the India–EU framework.



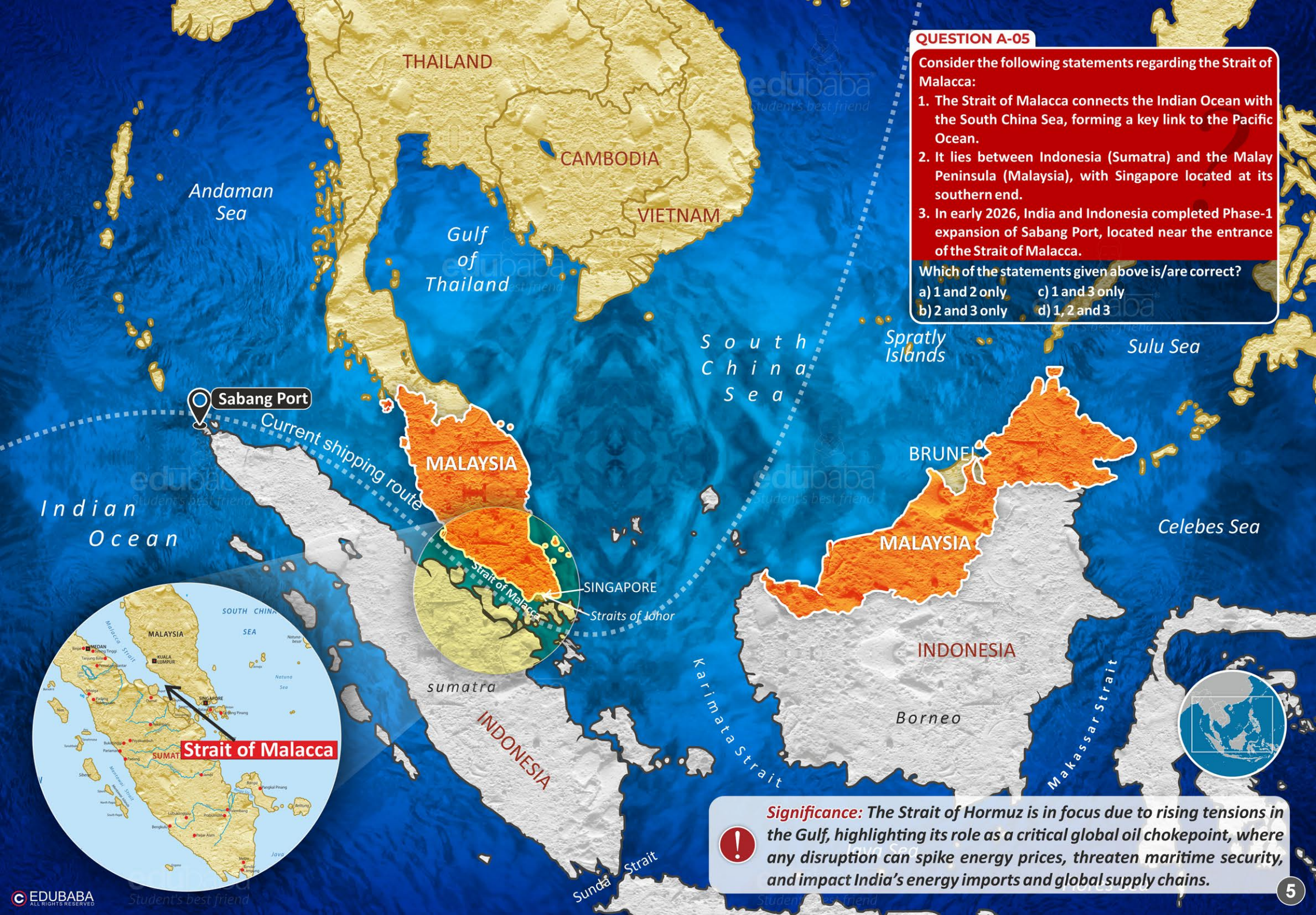
QUESTION A-05

Consider the following statements regarding the Strait of Malacca:

1. The Strait of Malacca connects the Indian Ocean with the South China Sea, forming a key link to the Pacific Ocean.
2. It lies between Indonesia (Sumatra) and the Malay Peninsula (Malaysia), with Singapore located at its southern end.
3. In early 2026, India and Indonesia completed Phase-1 expansion of Sabang Port, located near the entrance of the Strait of Malacca.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



Significance: The Strait of Hormuz is in focus due to rising tensions in the Gulf, highlighting its role as a critical global oil chokepoint, where any disruption can spike energy prices, threaten maritime security, and impact India's energy imports and global supply chains.

