CHRONICLE
Nurturing Talent Since 1990

16 YEARS 2011 – 2026

UPSC-CSE (PT)

GENERAL STUDIES

SOLVED PAPER



- Categorization of Questions according to Topics
- Answers to the Questions containing detailed Explanations
- Additional Information on the Topics from which Questions were Asked

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2011-2026 (Paper I)

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Editor
N.N. Ojha

Solved by
Chronicle Editorial Team

CHRONICLE
Nurturing Talent Since 1990

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GS (PT) Paper-I (2024-26)

History of India & Indian National Movement

Ancient India

1. Consider the following statements about the archaeological findings in Harappan towns:

I. There is wide occurrence of spindle-whorls in the houses but absence of spinning wheels.

II. Weights and measurement scales, complete with graduations have been discovered.

III. There are houses built in large part with baked bricks, around relatively spacious courtyards, with their own wells, bathing platforms, and large rooms.

Which of the following inferences can be drawn from the above statements?

1. Statement I suggests that spinning was a laborious activity done at home.
2. Statement II suggests the extent of the scientific knowledge that the Harappans possessed.
3. Statement III suggests the emergence of a common property system.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

(CSE PT 2026); Topic: Indus Valley Civilization

2. Which of the following pairs of ancient and modern names of rivers is/are correctly matched?

1. Vitasta : Chenab 2. Asikni : Jhelum
3. Parushni : Ravi 4. Yavyavati : Beas

Select the answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 2 (b) 3 and 4
(c) 3 only (d) 4 only

(CSE PT 2026); Topic: Vedic Period

3. In which one among the following texts does the term *kshetra-patni* ('mistress of the field') originate?

(a) Rigveda (b) Atharvaveda
(c) Ashtadhyayi (d) Arthashastra

(CSE PT 2026); Topic: Vedic Period

4. Consider the following statements about the Rigvedic period:

I. Irrigation from wells allowed agriculture to expand away from flood plains and strips on river margins into the present Punjab and Haryana plains having underground water levels reasonably close to the surface.

II. Draught-animal power was employed to draw up water out of the wells.

Which of the following information support/supports the above statements?

1. There is evidence in the Rigveda of the use of *ashma chakra* (stone pulley wheel) and *ahava* (strapped wooden pails) to draw up water.
2. Mention has been made in the Rigveda of the use of implements like *parashu/kulisha* (axe) and *datra/ sreni* (sickle).
3. There is a history of the use of ox, even before the Rigveda, for ploughing the land and pulling the carts.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

(CSE PT 2026); Topic: Vedic Period

5. Among the four main forms of existence of life recognized in Jainism, which one of the following is *not* included?

(a) Deva (gods)
(b) Yaksha (demi-gods)
(c) Manushya (humans)
(d) Tiryancha (animals and plants)

(CSE PT 2026); Topic: Jain Religion

6. What does an empty seat represent in early Buddhist iconography?

(a) The meditation of the Buddha
(b) The Buddha's First Sermon
(c) The Buddha's Mahaparinibbana
(d) The Buddha's Mahabhinishkramana

(CSE PT 2026); Topic: Buddhist Religion

7. Consider the following statements relating to the use of the place-value system in India:

1. The earliest epigraphic use of the place-value system in India is found in the Mankani plates from Gujarat (AD 595 – 596).
2. In the ninth century, place-values become general in inscriptions all over India.
3. The place-values have been found in Sanskrit inscriptions in South-east Asia as early as the seventh century.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

(CSE PT 2026); Topic: Buddhist Religion

8. Which of the following statements on the Amaravati Stupa and its relief sculpture is/are correct?

1. It was located in the lower Krishna valley.
2. In India, it was next only to the Sanchi Stupa in size.
3. The Amaravati School of sculpture made a lasting impact on the later South Indian sculpture, and its products were carried to Sri Lanka and South-east Asia.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

(CSE PT 2026); Topic: Art & Architecture in Ancient India

9. Which of the following temples has/have a Nagara-style shikhara?

1. Malegitti Shivalaya, Badami
2. Huchimalligudi Temple, Aihole
3. Dashavatara Temple, Deogarh
4. Virupaksha Temple, Pattadakal

Select the answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 2 (b) 2 and 3
(c) 3 only (d) 3 and 4

(CSE PT 2026); Topic: Art & Architecture in Ancient India

10. The Hallisalasya painting in the Bagh Caves represents:

(a) A joyous folk dance
(b) Buddha in a meditative pose
(c) The depiction of Shiva and Parvati on Kailasha
(d) Samudramanthan (Churning of the Ocean)

(CSE PT 2026); Topic: Art & Architecture in Ancient India

11. Which of the following pairs of the king and his dynasty in early historical Tamilakam is/are *not* correctly matched?

