1. With reference to “Ayush Aahar” standards notified by FSSAI, consider:  
   Statement 1: Ayush Aahar provides regulations for food products prepared based on principles of Ayurveda, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa, and Unani.  
   Statement 2: These food products require licensing from both FSSAI and the Ministry of Ayush to be marketed in India.  
   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:

* Ayush Aahar refers to food products formulated per traditional systems like Ayurveda, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa, and Unani, with standards framed under Food Safety and Standards regulations.
* Such foods require FSSAI licensing; a separate additional marketing licence from the Ministry of Ayush is not mandated, though coordination/clarifications exist for co-located facilities.
* Regulatory scope distinguishes foods under FSSAI from AYUSH drugs under the Drugs and Cosmetics framework.

1. With reference to Aspirational Districts Programme, consider the following objectives:  
   Objective 1: To improve socio-economic indicators in health, education, agriculture, and infrastructure by convergence, collaboration and competition.  
   Objective 2: NITI Aayog monitors progress through a real-time dashboard using data from districts.  
   Objective 3: The programme covers districts identified by the UNDP’s Human Development Index.  
   Objective 4: The model of Aspirational Districts has been replicated in Aspirational Blocks Programme.  
   Which of the above objectives is/are not correct?  
   (A) 1 only  
   (B) 3 only  
   (C) 1 and 2 only  
   (D) 2 and 4 only

Answer 12. (B) 3 only

Explanation:

* The programme’s design rests on convergence, collaboration, and competition to improve outcomes across defined themes, with NITI’s Champions of Change dashboard tracking progress.
* Districts were identified by Government/NITI using multiple criteria, not simply UNDP’s HDI list; hence Objective 3 is not correct.
* The approach has been extended to the Aspirational Blocks Programme using similar monitoring methods.

1. The concept of Terms of Trade (ToT) in international economics measures:  
   (A) The ratio between the value of exports and the value of imports.  
   (B) The difference between a country’s capital account and current account.  
   (C) The total sum of direct and portfolio investments in a country.  
   (D) The level of trade deficit in proportion to GDP.

Answer 13. (A) The ratio between the value of exports and the value of imports.

Explanation:

* Terms of trade capture the price ratio of exports to imports, often expressed as an index to indicate purchasing power in trade.
* Capital/current account differences and FDI/PI totals are separate balance of payments metrics, not ToT.
* Trade deficit as a share of GDP is another indicator distinct from ToT.

1. What is meant by Call Money Market in India?  
   (A) The short-term money market where banks borrow and lend funds overnight.  
   (B) The market for foreign institutional investment in equity.  
   (C) The RBI’s window for long-term banking finance.  
   (D) A mobile-based credit system for consumers launched by NPCI.

Answer 14. (A) The short-term money market where banks borrow and lend funds overnight.

Explanation:

* The call money market involves overnight (and up to 14 days as notice money) interbank lending to manage liquidity.
* It is distinct from equity flows, long-term refinance windows, or retail mobile credit systems.

1. Consider the following about Losar festival of the Himalayas:  
   (i) It marks the Tibetan Buddhist New Year.  
   (ii) It is celebrated in Ladakh, Arunachal Pradesh, and Sikkim.  
   (iii) It aligns exactly with the Hindu calendar’s Makar Sankranti every year.  
   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:

* Losar is the Tibetan Buddhist New Year celebrated across Himalayan regions, including Ladakh, parts of Arunachal Pradesh (e.g., Tawang), and Sikkim.
* Its date varies by the Tibetan lunar calendar and does not align exactly with Makar Sankranti each year, making (iii) incorrect.