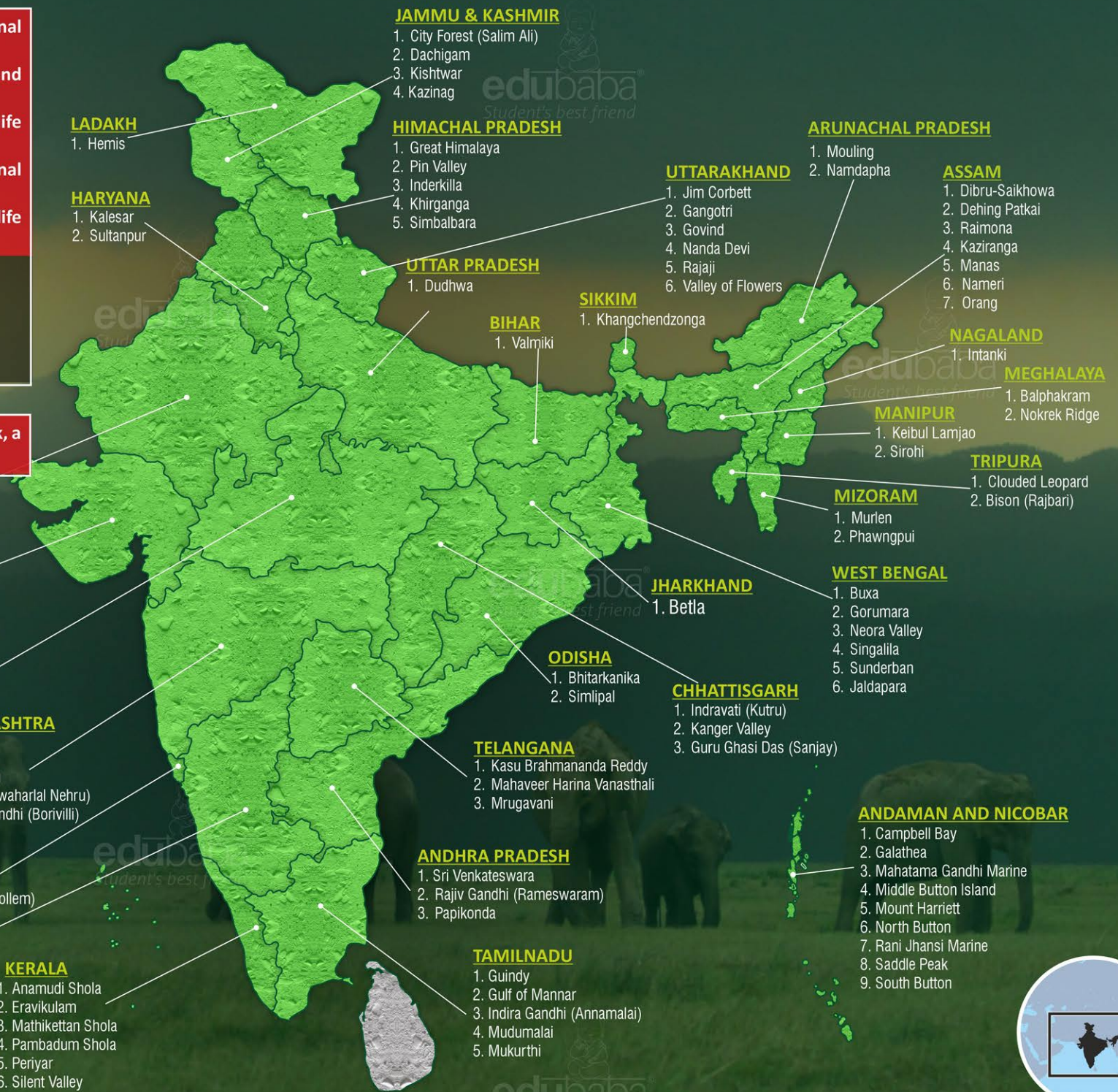
B-1 Consider the following statements about National Park:

1. It is a protected area constituted for the protection and conservation of wildlife.
2. It has less restrictions as compared to a wildlife sanctuary.
3. No human activity is permitted inside the national park.
4. National Parks in India are declared under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Which of the above statement(s) is/ are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 & 3 only
- (c) 1, 3 & 4 only
- (d) All of the above

B-2 What are the differences between a National Park, a Wildlife Sanctuary and a Biosphere Reserve?



