11. Consider the following regarding the “Eat Right Challenge”:  
Statement 1: It is a competition among Indian cities to strengthen their food safety ecosystem and encourage healthier food environments.  
Statement 2: Only metro cities are eligible to participate in the Eat Right Challenge.  
Which of the above statements is/are correct?  
(A) 1 only  
(B) 2 only  
(C) Both 1 and 2  
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer 11. (A) 1 only

Explanation:

 The Eat Right Challenge encourages cities across India to enhance food safety and promote healthy eating environments.

 Participation is not limited to metro cities; various cities and institutions across the country can take part.

 Therefore, only Statement 1 is correct.

12. Consider the following key components of the National Monetization Pipeline (NMP):  
Objective 1: It targets Brownfield assets in sectors like roads, power transmission, and gas pipelines for private investment.  
Objective 2: The NMP aims to generate ₹6 lakh crore over a 4-year period (2021–25).  
Objective 3: Ownership of assets is transferred permanently to private companies.  
Objective 4: Asset monetization is viewed as complementary to the National Infrastructure Pipeline.  
Which of the above objectives is/are not correct?  
(A) 3 only  
(B) 1 and 2 only  
(C) 2 and 4 only  
(D) 1, 3 and 4 only

Answer 12. (A) 3 only

Explanation:

 NMP focuses on monetizing existing government-owned Brownfield assets by involving private investment but ownership remains with the government.

 It aims to generate ₹6 lakh crore between 2021 and 2025 and complements the National Infrastructure Pipeline.

 Hence, Objective 3 is incorrect; assets are leased not permanently sold.

13. In international trade, what is meant by non-tariff barriers?  
(A) Restrictions on imports based solely on pricing conditions.  
(B) Trade restrictions such as quotas, licensing, standards, or subsidies that limit trade indirectly.  
(C) A ban on the export of strategic goods.  
(D) The imposition of duties above WTO ceilings.

Answer 13. (B) Trade restrictions such as quotas, licensing, standards, or subsidies that limit trade indirectly.

Explanation:

 Non-tariff barriers refer to various regulatory and administrative measures that restrict imports/exports without direct tariffs, including quotas and standards.

 The other options either pertain to tariffs or export bans, not non-tariff barriers.

14. In the context of monetary policy, what does Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) mean?  
(A) Minimum percentage of deposits held in liquid cash with RBI.  
(B) Fraction of deposits a bank must maintain in the form of approved securities before offering credit.  
(C) Funds lent to farmers at concessional rates.  
(D) Minimum balance required to maintain a savings account in public banks.

Answer 14. (B) Fraction of deposits a bank must maintain in the form of approved securities before offering credit.

Explanation:

 SLR is the percentage of a bank’s net demand and time liabilities that must be invested in safe and liquid assets like government securities.

 It does not involve cash reserves or minimum account balances.

15. With reference to Onam, the harvest festival of Kerala, consider the following:  
(i) The festival commemorates the annual homecoming of King Mahabali.  
(ii) Vallam Kali (boat race) and Pookalam (floral carpet) are major features of the celebrations.  
(iii) The festival has purely agrarian roots and no association with mythology.  
Which of the above statements are correct?  
(A) (i) and (ii) only  
(B) (ii) and (iii) only  
(C) (i) and (iii) only  
(D) (i), (ii) and (iii)

Answer 15. (A) (i) and (ii) only

Explanation:

 Onam celebrates the mythological homecoming of King Mahabali and features cultural events like Vallam Kali and Pookalam.

 Its roots are not purely agrarian as mythology and cultural heritage play significant roles, making (iii) incorrect.

16. Which of the following gyres are located in the Northern Hemisphere?  
(i) North Atlantic gyre  
(ii) South Pacific gyre  
(iii) North Pacific gyre  
(iv) Indian Ocean gyre  
Select the correct answer using the codes given below.  
(A) (i) and (ii) only  
(B) (i) and (iii) only  
(C) (ii) and (iv) only  
(D) (i), (ii) and (iii) only

Answer 16. (B) (i) and (iii) only

Explanation:

 North Atlantic and North Pacific gyres are both located in the Northern Hemisphere.

 South Pacific and Indian Ocean gyres are primarily in the Southern Hemisphere or equatorial regions.

17. Which of the following irrigation canals is/are east-flowing (headworks on west-flowing rivers, but canal distribution is eastward)?  
(i) Kakatiya Canal – Godavari River  
(ii) Sarda Canal – Ghaghara River  
(iii) Mettur Canal – Kaveri River  
(iv) Periyar Project Canal – Periyar River  
Select the correct answer using the codes given below.  
(A) (i) only  
(B) (ii) and (iv) only  
(C) (i), (iii) and (iv) only  
(D) (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv)

Answer 17. (C) (i), (iii) and (iv) only

Explanation:

 Kakatiya Canal, Mettur Canal, and Periyar Project Canal headworks are on west-flowing rivers but their canal irrigation systems flow eastward.

 Sarda Canal is an exception as it flows westward from the Ghaghara River.

18. Which of the following statements about the Subansiri river is/are not correct?  
(i) It is the largest tributary of the Brahmaputra (both north and south banks included).  
(ii) Originates near the border of Tibet and Arunachal Pradesh.  
(iii) Known as “Gold river” for placer gold deposits found historically.  
(iv) Joins the Brahmaputra near Sadiya town in Assam.  
(A) (i) only  
(B) (iv) only  
(C) (ii) and (iii) only  
(D) (iii) and (iv) only

Answer 18. (D) (iii) and (iv) only

Explanation:

 Subansiri is the largest tributary and originates near the Tibet-Arunachal border.

 It is not known as the “Gold river” — that title is associated with the Dhansiri and Kopili rivers.

 It joins the Brahmaputra near Lakhimpur, not Sadiya.

19. Which of the following irrigation canals is/are east-flowing (headworks on west-flowing rivers, but canal distribution is eastward)?  
(i) Kakatiya Canal – Godavari River  
(ii) Sarda Canal – Ghaghara River  
(iii) Mettur Canal – Kaveri River  
(iv) Periyar Project Canal – Periyar River  
Select the correct answer using the codes given below.  
(A) (i) only  
(B) (ii) and (iv) only  
(C) (i), (iii) and (iv) only  
(D) (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv)

Answer 19. (C) (i), (iii) and (iv) only

Explanation:

 This is a repeat of question 17; the same explanation applies here.

 Sarda canal is not east-flowing while the others are.

20. The increased severity of floods in Barak Valley is linked to:  
(i) Encroachment of wetlands like Chatla and Son Beel reducing natural drainage capacity.  
(ii) Siltation of Barak river due to jhum cultivation in upstream hills of Mizoram and Manipur.  
(A) Only (i) is right  
(B) Only (ii) is right  
(C) Both (i) and (ii) inclusive to explain Barak floods  
(D) Neither statement is adequate

Answer 20. (C) Both (i) and (ii) inclusive to explain Barak floods

Explanation:

 Wetland encroachment reduces the land's natural ability to absorb floodwaters, worsening flooding.

 Siltation from upland artificial cultivation reduces the river's capacity, contributing to flood severity.

 Both factors collectively explain the flooding problem in Barak Valley.