

1. What does the word 'Himalaya' mean in Sanskrit?
A. Land of rivers B. Abode of snow
C. Place of peaks
D. Cold and dry land (D)

Explanation : 'Himalaya' is derived from 'hima' meaning snow, and 'alaya' meaning abode—thus, 'abode of snow'.

2. Which river originates from Gaumukh in Uttarakhand?
A. Yamuna B. Ganga
C. Kaveri D. Godavari (D)

Explanation : The Bhagirathi, a key tributary of the Ganga, originates from Gaumukh.

3. What is Ladakh commonly referred to due to its terrain?
A. Snowfield B. Green Valley
C. Moonland D. Glacierland (D)

Explanation : Ladakh's rugged and dry terrain resembles the moon, hence called "Moonland".

4. Which is the only active volcano in India?
A. Narcondam Island B. Barren Island
C. Little Nicobar D. Kavaratti (B)

Explanation : Barren Island in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is India's only active volcano.

5. Which region is known as the 'Water Tower of Asia'?
A. Thar Desert B. Western Ghats
C. Himalayas D. Deccan Plateau (C)

Explanation : The Himalayas feed major rivers and supply water to millions, earning the title "Water Tower of Asia."

6. Which river forms a delta with the Brahmaputra in West Bengal?
A. Mahanadi B. Godavari
C. Ganga D. Krishna (D)

Explanation : The Ganga and Brahmaputra together form the Sundarbans delta in West Bengal.

7. What is the primary reason for the fertility of the Gangetic Plains?
A. Frequent rain B. Mountain winds
C. River-borne minerals
D. Forest cover (C)

Explanation : Rivers from the Himalayas bring minerals that enrich the soil, making the Gangetic Plains fertile.

8. What are 'taankas' or 'kunds' used for in Rajasthan?
A. Animal shelters B. Oil extraction
C. Water storage
D. Wind energy (D)

Explanation : Taankas and kunds are traditional water conservation structures used for collecting rainwater.

9. Which ancient mountain range prevents the Thar Desert from expanding eastward?
A. Himalayas B. Vindhyas
C. Western Ghats D. Aravallis (D)

Explanation : The Aravalli range acts as a natural barrier, limiting the spread of the Thar Desert eastward.

10. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are strategically important because they...
A. Produce most of India's seafood
B. Control major rivers
C. Act as ocean outposts
D. Have oil refineries (C)

Explanation : Their location allows India to monitor the ocean routes, making them crucial ocean outposts.