B-18 What is Ramsar Convention and what is its mission?

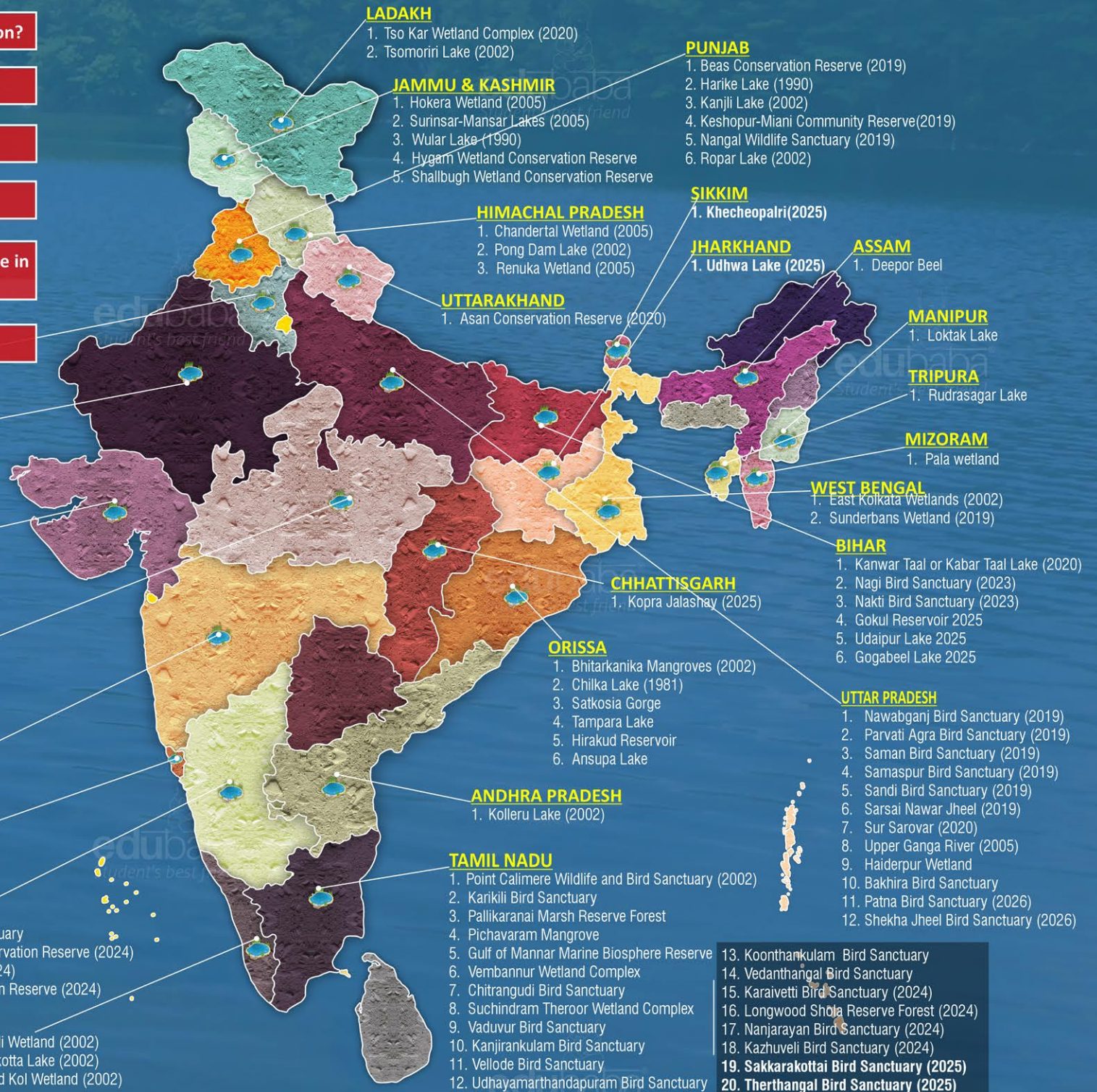
B-19 When did India signed Ramsar Convention?