1. Senguttuvan : Chera
2. Udiyanjeral : Chola
3. Nedunjeliyan : Pandya

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

(CSE PT 2026); Topic: History of South India

12. Consider the following assertion:

In the Pleistocene period either the Yamuna once flowed into the Indus, or the Sutlej flowed into the Yamuna and one major tributary of either had shifted from the Ganga to the Indus or vice versa.

Which of the following is/are the basis of the above assertion?

1. The Nadi-Sukta of the Rigveda
2. The explorations of the Sutlej and the Yamuna by Robert Bruce Foote
3. The presence of the same species of dolphins in both the Indus and the Ganga river systems

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

(CSE PT 2026); Topic: Miscellaneous

13. Consider the following statements:

I. Pali texts contain the first definite references to coins, e.g., *kahapana, nikkha, kamsa,* and *kakanika*.
II. The literary evidence from Pali texts is corroborated by archaeological evidence of punch-marked coins from many sites, most of them made of silver.

The above statements have been associated with which of the following?

1. Emergence of urban life
2. Transition to money economy

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

(CSE PT 2026); Topic: Miscellaneous

14. The famous female figurine known as 'Dancing Girl', found at Mohenjo-daro, is made of

(a) carnelian (b) clay
(c) bronze (d) gold

(CSE PT 2025); Topic: Indus Valley Civilization

15. With reference to ancient India (600-322 BC), consider the following pairs:

Territorial region	River flowing in the region
I. Asmaka	Godavari
II. Kamboja	Vipas
III. Avanti	Mahanadi
IV. Kosala	Sarayu

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

(a) Only one (b) Only two
(c) Only three (d) All the four

(CSE PT 2025) Topic; Mahajanapada

16. Who among the following rulers in ancient India had assumed the titles 'Mattavilasa', 'Vichitrachitta' and 'Gunabhara?

(a) Mahendravarman I (b) Simhavishnu
(c) Narasimhavarman I (d) Simhavarman

(CSE PT 2025) Topic; History of South India

17. Fa-hien (Faxian), the Chinese pilgrim, travelled to India during the reign of

(a) Samudragupta (b) Chandragupta II
(c) Kumaragupta I (d) Skandagupta

(CSE PT 2025) Topic; Gupta & Post-Gupta Period

18. Ashokan inscriptions suggest that the 'Pradeshika', 'Rajuka' and 'Yukta' were important officers at the

(a) village-level administration
(b) district-level administration
(c) provincial administration
(d) level of the central administration

(CSE PT 2025) Topic; Mauryan Period

19. With reference to ancient India, Gautama Buddha was generally known by which of the following epithets?

1. Nayaputta 2. Shakyamuni
3. Tathagata

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) None of the above are epithets of Gautama Buddha

(CSE PT 2024) Topic; Buddhist Religion

20. Consider the following information:

	Archaeological Site	State	Description
1.	Chandraketugarh	Odisha	Trading Port town
2.	Inamgaon	Maharashtra	Chalcolithic site
3.	Mangadu	Kerala	Megalithic site
4.	Salihundam	Andhra Pradesh	Rock- cut cave shrines

In which of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

(a) 1 and 2 (b) 2 and 3
(c) 3 and 4 (d) 1 and 4

(CSE PT 2024) Topic; Miscellaneous

21. Consider the following statements:

1. There are no parables in Upanishads.
2. Upanishads were composed earlier than the Puranas.

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

(CSE PT 2024) Topic; Vedic Period

22. Which one of the following is a work attributed to playwright Bhasa?

(a) Kavyalankara (b) Natyashastra
(c) Madhyama- vyayoga (d) Mahabhasya

(CSE PT 2024) Topic; Post-Mauryan Period

23. Sanghabhuti, an Indian Buddhist monk, who travelled to China at the end of the fourth century AD, was the author of a commentary on:

(a) Prajnaparamita Sutra (b) Visuddhimagga
(c) Sarvastivada Vinaya
(d) Lalitavistara

(CSE PT 2024) Topic: Buddhist Religion

Answers with Explanations

1. (a), Discovery of many spindle-whorls but absence of spinning wheels in Indus Valley Civilization indicates yarn was spun manually at household level, making the process labour-intensive.

