21. In order to mitigate the severity of urban flooding in India, which measures will be effective?  
(i) Restoration of wetlands and floodplains  
(ii) Increasing impermeable concrete surfaces in cities  
(iii) Construction of urban watershed recharge structures  
(iv) Encroachment on natural stormwater drains  
Select the correct answer using the codes given below:  
(A) (i) and (iii) only  
(B) (i), (ii) and (iii) only  
(C) (ii), (iii) and (iv) only  
(D) All are correct

Answer 21. (A) (i) and (iii) only

Explanation:

* Restoration of wetlands and floodplains helps enhance natural water absorption and storage capacity, reducing flood risks.
* Construction of urban watershed recharge structures promotes groundwater replenishment and mitigates flooding.
* Increasing impermeable concrete surfaces and encroaching on natural stormwater drains exacerbate urban flooding by limiting water infiltration and obstructing drainage, thus these measures are detrimental, not effective.

22. Authors Homen Borgohain, Indira Goswami (Mamoni Raisom Goswami), and Nabakanta Barua share a common thematic concern in their writings:  
(i) They are Sahitya Akademi Awardees.  
(ii) They explored the socio-political issues in Assamese society.  
(iii) They have extensively written on the philosophy of Vaishnavism.  
(iv) They are associated with modern Assamese fiction and poetry.  
(A) (i) and (ii) only  
(B) (ii) and (iv) only  
(C) (i), (ii), and (iv) only  
(D) All are correct

Answer 22. (C) (i), (ii), and (iv) only

Explanation:

* All three authors are recipients of the Sahitya Akademi Award, India’s prestigious literary honor.
* Their works prominently explore socio-political themes and modern Assamese literature in fiction and poetry.
* However, extensive writing on the philosophy of Vaishnavism is not a shared hallmark of all three; thus statement (iii) is not universally accurate.

23. During Census 2011, certain villages were reclassified as census towns. This reclassification typically occurs when  
(i) population crosses 5,000  
(ii) density of population is at least 400 persons per sq. km  
(iii) at least 75% of the male main working population is engaged in agricultural activities  
(iv) at least 75% of the male main working population is engaged in non-agricultural activities  
Select the correct answer using the codes given below.  
(A) (i), (ii) and (iv) only  
(B) (ii), (iii) and (iv) only  
(C) (i), (iii) and (iv) only  
(D) (iv) only

Answer 23. (A) (i), (ii) and (iv) only

Explanation:

* Census towns are defined based on three criteria: population above 5,000, population density over 400 persons per sq km, and at least 75% of the male working population engaged in non-agricultural pursuits.
* Statement (iii) contradicts this as it suggests agricultural engagement, which is not a criterion for census town classification.

24. Mawlynnong village in Meghalaya and Darangipara village in Goalpara, Assam, came to prominence in recent years because  
(i) Mawlynnong was hailed as the “Cleanest Village in Asia.”  
(ii) Darangipara achieved 100% literacy and digital self-help group operations.  
(iii) Both villages were declared as climate-resilient model eco-villages.  
(A) Only (i) is correct  
(B) Only (i) and (ii) are correct  
(C) Only (iii) is correct  
(D) All are correct

Answer 24. (B) Only (i) and (ii) are correct

Explanation:

* Mawlynnong village is internationally recognized as Asia’s cleanest village for its community-led cleanliness and sustainable living.
* Darangipara in Assam has gained recognition for achieving 100% literacy and organizing community digital self-help groups.
* However, only one of the villages, or neither, has been formally declared a climate-resilient model eco-village, so (iii) is incorrect.

25. Consider the following statements about Digboi Refinery:  
(i) It is Asia’s oldest functioning oil refinery, commissioned in 1901.  
(ii) It is currently operated by Oil India Limited (OIL).  
(iii) The refinery is often referred to as the "Oil City of Assam."  
(iv) Digboi was the first place in Asia where oil drilling commenced.  
(A) (i), (iii), and (iv) only  
(B) (ii) and (iv) only  
(C) (i) and (iii) only  
(D) All of the above

Answer 25. (A) (i), (iii), and (iv) only

Explanation:

* Digboi refinery is known as Asia’s oldest oil refinery, starting operations in 1901.
* The refinery and the town are often called the "Oil City of Assam" due to their historic importance in the oil industry.
* Digboi was the first site in Asia where oil drilling began.
* However, it is operated by Assam Oil Company, not Oil India Limited, making (ii) incorrect.