B-20 How many Ramsar Sites are in India?

B-21 Which is the first Ramsar Site in India?

B-22 What is the largest and the smallest Ramsar site in India?

B-23 Which Ramsar sites are recently added?



B-27 Consider the following statements

1. Established in the year 1936 as Hailey National Park
2. It is the place where Project Tiger was first launched in 1973.
3. Its whole area comprises of hills, marshy depressions, riverine belts, grasslands and large lake.
4. The park has sub-Himalayan belt geographical and ecological characteristics.

The above statements refer to which of the following national parks?

- (a) Balphakram National Park
- (b) Dudhwa National Park
- (c) Manas National Park
- (d) Jim Corbett National Park



Jim Corbett National Park



Bengal tiger



IUCN : Conservation status

Extinct		Threatened					Least Concern	
EX	EW	CR	EN	VU	NT	LC		
			EN					

B-30 Consider the following statements regarding the Manas National Park:

1. It is a UNESCO Natural World Heritage site, a Project Tiger reserve, an elephant reserve, and a biosphere reserve
2. The Manas River flows through the park. Manas is a major tributary of Brahmaputra river.
3. It shares a border with Bhutan's Royal Manas National Park

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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



Pygmy hog



IUCN : Conservation status

Extinct	Threatened				Least Concern	
EX	EW	CR	EN	VU	NT	LC

SILENT VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

B-53 Consider the following statements about Silent Valley National Park:

1. It is located in the state of Tamil Nadu.
2. It represents the core area of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve
3. It is known for highly endangered species as lion-tailed macaque.
4. It is also known for being a tiger reserve.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 2 & 3 only
 b) 2, 3 & 4 only
 c) 1, 2 & 3 only
 d) All of the above

Lion-tailed macaque

IUCN : Conservation status

Extinct	Threatened			Least Concern		
EX	EW	CR	EN	VU	NT	LC

Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve

NAGARHOLE NATIONAL PARK

WAYANAD WILDLIFE SANCTUARY 1

BANDIPUR NATIONAL PARK

WAYANAD WILDLIFE SANCTUARY 2

MUDUMALAI TIGER RESERVE

MUKURTHI NATIONAL PARK

SILENT VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

OTHER PART OF NILGIRI BIOSPHERE RESERVE



SOLUTIONS & EXPLANATIONS

Detailed, clear understanding for every map-based question

SECTION A — PLACES IN NEWS (APRIL-MAY)

A-01 The Correct Answer is: d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 — Correct**
 - Spain is situated in **southwestern Europe** on the **Iberian Peninsula**, which it shares with Portugal.
 - Land borders: **Portugal** → west and **France & Andorra** → northeast
 - Additionally: Spain shares a small border with **Gibraltar**, a **British Overseas Territory**, making it geopolitically significant.
 - The Iberian Peninsula forms a natural geographical unit separated from the rest of Europe by the **Pyrenees Mountains**, which often appears in UPSC questions.
- **Statement 2 — Correct**
 - Spain has a **dual maritime orientation**, which is rare and strategically important:
 - **Atlantic Ocean** → west & northwest (including Bay of Biscay)
 - **Mediterranean Sea** → east & southeast
 - This position:
 - Makes Spain a **maritime bridge between two major water bodies**, Places it near the **Strait of Gibraltar**, a major global chokepoint.
 - *UPSC frequently links this with **maritime trade & chokepoints**.*
- **Statement 3 — Correct (High Geopolitical Value)**
 - Spain has **two enclaves in North Africa**:
 - **Ceuta** and **Melilla**, both located on the northern coast of Africa.
 - These enclaves: Share **land borders with Morocco**, Represent **Europe's only land border with Africa**, and
 - Are hotspots for **migration and border security issues**.
- **Statement 4 — Correct**
 - Spain possesses two major island groups:
 - **Balearic Islands**: Located in the **Mediterranean Sea**,
 - Close to eastern Spain (e.g., Mallorca, Ibiza).
 - **Canary Islands**:
 - Located in the **Atlantic Ocean**, off the **northwest coast of Africa**, Volcanic in origin and strategically located near major sea routes.
- **Statement 5 — Correct**
 - **Catalonia** is an **autonomous community in northeastern Spain**, with **Barcelona** as its capital.
 - It has:
 - Its own **parliament and government**, Distinct **language (Catalan)**, and Strong **historical and cultural identity**.
 - Politically significant because: It has witnessed **strong separatist movements**, Including the **2017 independence referendum**, which was declared illegal by Spain.
 - Despite this: Catalonia remains an **integral part of Spain**.