- Standardized weights and measuring scales with graduations show advanced understanding of precision, trade regulation, and mathematical measurement.
- Large brick houses with wells and courtyards indicate urban planning and prosperity, but not necessarily a common property system. In fact, separate houses suggest private domestic spaces.

Key Facts

- Harappans used standardized weights based on binary system.
- Cities like Mohenjo-daro and Harappa had advanced drainage and urban planning.
- Cotton spinning and textile production were important economic activities.

2. (c) The pair Vitasta-Chenab is incorrect. Vitasta is the ancient name of the Jhelum.

- The pair Asikni -Jhelum is incorrect. Asikni is the ancient name of the Chenab.
- **Parushni-Ravi:** This pair is correctly matched. Parushni is the ancient name of the Ravi; it is also where the legendary "Battle of Ten Kings" was fought.
- The pair Yavyavati-Beas is incorrect. The ancient name for the Beas is Vipasa. Most scholars identify Yavyavati with the modern Zhob river in Pakistan.)

3. (b) The Rigveda mainly contains hymns and does not originate the term kshetra-patni.

- The term kshetra-patni ("mistress of the field") appears in the Atharvaveda, reflecting agricultural fertility and association of women with cultivation rituals.
- Ashtadhyayi is a grammar text, not the source of this term.
- Arthashastra discusses economy and administration but is not the origin of the term.

Key Fact: Terms linked with agriculture, fertility, and rituals are often associated with later Vedic texts like the Atharvaveda.

4. (b) References to stone pulley wheels and wooden pails in the Rigveda support the idea of well irrigation and water-lifting techniques.

- Implements like parashu/kulisha (axe) and datra/ sreni (sickle) indicate agricultural and forest-clearing activities, supporting agricultural expansion.
- Use of oxen as draught animals predates the Rigvedic age and supports the statement about animal-powered water extraction and agriculture.

Key Facts

- Early Vedic society gradually shifted from pastoralism to agriculture.
- Wells and animal power helped cultivation beyond riverbanks.
- Punjab and Haryana plains had accessible groundwater aiding expansion.

5. (b) In Jainism, Deva represents celestial beings and is one of the four gatis (forms of existence).

- Yakshas are guardian or attendant deities in Jain tradition, but they are not counted among the four principal forms of existence.
- Humans are one of the four major categories of existence in Jain philosophy.
- Tiryancha includes animals, birds, insects, and plants-beings with horizontal movement.

Key Facts

The four gatis in Jainism are:

(i) Deva (celestial beings)
(ii) Manushya (humans)
(iii) Tiryancha (animals/plants)
(iv) Naraki (hell beings)

6. (a) In early Buddhist art, Buddha was represented through symbols instead of human form (aniconic tradition). An empty seat/throne symbolized the Buddha's presence, especially his meditation and enlightenment.

Aniconic Symbols in early Buddhist Art

- **First Sermon:** Represented by Dharmachakra (Wheel)

INDIAN AND WORLD GEOGRAPHY

World Geography

1. Which of the following statements with reference to Lake Turkana is/are correct?

1. It is the largest desert lake in the world.
2. The lake is situated in South Sudan along the eastern fringe of the Sahara desert.
3. The lake is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is also referred to as the 'Jade Sea'.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

(CSE PT 2026); Topic: World Geography: Map

2. Ships from which of the following countries have to cross the Strait of Hormuz to reach out to the Indian Ocean?

1. Bahrain 2. Syria
3. Qatar 4. Egypt

Select the answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 2 (b) 1 and 3
(c) 2 and 3 (d) 3 and 4

(CSE PT 2026); Topic: World Geography: Map

3. Tungurahua Volcano, which was declared a Global Geopark by UNESCO in 2025, is situated in which one among the following countries?

