11. Regarding the “Food Fortification Resource Centre (FFRC)”, consider the following:  
Statement 1: The FFRC was established by FSSAI to promote large-scale fortification of staples like rice, wheat flour, and edible oil.  
Statement 2: India mandates fortification of all food grains distributed under the Public Distribution System (PDS).  
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 Food Fortification Resource Centre (FFRC) was set up by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to promote the fortification of staple foods such as rice, wheat flour, and edible oil at a large scale.
* However, India currently does not mandate fortification of all food grains distributed under the Public Distribution System (PDS), making Statement 2 incorrect.

12. The National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) is a long-term plan for sustainable infrastructure creation. Consider the following:  
Objective 1: It envisages an investment of over ₹100 lakh crore across energy, roads, railways, and urban sectors by 2025.  
Objective 2: The NIP is jointly monitored by NITI Aayog, the Department of Economic Affairs, and the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation.  
Objective 3: It exclusively focuses on private sector-led infrastructure without government involvement.  
Objective 4: It aims at creating jobs, boosting private investment, and reducing logistic costs.  
Which of the above objectives is/are not correct?  
(A) 1 and 2 only  
(B) 2 and 4 only  
(C) 3 only  
(D) 1, 2 and 3 only

Answer 12. (C) 3 only

Explanation:

* The National Infrastructure Pipeline includes both government and private sector participation; it does not exclusively focus on the private sector.
* Objectives 1, 2, and 4 are accurate regarding projected investment, joint monitoring, and goals including job creation and cost reduction.

13. Which of the following best defines the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) principle under WTO rules?  
(A) A country must give preferential market access to its closest trading partner.  
(B) A country must treat all WTO members equally with respect to tariffs and trade rules.  
(C) A country must exempt least developed countries from tariffs.  
(D) A country must impose the same tariff rates on all goods, domestic and foreign.

Answer 13. (B) A country must treat all WTO members equally with respect to tariffs and trade rules.

Explanation:

* The MFN principle requires that WTO members extend trade advantages equally to all other members without discrimination.
* This ensures non-discriminatory trade practices, not preferential or uniform tariffication on all goods.

14. What is the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) in Indian banking?  
(A) The percentage of a commercial bank’s net demand and time liabilities kept with the RBI in cash.  
(B) The portion of bank deposits that must be invested in government securities.  
(C) The compulsory share of lending to priority sectors by banks.  
(D) A reserve kept by banks in their own treasury for emergencies.

Answer 14. (A) The percentage of a commercial bank’s net demand and time liabilities kept with the RBI in cash.

Explanation:

* CRR is the mandatory cash balance banks have to maintain with the Reserve Bank of India, expressed as a percentage of their net demand and time liabilities.
* It helps RBI regulate money supply and liquidity in the banking system.

15. Consider the following statements regarding Pushkar Fair in Rajasthan:  
(i) It is one of the largest camel and livestock fairs in the world.  
(ii) The fair coincides with the Kartik Purnima festival.  
(iii) It is organized under the aegis of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).  
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:

* Pushkar Fair is one of the biggest camel and livestock fairs globally and is held annually during Kartik Purnima.
* It is culturally significant but is not organized by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

16. Which of the following are characteristics of the El Niño phenomenon?  
(i) Weakening of the trade winds along the equatorial Pacific.  
(ii) Movement of warm surface water from Western Pacific to Eastern Pacific.  
(iii) Increased rainfall over Australia and Indonesia.  
(iv) Drought conditions in parts of South America.  
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 (iv) only

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

Explanation:

* El Niño is characterized by weakened equatorial trade winds, warm surface water shifts from western to eastern Pacific, and droughts in parts of South America.
* Increased rainfall is more typical over Australia and Indonesia during La Niña, the opposite phenomenon.

17. Which of the following pairs of multipurpose irrigation projects and their rivers is/are not correctly matched?  
(i) Hirakud Dam – Mahanadi  
(ii) Bhakra-Nangal Project – Beas River  
(iii) Nagarjuna Sagar Project – Krishna River  
(iv) Sardar Sarovar Project – Narmada River  
Select the correct answer using the codes given below.  
(A) (ii) only  
(B) (iii) only  
(C) (ii) and (iii) only  
(D) None of the above

Answer 17. (A) (ii) only

Explanation:

* The Bhakra-Nangal Project is built on the Sutlej River, not the Beas River.
* Hirakud, Nagarjuna Sagar, and Sardar Sarovar projects are correctly matched with Mahanadi, Krishna, and Narmada rivers respectively.

18. Consider the following sequences/statements about North bank tributaries of Brahmaputra (West to East):  
(i) Sankosh → Manas → Puthimari → Barnadi  
(ii) Subansiri is the largest north bank tributary of the Brahmaputra.  
(iii) Jia Bharali originates from Bhutan Himalayas.  
(iv) Ranganadi joins the Brahmaputra near North Lakhimpur town.  
Which are not correct?  
(A) (i) only  
(B) (iii) only  
(C) (iv) only  
(D) (i) and (iii) only

Answer 18. (A) (i) only

Explanation:

* The sequence in (i) is incorrect as the order of north bank tributaries from west to east is different; Puthimari and Barnadi are not in that order with Manas.
* Statements (ii), (iii), and (iv) are correct regarding tributary origins and confluence locations.

19. Which of the following pairs of multipurpose irrigation projects and their rivers is/are not correctly matched?  
(i) Hirakud Dam – Mahanadi  
(ii) Bhakra-Nangal Project – Beas River  
(iii) Nagarjuna Sagar Project – Krishna River  
(iv) Sardar Sarovar Project – Narmada River  
Select the correct answer using the codes given below.  
(A) (ii) only  
(B) (iii) only  
(C) (ii) and (iii) only  
(D) None of the above

Answer 19. (A) (ii) only

Explanation:

* As in question 17, Bhakra-Nangal is on the Sutlej River, not Beas.
* Other project-river pairs are correctly matched.

20. The occurrence of flash floods in Upper Assam (e.g., Dhemaji, Lakhimpur) are best explained by:  
(i) Sudden release of excess water from upstream dams in Arunachal Pradesh.  
(ii) High rainfall in catchment areas leading to overflow of north bank tributaries like Subansiri, Ranganadi, Jiadhal, etc.  
(A) Only (i) is right  
(B) Only (ii) is right  
(C) Both (i) and (ii) are correct, and inclusive to explain flash floods  
(D) Both (i) and (ii) correct, but not inclusive

Answer 20. (C) Both (i) and (ii) are correct, and inclusive to explain flash floods

Explanation:

* Flash floods in Upper Assam are caused by a combination of sudden releases from upstream dams and heavy rainfall leading to tributary overflows.
* Both factors together contribute comprehensively to the flooding scenario in these regions.