Significance: Recently, Spain has closed its airspace to American aircraft involved in military operations against Iran.

- *Spain's airspace closure highlights NATO divisions, assertion of sovereignty, and Europe's push for an independent, de-escalatory foreign policy.*



SOLUTIONS & EXPLANATIONS

Detailed, clear understanding for every map-based question

SECTION A — PLACES IN NEWS (APRIL-MAY)

- France lies in **Western Europe**, forming a major part of continental Europe.
- It shares land borders with:
 - **Spain and Andorra** (separated by the **Pyrenees Mountains**),
 - **Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg** (northeast),
 - **Italy and Switzerland** (separated partly by the **Alps**).
- These natural barriers:
 - Historically influenced **defence and cultural exchange**,
 - *Often appear in UPSC questions linking mountains with political boundaries.*
- **Statement 2 — Correct (River System + Urban Geography)**
 - The **Seine River** is one of the most important rivers in France.
 - It flows through **Paris**, the political and economic centre of France,
 - Is crucial for **inland navigation, trade, and urban development**,
 - Drains into the **English Channel** near **Le Havre**.
 - Importance:
 - Paris developed along the Seine → classic example of **river-based urbanisation**,
 - *Often asked in UPSC as “river-city-outlet linkage”.*
- **Statement 3 — Correct (International Relations Depth)**
 - France is a major **global political power**:
 - It is **founding member of the European Union (EU)**, key member of **NATO**, and **permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)**.
 - Implications:
 - Plays a leading role in **European integration**,
 - Influences **defence and security policies in Europe**,
 - Acts as a bridge between **Europe and global diplomacy**.
- **Statement 4 — Correct (Geography + Geopolitics Integration)**
 - France has an extensive network of **overseas territories**, including:
 - **Réunion (Indian Ocean), Guadeloupe & Martinique (Caribbean), French Polynesia & New Caledonia (Pacific Ocean)**
 - These territories:
 - Extend France's **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)** to one of the **largest in the world**,
 - Provide access to **marine resources**,
 - Give France a **global strategic presence across multiple oceans**.
 - Strategic importance:
 - Enhances France's role in **Indo-Pacific geopolitics** and Strengthens **naval reach and maritime security**.

Significance: *France's decision to remove the airport transit visa requirement for Indian travellers marks a step toward strengthening India–France ties, enhancing people-to-people connectivity, facilitating easier mobility to Europe, and reflecting deepening strategic partnership within the India–EU framework.*

A map of the Middle East region, showing the Mediterranean Sea to the west, the Red Sea to the south, and the Persian Gulf to the east. The landmasses of Africa, Asia, and Europe are partially visible. The Middle East region is shaded in light gray. Labels for 'LEBANON', 'ISRAEL', and 'GAZA STRIP' are visible in the northern part of the map. A text box in the top right corner contains a question and three statements.

QUESTION A-19

Consider the following statements regarding the Middle East:

1. The Middle East broadly refers to the region stretching from Egypt in North Africa to Iran in West Asia, encompassing parts of Western Asia and North Africa.
2. The Middle East contains several strategic maritime chokepoints such as the Strait of Hormuz, the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait, and the Suez Canal corridor.
3. All countries of the Middle East have coastlines on either the Mediterranean Sea or the Persian Gulf.

