1. To reduce the impact of earthquakes in urban India, which structural and policy measures are effective?  
   (i) Enforcing earthquake-resistant building codes  
   (ii) Banning urbanization in all seismic zones  
   (iii) Early warning and disaster preparedness systems  
   (iv) Retrofitting of critical infrastructure like hospitals and schools  
   Select the correct answer using the codes given below:  
   (A) (i), (iii) and (iv) only  
   (B) (ii) only  
   (C) (i) and (iii) only  
   (D) All are correct

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

Explanation:

* Enforcing seismic building codes reduces structural vulnerability and is among the most effective risk-reduction measures in earthquake-prone cities.
* Early warning systems, drills, and preparedness planning lower casualties by enabling rapid protective action and coordinated response.
* Retrofitting lifeline buildings (hospitals, schools, EOCs, bridges) ensures continuity of critical services post-event, reducing secondary losses.
* A blanket ban on urbanization across all seismic zones is impractical and unnecessary; risk-informed planning and resilient construction are the accepted approaches.

1. The writings of Hem Barua (Parliamentarian and poet) are remembered for:  
   (i) His association with the Pragati-Sil literary movement.  
   (ii) Poems that blended modernist Assamese voice with political consciousness.  
   (iii) His book The Red River and the Blue Hills, which interprets Northeast India for readers beyond the region.  
   (iv) Chronicling biographies of Sankardev and Madhavdev.  
   (A) (i) and (ii) only  
   (B) (ii) and (iii) only  
   (C) (i), (ii), and (iii) only  
   (D) All are correct

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

Explanation:

* Hem Barua was linked to progressive literary currents and helped shape a modern Assamese poetic idiom informed by public life.
* His poetry engaged with social and political themes, reflecting a modernist sensibility rooted in Assam.
* The Red River and the Blue Hills is noted for presenting Northeast India’s cultural and historical landscape to wider audiences.
* He was not primarily known for authoring major biographies of Sankardev and Madhavdev; that focus belongs to other scholars.

1. In India, migration identified in the 2011 Census was significantly driven by  
   (i) rural-to-urban migration for employment opportunities  
   (ii) marriage-related migration, especially among women  
   (iii) displacement due to large-scale natural disasters and development projects  
   (iv) international net migration inflows from neighbouring countries  
   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 23. (B) (i), (ii) and (iii) only

Explanation:

* Rural-to-urban movement for jobs is a well-established driver of internal migration.
* Marriage is the single largest stated reason for migration in India, particularly for women.
* Disasters and development-induced displacement contribute to internal movements, though their measured shares vary by state and period.
* Net international inflows are not a principal driver at the national scale in the Census context compared to internal migration reasons.

1. Boko area villages (Kamrup district) and Matmora-Ghunasuti villages (Dhemaji district) often appear in headlines because  
   (i) Boko suffers from flood-erosion along Kolohi river.  
   (ii) Matmora became Assam’s first embankment strengthened with geo-tube technology.  
   (iii) Boko villages became model towns with rural IT hubs supported by NIT Silchar.  
   (A) Only (i) is correct  
   (B) (i) and (ii) are correct  
   (C) Only (iii) is correct  
   (D) All are correct

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

Explanation:

* The Boko region faces recurrent flooding and bank erosion associated with local rivers such as the Kolohi, impacting settlements and agriculture.
* The Matmora embankment is known for the early adoption of geo-tube embankment technology to resist erosion and over-topping.
* The claim regarding rural IT hubs in Boko specifically supported by NIT Silchar is not a recognized development narrative for the area.

1. Consider the following about strategic and economic importance of Assam’s crude oil:  
   (i) Assam oil contributed crucially to the Allied supply during World War II.  
   (ii) Even today, Assam accounts for nearly 25% of India’s onshore crude production.  
   (iii) Oil economy spurred the establishment of Digboi town as one of India’s earliest industrial townships.  
   (iv) The Brahmaputra valley coal-oil sector is now entirely privatized.  
   (A) (i), (ii), and (iii) only  
   (B) (i) and (ii) only  
   (C) (ii), (iii), and (iv) only  
   (D) All are correct

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

Explanation:

* Assam’s oilfields and refineries were strategically important to Allied logistics during World War II.
* Assam remains a significant onshore producer, with a substantial share of India’s onshore crude output in recent years.
* Digboi’s growth as an industrial township is closely tied to its historic refinery and oil economy.
* The sector is not “entirely privatized”; public sector entities continue to play major roles alongside private players.

