1. The “Soil Mission” under the National Action Plan on Climate Change primarily aims to:  
   (i) Improve soil organic carbon content  
   (ii) Enhance water retention capacity of soils  
   (iii) Promote widespread mechanization of farming  
   (iv) Reduce degradation and desertification  
   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) All of the above

Answer 81. (A) (i), (ii), and (iv) only

Explanation:

* Improving soil organic carbon and water-holding capacity are central to climate-resilient soil management envisioned under national climate frameworks, aligning with land degradation neutrality goals.
* Reducing land degradation and desertification is a core mission outcome, consistent with India’s commitments on combating desertification.
* Promoting mechanization per se is not a core objective of the climate-focused soil mission; technology use is selective and context-driven rather than an aim in itself.

1. Which dimension is considered in the Social Progress Index but NOT in the Human Development Index?  
   (A) Education  
   (B) Health and wellness  
   (C) Environmental quality and personal rights  
   (D) Income and economic growth

Answer 82. (C) Environmental quality and personal rights

Explanation:

* The Social Progress Index explicitly includes components like environmental quality, personal rights, personal safety, and inclusiveness as part of its Opportunity and Foundations of Wellbeing dimensions.
* The HDI focuses on health (longevity), education, and income, and does not incorporate environmental quality or personal rights in its composite measure.
* Hence these SPI dimensions are outside HDI’s scope.

1. The Assam Motor Vehicles Taxation Act was enacted in which year?  
   (A) 1940  
   (B) 1950  
   (C) 1956  
   (D) 1962

Answer 83. (A) 1940

Explanation:

* The principal Assam Motor Vehicles Taxation Act dates back to the pre-Independence period of 1936–1940 era legislation; Assam’s framework is cited in subsequent amendments as the 1936/1940 principal Act.
* Later amendments, including in 1963 and thereafter, modified rates and provisions, but the original enactment predates 1950.

1. Which of the following is a key feature of the “UDAY” scheme?  
   (A) Rescue and revival of financially weak State Power Distribution Companies (DISCOMs)  
   (B) Providing free solar energy to farmers  
   (C) Promoting electric vehicles nationwide  
   (D) Setting energy efficiency standards for appliances

Answer 84. (A) Rescue and revival of financially weak State Power Distribution Companies (DISCOMs)

Explanation:

* Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana focuses on turning around state-owned DISCOM finances via debt takeover by states, loss reduction, tariff rationalization, and operational reforms.
* Free solar for farmers and EV promotion belong to other sectoral schemes; appliance standards stem from energy efficiency programs like BEE’s star labeling.

1. Which of the following is NOT a focus area of the 2024 Nobel Prize-winning research?  
   (A) Institutional economics  
   (B) Financial crises  
   (C) Climate change economics  
   (D) Political economy and development

Answer 85. (B) Financial crises

Explanation:

* The 2024 laureates’ work emphasized institutions, political economy, and development, not specifically the macro-financial crisis literature.
* Climate and institutional frameworks featured prominently over crisis modeling.

1. Who was the highest run-scorer for India in the ICC World Test Championship final 2023?  
   (A) Cheteshwar Pujara  
   (B) Virat Kohli  
   (C) Shubman Gill  
   (D) Ajinkya Rahane

Answer 86. (D) Ajinkya Rahane

Explanation:

* Ajinkya Rahane top-scored for India in the 2023 WTC final with a resolute 89, stabilizing the innings during a collapse.
* Other batters had lower individual tallies across the match.

1. One of the new recommendations expected from the 16th Finance Commission relates to:  
   (A) Redistribution based solely on population as per 2011 Census  
   (B) Increasing the share of States to 50% of net tax revenues  
   (C) Introduction of performance-based incentives linked to fiscal discipline and reforms  
   (D) No changes to the existing formula recommendations

Answer 87. (C) Introduction of performance-based incentives linked to fiscal discipline and reforms

Explanation:

* Recent commissions have increasingly emphasized performance-linked grants and incentives; continuation and refinement of such instruments is anticipated.
* A sole reliance on population or a blanket 50% devolution has not been the stated direction of travel.

1. Which of the following is correct regarding the current status of Dakshin Gangotri?  
   (A) It is the main operational research station in Antarctica  
   (B) It was India's first Antarctic station but is now inactive  
   (C) It is located in the Arctic region  
   (D) It is India's space research station

Answer 88. (B) It was India's first Antarctic station but is now inactive

Explanation:

* Dakshin Gangotri, established in the 1980s, was decommissioned after being submerged by ice and today serves only as a supply base marker.
* Maitri and Bharati are the current active Indian Antarctic research stations.

1. Where did the famous Ahom general Lachit Borphukan die in 1672?  
   (A) Guwahati  
   (B) Tezpur  
   (C) Charaideo  
   (D) Sibsagar

Answer 89. (B) Tezpur

Explanation:

* Lachit Borphukan died in 1672 shortly after the Battle of Saraighat; historical accounts place his demise in the Kaliabor–Tezpur region during continued campaigns.
* His burial site is commemorated in Upper Assam, but his death occurred nearer Tezpur.

1. Who was the first Assamese freedom fighter to be imprisoned during the Non-Cooperation Movement in Assam?  
   (A) Kushal Konwar  
   (B) Kanaklata Barua  
   (C) Chandraprasad Saikia  
   (D) Piyush Hazarika

Answer 90. (D) Piyush Hazarika

Explanation:

* Early Non-Cooperation arrests in Assam included youth activists like Piyush Hazarika in 1921 for participation in protests and boycotts.
* Other listed figures are associated with later phases or different movements within the freedom struggle.