(a) Ecuador (b) Peru
(c) Bolivia (d) Colombia

(CSE PT 2026); Topic: Volcanoes & Earthquakes

4. Consider the following pairs:

	Country	**Resource-rich in**
I.	Botswana	Diamond
II.	Chile	Lithium
III.	Indonesia	Nickel

In how many of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

(a) Only one (b) Only two
(c) All the three (d) None

(CSE PT 2025); Topic: Minerals & Rocks

5. Consider the following pairs:

	Region	**Country**
i.	Mallorca	Italy
ii.	Normandy	Spain
iii.	Sardinia	France

In how many of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

(a) Only one (b) Only two
(c) All the three (d) None

(CSE PT 2025), Topic: Major Cities/Places/Countries of the World

6. Consider the following countries :

I. Bolivia II. Brazil
III. Colombia IV. Ecuador
V. Paraguay VI. Venezuela

Andes mountains pass through how many of the above countries?

(a) Only two (b) Only three
(c) Only four (d) Only five

(CSE PT 2025), Topic: Major Mountain/Plains of World

7. Consider the following water bodies :

I. Lake Tanganyika
II. Lake Tonlé Sap
III. Patos Lagoon

Through how many of them does the equator pass?

(a) Only one (b) Only two
(c) All the three (d) None

(CSE PT 2025); Topic: World Geography: Map

8. Consider the following countries :

I. United Kingdom II. Denmark
III. New Zealand IV. Australia
V. Brazil

How many of the above countries have more than four time zones?

(a) All the five (b) Only four
(c) Only three (d) Only two

(CSE PT 2025); Topic: Time Zone

9. Consider the following statements :

I. Anadyr in Siberia and Nome in Alaska are a few kilometers from each other, but when people are waking up and getting set for breakfast in these cities, it would be different days.
II. When it is Monday in Anadyr, it is Tuesday in Nome.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) I only (b) II only
(c) Both I and II (d) Neither I nor II

(CSE PT 2025); Topic: Time Zone

10. Which of the following are the evidences of the phenomenon of continental drift?

I. The belt of ancient rocks from Brazil coast matches with those from Western Africa.
II. The gold deposits of Ghana are derived from the Brazil plateau when the two continents lay side by side.
III. The Gondwana system of sediments from India is known to have its counterparts in six different landmasses of the Southern Hemisphere.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) I and III only
(b) I and II only
(c) I, II and III
(d) II and III only

(CSE PT 2025); Topic: Our Universe, Solar System & Evolution of Earth

11. Consider the following statements :

Statement I: The amount of dust particles in the atmosphere is more in subtropical and temperate areas than in equatorial and polar regions.

Statement II: Subtropical and temperate areas have less dry winds.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

(a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I
(b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct but Statement II does not explain Statement I
(c) Statement I is correct but Statement II is not correct
(d) Statement I is not correct but Statement II is correct

(CSE PT 2025); Topic: Atmosphere & Weather

12. Consider the following statements :

Statement I: In January, in the Northern Hemisphere, the isotherms bend equatorward while crossing the landmasses, and poleward while crossing the oceans.

Statement II: In January, the air over the oceans is warmer than that over the landmasses in the Northern Hemisphere.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

(a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I
(b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct but Statement II does not explain Statement I
(c) Statement I is correct but Statement II is not correct
(d) Statement I is not correct but Statement II is correct

(CSE PT 2025); Topic: Oceanography

13. Consider the following statements :

Statement I: In the context of effect of water on rocks, chalk is known as a very permeable rock whereas clay is known as quite an impermeable or least permeable rock.

Statement II: Chalk is porous and hence can absorb water.

Statement III: Clay is not at all porous.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

(a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I
(b) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct but only one of them explains Statement I
(c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I
(d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct

(CSE PT 2025); Topic: Minerals & Rocks

14. Consider the following statements :

I. Without the atmosphere, temperature would be well below freezing point everywhere on the Earth's surface.
II. Heat absorbed and trapped by the atmosphere maintains our planet's average temperature.
III. Atmosphere's gases, like carbon dioxide, are particularly good at absorbing and trapping radiation.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) I and III only (b) I and II only
(c) I, II and III (d) II and III only

(CSE PT 2025); Topic: Atmosphere & Weather

15. Consider the following statements :

Statement I: Scientific studies suggest that a shift is taking place in the Earth's rotation and axis.

Statement II: Solar flares and associated coronal mass ejections bombarded the Earth's outermost atmosphere with tremendous amount of energy.

