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- 1) Consider the following statements with reference to the TRISHNA mission:
1. It is a joint Earth observation satellite mission between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the French space agency (CNES).
 2. It employs an innovative 'SweepSAR' technique combined with a large deployable mesh reflector antenna shared by both radar frequency bands.
 3. The satellite is deployed in a geostationary orbit to monitor surface temperatures and energy budgets across the Indian subcontinent.

Which one of the following conclusions based on the above statements is correct?

- (a) All three statements are correct.
- (b) There is no correct statement
- (c) There are two correct statements that include statement 3.
- (d) There is only one correct statement.

- 2) Consider the following statements regarding Coral reefs:

1. Coral reefs act as natural breakwaters, protecting coastlines from erosion caused by storm surges and tsunamis.
2. Hard corals rely on symbiotic algae to survive and grow.
3. Unlike hard corals, soft corals do not build reefs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

- 3) Consider the following statements regarding Exercise Veer Guardian 2026:

1. It is a bilateral air exercise between India and Japan.
2. The first edition of the exercise was held in 2023.
3. The Mitsubishi F-2 will participate in an exercise outside Japan for the first time.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

- 4) With respect to Orangutans, consider the following statements:

1. All three recognized species of orangutans are currently listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List.
2. Orangutans possess very long arms and highly flexible shoulder joints, adaptations that facilitate movement through the forest canopy.
3. Orangutans are predominantly ground-dwelling apes and generally construct their nests on the forest floor.

Select the correct 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

5) Consider the following pairs:

Regions/Places often mentioned in news	Reason for being in news
1. Chagos Islands	Dispute over sovereignty between Mauritius and the United Kingdom
2. Tumen River	Opening of the first road link between Russia and North Korea
3. Democratic Republic of Congo	Expansion of cobalt reserves and increased state control over mining

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Explanation

1) Answer: (D)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** TRISHNA (Thermal Infra-Red Imaging Satellite for High-resolution Natural resource Assessment) is indeed a joint Earth observation mission developed collaboratively by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the French space agency (CNES).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The 'SweepSAR' technique combined with a large deployable mesh reflector antenna is characteristic of radar-imaging missions like NISAR (NASA-ISRO SAR), whereas TRISHNA is primarily designed for high-resolution thermal infrared imaging.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** TRISHNA is not placed in a geostationary orbit; rather, it is designed for a Sun-synchronous orbit to map land surface temperature, water stress, and energy budgets with a high revisit frequency.
- **Therefore, option D is the correct answer.**

2) Answer: (D)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Coral reefs function as natural breakwaters that dissipate significant wave energy, helping protect coastlines from erosion caused by storm surges, high-energy waves, and tsunamis.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Hard (stony) corals maintain an obligate mutualistic relationship with microscopic, single-celled algae called zooxanthellae, which provide essential nutrients through photosynthesis.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Soft corals lack the hard calcium carbonate skeletons characteristic of reef-building corals; instead, they contain flexible internal structures (like sclerites or woody protein cores) and do not build reefs.
- **Therefore, option D is the correct answer.**

3) Answer: (A)



- **Statement 1 is CORRECT: Exercise Veer Guardian** is a joint bilateral air combat defense exercise conducted between the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** and the **Japan Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF)**.
- **Statement 2 is CORRECT:** The inaugurating/first edition of Exercise Veer Guardian was held at Hyakuri Air Base in **Japan in January 2023**.
- **Statement 3 is INCORRECT:** While the deployment of the Mitsubishi F-2 for *Veer Guardian 2026* marks the **first time Japanese fighter aircraft operate from Indian soil**, it is **not** the first time the Mitsubishi F-2 has participated in an exercise outside Japan. The JASDF has previously deployed F-2 fighters overseas to international military drills (such as *Exercise Pitch Black* in Australia in 2022).
- **Therefore, option A is the correct answer.**

4) Answer: (A)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** All three recognized species of orangutans—the Bornean (*Pongo pygmaeus*), Sumatran (*Pongo abelii*), and Tapanuli (*Pongo tapanuliensis*) orangutans—are currently classified as **Critically Endangered** on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Orangutans are adapted to an **arboreal** lifestyle. They have long arms (an arm span up to 2.2 meters) and extremely flexible shoulder joints, enabling them to easily move through high canopy branches via a form of locomotion known as *quadrumanous scrambling* or *brachiation*.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Orangutans are the largest **arboreal** (tree-dwelling) animals on Earth, not predominantly ground-dwelling. They spend almost their entire lives high up in the forest canopy and construct their sleeping nests daily **high up in tree branches**, rarely coming down to the forest floor.
- **Therefore, option A is the correct answer.**

5) Answer: (C)

- **Chagos Islands: This pair is correctly matched.** The islands have been the center of a **long-standing sovereignty dispute between Mauritius and the United Kingdom**, with landmark international legal opinions and subsequent high-level treaties addressing the transfer of sovereignty back to Mauritius.
- **Tumen River: This pair is correctly matched.** **Russia and North Korea** constructed and opened their **first dedicated cross-border road link (the Yakov Novichenko Bridge) spanning the Tumen River** to expand transport and trade infrastructure between the two nations.
- **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC): This pair is correctly matched.** The DRC holds a massive share of the **world's cobalt reserves and critical minerals**, frequently making news due to government efforts to increase state oversight, regulate artisanal mining, and restructure joint-venture partnerships over its mineral wealth.
- **Therefore, option C is the correct answer.**