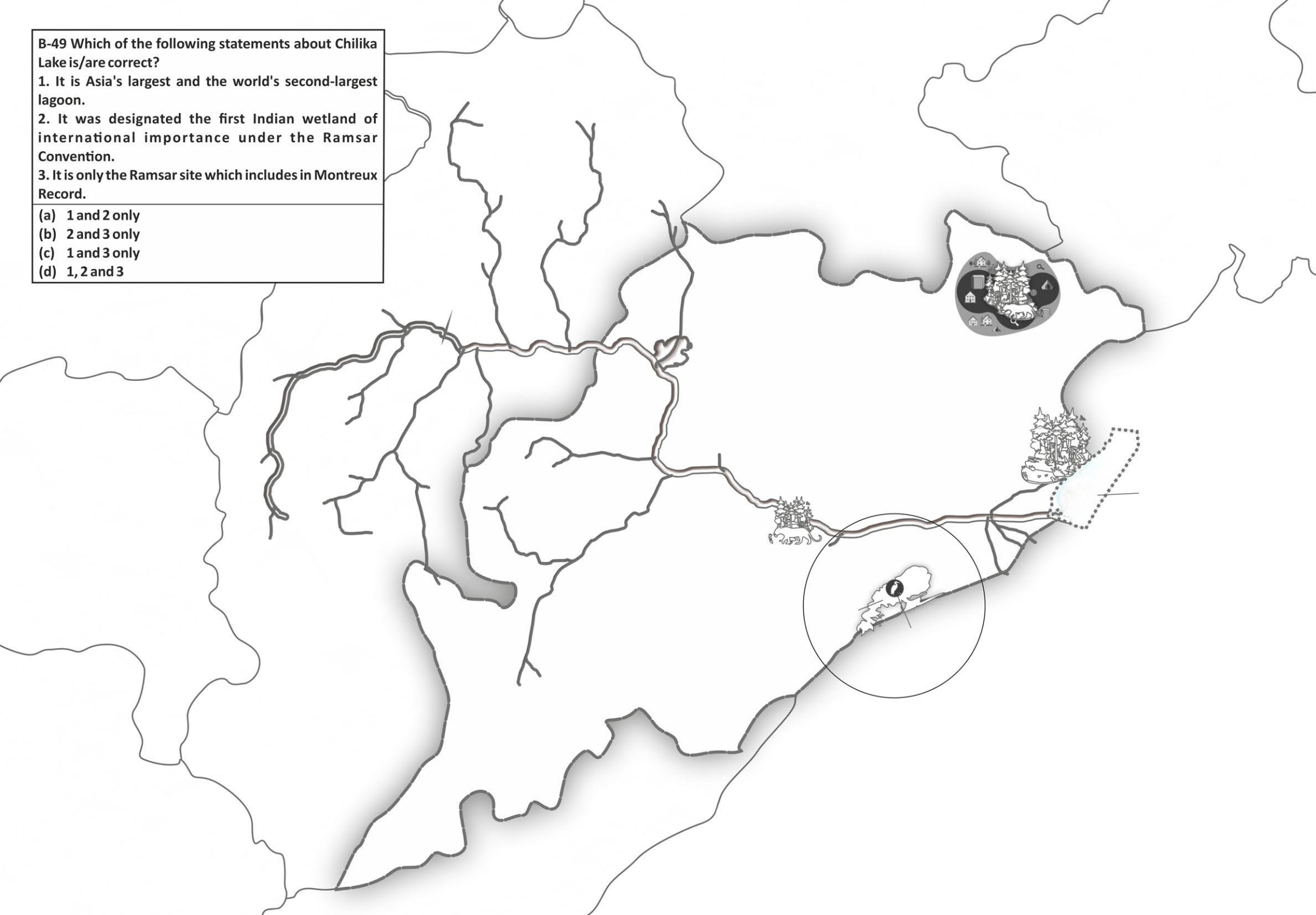
Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

B-49 Which of the following statements about Chilika Lake is/are correct?

- 1. It is Asia's largest and the world's second-largest lagoon.**
- 2. It was designated the first Indian wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.**
- 3. It is only the Ramsar site which includes in Montreux Record.**

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



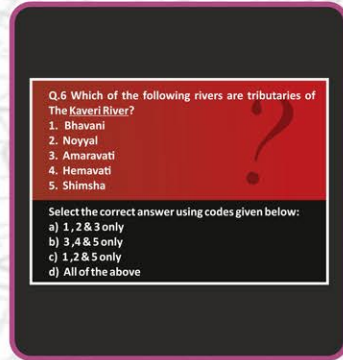
HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

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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