Statement III: As the Earth's polar ice melts, the water tends to move towards the equator.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

(a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I
(b) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct but only one of them explains Statement I
(c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I
(d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct

(CSE PT 2025); Topic: Our Universe, Solar System & Evolution of Earth

16. Consider the following statements:

Statement -I: The atmosphere is heated more by Incoming solar radiation than by terrestrial radiation.

Statement-II: Carbon Dioxide and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere are good absorbers for long wave radiation.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

(a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement -II explains Statement-I
(b) Both Statement -I and Statement-II are correct, but statement-II does not explain Statement I
(c) Statement -I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect
(d) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct

(CSE PT 2024); Topic: Atmosphere & Weather

17. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Thickness of the troposphere at the equator is much greater as compared to poles.

Statement-II: At the equator, heat is transported to great heights by strong convectional currents.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

(a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement- II explains Statement-I
(b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does not explain Statement-I
(c) Statement-I is correct, but Statement -II is incorrect
(d) Statement- I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct

(CSE PT 2024); Topic: Atmosphere & Weather

18. Consider the following:

1. Pyroclastic Debris
2. Ash and Dust
3. Nitrogen Compound
4. Sulphur Compounds

How many of the above are products of volcanic eruptions?

(a) Only One (b) Only Two
(c) Only Three (d) All Four

(CSE PT 2024); Topic: Volcanoes and Earthquakes

19. Which of the following is/are correct inference/inferences from isothermal maps in the month of January?

1. The isotherms deviate to the north over the ocean and to the south over the continent.
2. The presence of cold ocean currents, Gulf Stream and North Atlantic Drift make the North Atlantic Ocean colder and the isotherms bend towards the north.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

(CSE PT 2024); Topic: Oceanography

20. Which of the following countries are well known as the two largest cocoa producers in the world?

(a) Algeria and Morocco
(b) Botswana and Namibia
(c) Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana
(d) Madagascar and Mozambique

(CSE PT 2024); Topic: Agricultural Production in the World

21. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Rainfall is one of the reasons for the weathering of rocks.

Statement-II: Rain water contain carbon dioxide in solution.

Statement-III: Rain water contains atmospheric oxygen.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

(a) Both Statements II and III are correct and both of them explain statement-I
(b) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct, but only one of them explains Statement-I
(c) Only one of the Statements II and III are correct and that explains Statement -I
(d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct

(CSE PT 2024); Topic: Minerals and Rocks

22. Consider the following countries:

1. Finland 2. Germany
3. Norway 4. Russia

How many of the above countries border with the North Sea?

(a) Only One (b) Only Two
(c) Only Three (d) All Four

(CSE PT 2024); Topic: Map Section

23. Consider the following information:

	Region	Name of the mountain range	Type of Mountain
1.	Central Asia	Vosges	Fold Mountain
2.	Europe	Alps	Block Mountain
3.	North America	Appalachians	Fold Mountain
4.	South America	Andes	Fold Mountain

In how many of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

(a) Only One (b) Only Two
(c) Only Three (d) All Four

(CSE PT 2024); Topic: Major Mountain/Plain of the World

24. Consider the following description:

1. Annual and daily range of temperatures is low.
2. Precipitation occurs throughout the year.
3. Precipitation varies between 50cm- 250 cm.

What is this type of climate?

(a) Equatorial Climate
(b) China type Climate
(c) Humid Subtropical Climate
(d) Marine West Coast Climate

(CSE PT 2024)
Topic: Atmosphere & Weather

25. With reference to "Coriolis force", which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It increases with increase in wind velocity.
2. It is maximum at the poles and is absent at the equator.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

(CSE PT 2024); Topic: Atmosphere & Weather

26. On June 21 every year, which of the following latitude(s) experience(s) sunlight of more than 12 hours?

1. Equator 2. Tropic of Cancer
3. Tropic of Capricorn 4. Arctic Circle

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) 3 and 4 (d) 2 and 4

(CSE PT 2024); Topic: Atmosphere & Weather

27. One of the following regions has world's largest tropical peatland, which holds about three years' worth of global carbon emissions from fossil fuels; and the possible destruction of which can exert detrimental effect on the global climate. Which one of the following denotes that region?

