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1. Consider the following statements about the Asian Development Bank's (ADB).

1. ADB does not have any members from outside Asia.
2. China is the largest shareholder in ADB.

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

Answer: **D**

Explanation:

- Founded in 1966, the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) headquarters are in Manila, Philippines. The Asian Development Bank's primary mission is to foster growth and cooperation among countries in the Asia-Pacific Region.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** At present, ADB comprises 68 members (including **India**)- of which 49 are from within Asia and the Pacific and **19 outside**.
- The ADB was modeled closely on the World Bank, and has a similar weighted voting system where votes are distributed in proportion with members' capital subscriptions.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The two largest shareholders of the ADB are **the US and Japan**.
- ADB is an official United Nations Observer.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/ashok-lavasa-resigns-as-election-commissioner-to-join-ADB-as-vice-president/articleshow/77618015.cms>

2. Consider the following statements about Asiatic cheetah.

1. It is classified as a "critically endangered" species by the IUCN Red List.
2. At present, they are naturally found only in the Kuno-Palpur Wildlife Sanctuary in India.

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Asiatic cheetah is classified as a “critically endangered” species by the IUCN Red List, and is believed to survive only in **Iran**.
- Asiatic cheetahs were once widespread across India but were eradicated in the country as they were hunted for sport.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** In 1952, Asiatic cheetah was **declared extinct** from India.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/now-cheetahs-for-mysuru-zoo/article32385230.ece>

3. Black Sea is a border of which of the following countries?

1. Ukraine
2. Iraq
3. Turkey
4. Lebanon
5. Syria

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 3 and 4 only
- D. 2, 3 and 5 only

Answer: A

Explanation:

- Six countries border the Black Sea, including **Ukraine** to the north, **Russia** and **Georgia** to the east, **Turkey** to the south, and **Bulgaria** and **Romania** to the west.

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<https://www.businessinsider.in/international/news/the-us-and-nato-are-boosting-their-presence-in-a-hotspot-for-military-activity-near-russia/articleshow/77511226.cms>

4. Which among the following is/are components of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) Programme?

1. Promotion of Affordable Housing for the weaker section through credit linked subsidy.
2. Affordable Housing in Partnership with Public & Private sectors.
3. Subsidy for beneficiary-led individual house construction /enhancement.
4. Slum rehabilitation of Slum Dwellers with participation of private developers using land as a resource.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1, 3 and 4 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: D

Explanation:

- Mission Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) for ensuring housing for all in urban areas was launched in 2015 which is to be implemented during 2015-2022.

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- The Mission provides central assistance to all eligible families/ beneficiaries across all statutory towns for houses included under the mission.
- States/UTs will have the flexibility to include the Planning Areas (to the exclusion of rural areas) as notified with respect to Statutory Towns and such Planning Areas (to the exclusion of rural areas) as notified by development authorities.
- To address Housing for All in urban area, the Mission has four verticals:
 - In-situ Slum Redevelopment (ISSR) with participation of private developers using land as resource for providing housing to eligible slum dwellers;
 - affordable housing through credit-linked subsidy scheme (CLSS now renamed as CLSS for EWS/LIG);
 - affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP) with public and private sectors;
 - subsidy for beneficiary-led individual house construction/ enhancements; size of house for Economically Weaker Section (EWS) is 30 sq. mt., in the carpet area but states have flexibility to enhance the size of houses in consultation with the Ministry.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1646643>

5. Which of the following techniques are used to clean up oil spills?

1. Sorbents
2. Skimmers
3. Oil booms
4. Bioremediation
5. Burning In-situ

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Answer: D

Explanation:

- The use of **oil booms** is a very simple and popular method of controlling oil spills. Equipment called containment booms acts like a fence to prevent the oil from further spreading or floating away.
- Once the oil has been confined by using oil booms, **skimmers or oil scoops** can be deployed onto boats to remove the contaminants from the water surface. Skimmers are machines specially designed to suck up the oil from the water surface like a vacuum cleaner.

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They are used to physically separate the oil from the water so that it can be collected and processed for re-use.

- **Sorbents** are materials that soak up liquids by either absorption (pulling in through pores) or adsorption (forming a layer on the surface). Both these properties make the process of clean-up much easier. Materials commonly used as oil sorbents are hay, peat moss, straw or vermiculite.
- **Burning In-situ:** In this method, the oil floating on the surface is ignited to burn it off. This in-situ burning of oil can effectively remove up to 98% of an oil spill, which is more than most of the other methods.
- **Bioremediation** refers to the use of specific microorganisms to remove any toxic or harmful substances. There are various classes of bacteria, fungi, archaea and algae that degrade petroleum products by metabolizing and breaking them into simpler and non-toxic molecules (mostly fatty acids and carbon dioxide). Sometimes, reagents and fertilizers may be added to the area. These phosphorus-based and nitrogen-based fertilizers provide adequate nutrients to the microbes so that they are able to grow and multiply quickly.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/india-rushes-emergency-technical-support-to-mauritius-to-control-oil-spill-as-part-of-extended-neighbourhood-outreach/articleshow/77572772.cms>