1. Arrange the following Northeast state capitals by their population size (Census 2011):  
   (i) Dispur (Guwahati)  
   (ii) Kohima  
   (iii) Itanagar  
   (iv) Aizawl  
   (A) Dispur (Guwahati), Aizawl, Kohima, Itanagar  
   (B) Dispur (Guwahati), Aizawl, Itanagar, Kohima  
   (C) Dispur (Guwahati), Kohima, Aizawl, Itanagar  
   (D) Aizawl, Dispur (Guwahati), Itanagar, Kohima

Answer 26. (B) Dispur (Guwahati), Aizawl, Itanagar, Kohima

Explanation:

* Guwahati (administrative capital area Dispur) is by far the largest urban center among those listed.
* Aizawl’s urban population exceeds that of Itanagar and Kohima based on 2011 figures.
* Itanagar’s population is higher than Kohima’s per 2011 Census, placing Kohima fourth in this list.

1. Match the following world heritage natural sites with their locations:  
   List-I — List-II  
   a. Great Barrier Reef — 1. Australia  
   b. Serengeti National Park — 2. Tanzania  
   c. Yellowstone — 3. USA  
   d. Iguazu National Park — 4. Argentina/Brazil  
   Select the correct answer using the codes given below.  
   (A) abcd → 1234  
   (B) abcd → 1243  
   (C) abcd → 1342  
   (D) abcd → 1324

Answer 27. (A) abcd → 1234

Explanation:

* Great Barrier Reef is off the coast of Australia.
* Serengeti National Park lies in Tanzania.
* Yellowstone National Park is in the USA.
* Iguazu National Park spans the Argentina–Brazil border.

1. Match the following major dams with their rivers:  
   List-I — List-II  
   a. Aswan High Dam — 1. Nile  
   b. Hoover Dam — 2. Colorado  
   c. Itaipu Dam — 3. Paraná  
   d. Three Gorges Dam — 4. Yangtze  
   Select the correct answer using the codes given below.  
   (A) abcd → 1234  
   (B) abcd → 1243  
   (C) abcd → 1342  
   (D) abcd → 1432

Answer 28. (A) abcd → 1234

Explanation:

* Aswan High Dam impounds the Nile River in Egypt.
* Hoover Dam is on the Colorado River on the US–Nevada/Arizona border.
* Itaipu Dam is on the Paraná River (Brazil–Paraguay).
* Three Gorges Dam is on China’s Yangtze River.

1. Which of the following about World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) is not correct?  
   (A) WADA was established in 1999.  
   (B) Its headquarters is located in Lausanne, Switzerland.  
   (C) Its key function is to implement the World Anti-Doping Code.  
   (D) India has its own anti-doping body called the NADA, affiliated with WADA.

Answer 29. (B) Its headquarters is located in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Explanation:

* WADA was created in 1999 to coordinate the global fight against doping in sport.
* Its core mandate centers on the World Anti-Doping Code and international standards.
* India’s National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) operates in alignment with WADA’s Code.
* The headquarters is not in Lausanne; the incorrect location makes option (B) the not-correct statement.

1. The India–Nordic Summit cooperation framework primarily focuses on:  
   (A) Defence hardware transfers to NATO allies  
   (B) Collaboration in clean energy, digital economy, green technologies, and Arctic research  
   (C) Extensive trade negotiations in the pharmaceutical and textile sector only  
   (D) None of the above

Answer 30. (B) Collaboration in clean energy, digital economy, green technologies, and Arctic research

Explanation:

* The India–Nordic format emphasizes technology-driven collaboration including renewables, circular economy, digital solutions, and Arctic science.
* It is not about defence exports to NATO nor confined to a narrow set of trade sectors.
* The thematic focus aligns with sustainability and innovation priorities across Nordic countries and India.