(a) Amazon Basin (b) Congo Basin
(c) Kikori Basin (d) Rio de la Plata Basin

(CSE PT 2024); Topic: Oceanography

28. Consider the following statements:

Statement- I: Giant stars live much longer than dwarf stars.

Statement- II: Compared to dwarf stars, giant stars have a greater rate of nuclear reactions.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

(a) Both Statement- I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I
(b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does not explain Statement -I
(c) Statement- I is correct, but Statement- II is incorrect
(d) Statement- I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct

(CSE PT 2024);
Topic: Our Universe, Solar System and Evolution of Earth

29. Consider the following countries:

1. Italy
2. Japan
3. Nigeria
4. South Korea
5. South Africa

Which of the above countries are frequently mentioned in the media for their low birth rates, or ageing population or declining population?

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

(CSE PT 2024); Topic: World Population & Tribes

30. The longest border between any two countries in the world is between:

(a) Canada and the United States of America
(b) Chile and Argentina
(c) China and India
(d) Kazakhstan and Russian Federation

(CSE PT 2024); Topic: Map Section

31. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Sumed pipeline is a strategic route for Persian Gulf oil and natural gas shipments to Europe.

Statement-II: Sumed pipeline connects the Red Sea with the Mediterranean Sea.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

(a) Both Statement- I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I
(b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does not explain Statement-I
(c) Statement- I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect
(d) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct

(CSE PT 2024); Topic: Map Section

32. Consider the following statements:

1. The Red Sea receives very little precipitation in any form.
2. No water enters the Red Sea from rivers.

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

(CSE PT 2024); Topic: Map Section

Answers with Explanations

1. (b) Lake Turkana is the world's largest permanent desert lake and also the largest alkaline lake.

- Lake Turkana is mainly located in northern Kenya, extending slightly into Ethiopia, not South Sudan. It lies in the East African Rift region, not near the Sahara Desert.
- The lake is recognized as Heritage Site and is popularly called the "Jade Sea" because of its striking greenish-blue colour.

Key Facts

- Lake Turkana is located in the Great Rift Valley of East Africa. It is an important site for paleoanthropological discoveries related to early human evolution. It is fed mainly by the Omo River from Ethiopia.

2. (b) Bahrain lies in the Persian Gulf, so ships must pass through the Strait of Hormuz to enter the Indian Ocean.

- Syria lies on the Mediterranean Sea and does not require passage through the Strait of Hormuz.
- Qatar is located in the Persian Gulf, making the Strait of Hormuz essential for maritime access to the Indian Ocean.
- Egypt accesses the Indian Ocean mainly through the Red Sea and Suez Canal Hormuz.

Key Facts

- Strait of Hormuz connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and Arabian Sea.
- It is one of the world's most strategic oil shipping chokepoints.
- Countries located inside the Persian Gulf must use the Strait of Hormuz for access to the open ocean.

3. (a) Tungurahua Volcano is located in the Ecuadorian Andes and was declared a UNESCO Global Geopark in 2025.

Key Facts

- Tungurahua is an active stratovolcano in the Andes. UNESCO recognized it as a Global Geopark in 2025 for its geological, cultural, and ecological significance. "Tungurahua" in the local Quechua language means "Throat of Fire."

4. (c), Botswana is one of the world's largest producers of diamonds by value, and the diamond industry is the mainstay of its economy. Chile has the world's largest known lithium reserves and is a major producer of this critical mineral, which is essential for batteries. Indonesia is the world's largest producer of nickel, a key component in stainless steel and electric vehicle batteries.

Additional Information

Largest Producer in the World			
Mineral	**Largest Producer**	**2nd Largest Producer**	**3rd Largest Producer**
Diamond	Russia	Botswana	Canada
Lithium	Australia	Chile	China
Nickel	Indonesia	Philippines	Russia

Lithium Triangle

- The Lithium Triangle is an area between Argentina, Bolivia, and Chile, encompassing close to 60% of the world's lithium resources.
- Around 45 million tonnes lying underneath the vast salt flats between the three countries.

