

Q: Greece recently became first Orthodox Christian country to legalize same-sex marriage. In context of the above statement, which of the following countries shares borders with Greece?

1. Bulgaria
2. Albania
3. Tunisia
4. Italy
5. Türkiye

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

Ans: a

Explanation:

- Greece is bordered by 4 Nations: by North Macedonia and Bulgaria in the north, Albania in the northwest, and Türkiye in the northeast.
- Athens – the capital
- It is also bounded by the Aegean Sea in the east, Ionian Sea in the west and the Mediterranean Sea in the south.
- The highest Greek mountain is Mount Olympus.

Q: The town of Avdiivka”, recently seen in the news, is related to:

- a) Afghanistan
- b) Ukraine
- c) Iran
- d) Israel

Ans: b

Explanation:

- Avdiivka is located on the frontlines in the east of Ukraine, Avdiivka had been a major centre of resistance, blocking further Russian advance.
- It has seen war since 2014, when Russia staged a ‘military intervention’ in eastern Ukraine.

Q: With reference to Visceral Leishmaniasis (Kala-Azar), consider the following statements:

1. It is a parasitic infection transmitted by sandflies.
2. In India, Leishmania donovani is the only parasite causing this disease.

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

Ans: c

Explanation:

- Visceral leishmaniasis is a parasitic infection transmitted by sandflies.
- Visceral leishmaniasis is commonly known as kala-azar (KA), a word coined in the late nineteenth century in India, which means “black disease”, referring to the greyish or blackish discoloration of the skin during infection, from the Hindi word for black (kala) and the Persian word for disease (azar).
- Kala-azar is a slow progressing indigenous disease caused by a protozoan parasite of genus Leishmania.
- In India, Leishmania donovani is the only parasite causing this disease.
- It is characterized by irregular bouts of fever, weight loss, enlargement of the spleen and liver, and anaemia. Most cases occur in Brazil, east Africa and India.
- It causes fever, weight loss, spleen and liver enlargement.

Q: With reference to BrahMos missiles, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a three-stage missile with a solid propellant booster engine.
2. The missile derives its name from the Brahmaputra and Moskva rivers.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Ans: a

Explanation:

- BrahMos missiles is a joint venture between India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Russia's NPO Mashinostroyeniya.
- The missile derives its name from the Brahmaputra and Moskva rivers.
- The BrahMos joint venture was formed in 1998 and the first successful launch of the missile took place in 2001.
- BrahMos is a two-stage missile with a solid propellant booster engine.
- First stage brings the missile to supersonic speed and then gets separated.
- The second stage takes the missile closer to three times the speed of sound in cruise phase.
- The range of the missile was originally capped at 290 kms as per obligations of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR).
- Following India's entry into the club in June 2016, DRDO officials had stated that the range would be extended to 450 km and to 600 km at a later stage.

Q: With reference to the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), consider the following statements:

1. The Companies Act, 2013 allows companies to spend 1% of their average net profit in the previous three years on CSR activities.
2. CSR provisions are applicable to companies with an annual turnover of 1,000 crore and more, or a net worth of Rs. 500 crore and more.
3. Non compliance of CSR provisions has been notified as a criminal offense.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: c

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is not correct:** The term "Corporate Social Responsibility" in general can be referred to as a corporate initiative to assess and take responsibility for the company's effects on the environment and impact on social welfare. In India, the concept of CSR is governed by clause 135 of the Companies Act, 2013. Under the Act, the Companies are required to spend, in every financial year, at least 2% of their average net profits generated during the 3 immediately preceding financial years.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** All companies with a net worth of Rs 500 crore or more, a turnover of Rs 1,000 crore or more, or net profit of Rs 5 crore or more, are required to spend 2 percent of their average profits of the previous three years on CSR activities every year.
- **Statement 3 is not correct:** Non-compliance of CSR provisions has been notified as a civil offense.