26. Based on the 2011 Census data, arrange the following Assam towns in descending order of their population:  
(i) Diphu  
(ii) Haflong  
(iii) Silapathar  
(iv) North Lakhimpur  
(A) North Lakhimpur, Silapathar, Diphu, Haflong  
(B) Silapathar, North Lakhimpur, Haflong, Diphu  
(C) Diphu, North Lakhimpur, Silapathar, Haflong  
(D) North Lakhimpur, Diphu, Silapathar, Haflong

Answer 26. (A) North Lakhimpur, Silapathar, Diphu, Haflong

Explanation:

* North Lakhimpur is the most populous among the given towns.
* Silapathar follows, then Diphu, and Haflong has the smallest population among these four, according to 2011 Census figures.

27. Match the following mountain ranges (List-I) with their respective countries (List-II):  
List-I — List-II  
a. Zagros Mountains — 1. Iran  
b. Atlas Mountains — 2. Morocco  
c. Carpathian Mountains — 3. Romania  
d. Drakensberg Mountains — 4. South Africa  
Select the correct answer using the codes given below.  
(A) abcd → 1324  
(B) abcd → 1234  
(C) abcd → 1423  
(D) abcd → 1342

Answer 27. (B) abcd → 1234

Explanation:

* Zagros Mountains are primarily in Iran.
* Atlas Mountains are mainly in Morocco.
* Carpathian Mountains span Romania.
* Drakensberg Mountains are in South Africa.
* This sequence correctly maps each mountain range to its country.

28. Match the following hot deserts with their respective locations:  
List-I — List-II  
a. Kalahari — 1. Namibia/Botswana  
b. Great Victoria — 2. Australia  
c. Mojave — 3. USA  
d. Thar — 4. India-Pakistan  
Select the correct answer using the codes given below.  
(A) abcd → 1234  
(B) abcd → 1324  
(C) abcd → 1423  
(D) abcd → 1243

Answer 28. (A) abcd → 1234

Explanation:

* Kalahari Desert is in Namibia and Botswana.
* Great Victoria Desert is located in Australia.
* Mojave Desert is in the USA.
* Thar Desert stretches across India and Pakistan.
* These matches properly assign deserts to their geographic locations.

29. Which of the following statements about the Olympic Games is not correct?  
(A) The motto of the Olympic Games is Citius, Altius, Fortius – Communiter (Faster, Higher, Stronger – Together).  
(B) The first modern Olympic Games were held in Athens in 1896.  
(C) The International Olympic Committee (IOC) is headquartered in Paris, France.  
(D) The Winter Olympics were first introduced in 1924 at Chamonix, France.

Answer 29. (C) The International Olympic Committee (IOC) is headquartered in Paris, France.

Explanation:

* The IOC is headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland, not Paris, France.
* The Olympic motto has been updated recently to include "Communiter" meaning "Together."
* The first modern Olympic Games occurred in Athens in 1896.
* Winter Olympics started in 1924 at Chamonix, France.

30. What is the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) initiative related to?  
(A) It is a climate-finance mechanism under the UNFCCC.  
(B) It is a connectivity project announced at the G20 Summit 2023 linking India with Europe via Middle East.  
(C) It is a military logistics sharing agreement among QUAD members.  
(D) None of the above

Answer 30. (B) It is a connectivity project announced at the G20 Summit 2023 linking India with Europe via Middle East.

Explanation:

* The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) is a strategic connectivity initiative to link India with Europe through the Middle East.
* It was announced during the G20 Summit in 2023 with aims to enhance trade, economic collaboration, and infrastructure development along the corridor.
* It is not related to climate finance or military logistics agreements.