5. (d), The correct match is Mallorca: Spain; Normandy: France; Sardinia: Italy

Additional Information

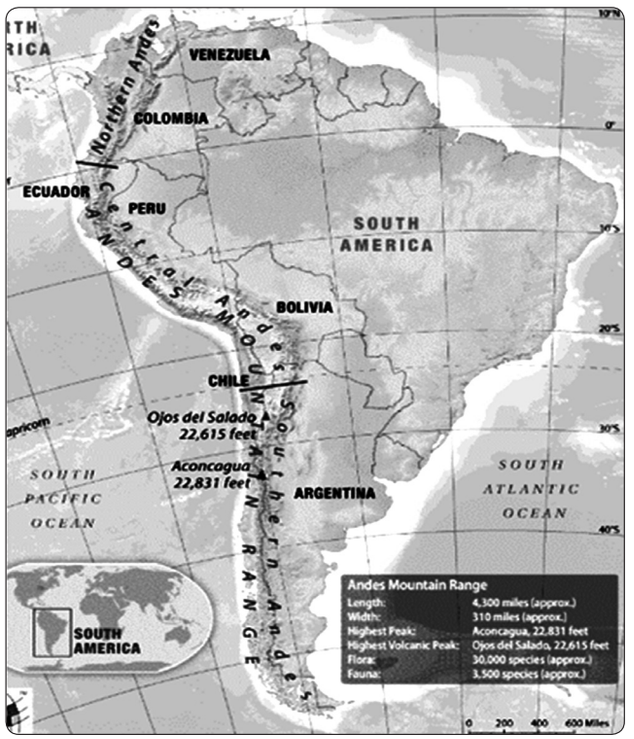
- **Mallorca** or Majorca (Capital - Palma,) is one of the Balearic Islands and is a part of Spain.
- **Normandy** is a historical and cultural region in northern France.
- **Sardinia** is the second-largest island in the Mediterranean Sea and is an autonomous region of Italy.



6. (c), Only four (I, III, IV, VI). The Andes is the longest continental mountain range in the world, running along the western coast of South America. It passes through seven countries:

- **The Southern Andes** in Argentina and Chile;
- **The Central Andes** in Bolivia and Peru; and
- **The Northern Andes** in Colombia, Ecuador, and Venezuela.

The range does not pass through Brazil or Paraguay.



Additional Information

Andes Mountains

- The Andes Mountains are primarily fold mountains, formed by the collision of tectonic plates.
- The collision (or convergence) of two of these plates—the continental South American Plate and the oceanic Nazca Plate—gave rise to the orogenic (mountain-building) activity that produced the Andes.

7. (d), Lake Tanganyika lies along the borders of Tanzania, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Burundi, and Zambia. The Equator does NOT cross Lake Tanganyika. The northern tip of the lake lies close to the Equator (around 3.4° South), but the entire lake is situated south of the Equator.

- Lake Tonlé Sap is in Cambodia, near the capital Phnom Penh. It lies at approximately 13°N, which is well north of the Equator.
- Patos Lagoon is situated in southern Brazil, in the state of Rio Grande do Sul. It lies around 30°S, which is south of the Equator by a significant margin.

Additional Information

- **Lake**: It is an area that is filled with water in a localized basin and typically surrounded by land.
- **Lagoon:** A lagoon is a shallow body of water protected from a larger body of water (usually the ocean) by sandbars, barrier islands, or coral reefs. Later, mud flats or salt marshes may form inside a lagoon.
- **Estuary:** It is a semi-enclosed coastal body of water where freshwater from rivers and streams mixes with saltwater from the ocean. It is a transitional zone between river and marine environments, characterized by a unique ecosystem and varying salinity levels.

8. (b), Only four –I, II, III, IV

- **United Kingdom:** Including its overseas territories, it has nine time zones.
- **Denmark:** Denmark, encompassing its mainland and dependencies like Greenland and the Faroe Islands, spans five or six time zones.
- **New Zealand:** New Zealand has two main time zones (New Zealand Standard Time and Chatham Standard Time). When including its dependencies such as Tokelau, Cook Islands, and Niue, the total number of time zones associated with New Zealand is more than four.
- **Australia:** Australia has three main time zones on its mainland. However, when accounting for its external territories, Australia has a total of 9 time zones.
- **Brazil:** Brazil is divided into four standard time zones, including its offshore islands. So, it is incorrect.

Therefore, four of the listed countries have more than four time zones.

Additional Information

Global Timekeeping: *Time Zones, GMT, International Date Line, and Indian Standard Time*

To understand global time, it's essential to know four key concepts and how they interconnect: Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) as the starting point, Time Zones as regional