1. Which of the following pairs of currents form part of a clockwise circulation in the North Atlantic Ocean?  
   (i) Gulf Stream  
   (ii) Canary Current  
   (iii) Labrador Current  
   (iv) North Atlantic Drift  
   Select the correct answer using the codes given below.  
   (A) (i), (ii) and (iv) only  
   (B) (ii) and (iii) only  
   (C) (i), (iii) and (iv) only  
   (D) (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv)

Answer 16. (A) (i), (ii) and (iv) only

Explanation:

* The North Atlantic gyre’s clockwise loop includes the warm Gulf Stream, its extension the North Atlantic Drift, and the cool Canary Current returning south along Africa.
* The Labrador Current is a cold current flowing south along Canada’s east, interacting with the Gulf Stream but not a main limb of the gyre’s clockwise loop.

1. Which of the following are correct about the Buckingham Canal?  
   (i) It is a man-made navigation canal running parallel to the Coromandel coast.  
   (ii) It connects the Krishna and Godavari deltas.  
   (iii) It was constructed by the Pallava dynasty as part of water management.  
   (iv) It extends into both Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.  
   Select the correct answer using the codes given below.  
   (A) (i), (ii) and (iv) only  
   (B) (ii) and (iii) only  
   (C) (i) and (iii) only  
   (D) (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv)

Answer 17. (A) (i), (ii) and (iv) only

Explanation:

* The Buckingham Canal is an artificial navigation canal along the Coromandel coast linking backwaters and the Krishna–Godavari delta regions.
* It spans Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, historically expanded during British rule, not constructed by the Pallavas.

1. Consider the following statements about Dhansiri River system:  
   (i) Dhansiri (north) flows along the North bank, joining Brahmaputra near Tezpur.  
   (ii) Dhansiri (south) originates in Nagaland and joins Brahmaputra near Numaligarh.  
   (iii) The Dhansiri is an important tributary of Kaziranga National Park ecosystem.  
   (iv) Dhansiri unites with Kalang before meeting Brahmaputra.  
   Which statement(s) is/are not correct?  
   (A) (i) only  
   (B) (iv) only  
   (C) (i) and (ii) only  
   (D) (iii) and (iv) only

Answer 18. (A) (i) only

Explanation:

* Dhansiri (South) rises in Nagaland and joins the Brahmaputra near Numaligarh, forming the eastern boundary of Kaziranga in parts, making (ii) and (iii) correct.
* The “Dhansiri (North)” reference to Tezpur confluence is incorrect; the well-known Dhansiri tributary in Assam is the southern one; Dhansiri does not unite with the Kalang before meeting the Brahmaputra.
* Therefore, statement (i) is not correct, while (iv) is also not supported; but among options provided, (i) only matches the “not correct” selection as per standard descriptions.

1. Which of the following are correct about the Buckingham Canal?  
   (i) It is a man-made navigation canal running parallel to the Coromandel coast.  
   (ii) It connects the Krishna and Godavari deltas.  
   (iii) It was constructed by the Pallava dynasty as part of water management.  
   (iv) It extends into both Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.  
   Select the correct answer using the codes given below.  
   (A) (i), (ii) and (iv) only  
   (B) (ii) and (iii) only  
   (C) (i) and (iii) only  
   (D) (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv)

Answer 19. (A) (i), (ii) and (iv) only

Explanation:

* The canal parallels the Coromandel coast and links delta/backwater stretches, including the Krishna–Godavari region.
* It spans AP and TN; it was mainly developed during British times, not by Pallavas.
* Hence (i), (ii), and (iv) are correct.

1. The problem of “sand deposition floods” in Dhemaji and parts of Majuli is explained by:  
   (i) River channel shifting carrying huge sand load that buries croplands.  
   (ii) Excessive hill cutting and jhum cultivation in upper catchment areas increasing sediment yield.  
   (A) Only (i)  
   (B) Only (ii)  
   (C) Both inclusive  
   (D) Neither (i) nor (ii)

Answer 20. (C) Both inclusive

Explanation:

* Frequent channel avulsions in braided rivers bring heavy sand deposition, smothering fields and homesteads in Dhemaji–Majuli sectors.
* Land-use practices like hill cutting and shifting cultivation in upper catchments elevate sediment loads, aggravating sand-cast floods downstream.