21. The loss of biodiversity due to deforestation can be minimized in India by  
(i) Establishing biosphere reserves in biodiversity hotspots  
(ii) Promoting monoculture plantations of fast-growing exotic species  
(iii) Linking fragmented habitats with biological corridors  
(iv) Protecting sacred groves associated with local traditions and beliefs  
Select the correct answer using the codes given below:  
(A) (i) and (iii) only  
(B) (ii) and (iv) only  
(C) (i), (iii) and (iv) only  
(D) All are correct

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

Explanation:

* Establishing biosphere reserves helps conserve biodiversity in critical areas.
* Biological corridors reconnect fragmented habitats, facilitating wildlife movement and genetic exchange.
* Sacred groves protect biodiversity through traditional community stewardship.
* Promoting monoculture plantations of exotic species is generally harmful to biodiversity and should be avoided.

22. The writings of Lakshminath Bezbaroa, Padmanath Gohain Baruah, Rajanikanta Bordoloi are commonly associated with:  
(i) Beginnings of modern Assamese literature of the Jonaki era.  
(ii) Promotion of Assamese language and identity during colonial period.  
(iii) Founding literary societies like Asam Sahitya Sabha.  
(iv) Extensive works on wildlife and geography of Northeast India.  
(A) (i) and (ii) only  
(B) (i), (ii), and (iii) only  
(C) (iv) only  
(D) All of the above

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

Explanation:

* These authors played pivotal roles in the Jonaki era of Assamese literature, promoting language and identity.
* They were foundational in establishing literary societies like Asam Sahitya Sabha.
* Their works focused more on literature and culture than on wildlife and geography.

23. The urbanisation trend in India between 2001–2011 differs from previous decades because of  
(i) faster growth of metropolitan cities compared to Class II towns  
(ii) significant contribution to urban growth from conversion of rural to census towns  
(iii) concentrated growth in eastern states of India  
(iv) proliferation of peri-urban areas around large cities  
Select the correct answer using the codes given below.  
(A) (i) and (iii) only  
(B) (ii) and (iv) only  
(C) (i), (ii), and (iv) only  
(D) All are correct

Answer 23. (B) (ii) and (iv) only

Explanation:

* Urban growth was significantly driven by rural areas being classified as census towns.
* Peri-urban areas around large cities expanded substantially.
* Contrary to (i) and (iii), metropolitan growth plateaued somewhat, and urban growth was not heavily concentrated in eastern states during this period.

24. Phuloguri village in Sonitpur district and Baksa district villages under Manas Biosphere Reserve were highlighted in recent years because  
(i) Phuloguri is famous for century-old body tattooing traditions of the Mising tribe.  
(ii) Baksa villages pioneered community-led conservation of Golden Langur.  
(iii) Phuloguri was declared a fully solar-powered Assamese model village.  
(A) Only (i) is correct  
(B) Only (ii) is correct  
(C) (i) and (ii) are correct  
(D) All are correct

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

Explanation:

* Phuloguri village is noted for the traditional body tattooing practices of the Mising tribe.
* Baksa district villages have been recognized for community-led conservation initiatives for the Golden Langur.
* Phuloguri has not officially been declared a fully solar-powered model village.

25. Consider the following statements about Numaligarh Refinery:  
(i) It is popularly called the “Assam Accord Refinery.”  
(ii) It is a public sector undertaking under Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited.  
(iii) It is located in Golaghat district.  
(iv) It has recently undertaken the "Numaligarh Refinery Expansion Project" to increase capacity significantly.  
(A) (i) and (iii) only  
(B) (i), (iii), and (iv) only  
(C) (ii) and (iv) only  
(D) All are correct

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

Explanation:

* Numaligarh Refinery is referred to as the "Assam Accord Refinery" due to its connection to the Assam Accord.
* It is located in Golaghat district, Assam.
* The refinery has recently undertaken an expansion project to increase capacity.
* However, it is operated as a joint venture company, not solely under Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, making (ii) incorrect.

26. Based on Census 2011 data, rank the following urban centers of Assam by population (highest to lowest):  
(i) Silchar  
(ii) Bongaigaon  
(iii) Jorhat  
(iv) Tezpur  
(A) Silchar, Bongaigaon, Jorhat, Tezpur  
(B) Silchar, Jorhat, Tezpur, Bongaigaon  
(C) Bongaigaon, Silchar, Tezpur, Jorhat  
(D) Silchar, Tezpur, Jorhat, Bongaigaon

Answer 26. (B) Silchar, Jorhat, Tezpur, Bongaigaon

Explanation:

* Silchar ranks highest in population among these towns, followed by Jorhat, then Tezpur, and lastly Bongaigaon as per 2011 census figures.

27. Match the following rivers with the seas/oceans they drain into:  
List-I List-II  
a. Volga 1. Caspian Sea  
b. Mekong 2. South China Sea  
c. Zambezi 3. Indian Ocean  
d. Yukon 4. Bering Sea  
Select the correct answer using the codes given below.  
(A) abcd → 1243  
(B) abcd → 1234  
(C) abcd → 1342  
(D) abcd → 1432

Answer 27. (B) abcd → 1234

Explanation:

* Volga River drains into the Caspian Sea.
* Mekong River empties into the South China Sea.
* Zambezi River flows into the Indian Ocean.
* Yukon River drains into the Bering Sea.

28. Match the following cold currents with the oceans they belong to:  
List-I List-II  
a. Labrador Current 1. Atlantic  
b. Oyashio Current 2. Pacific  
c. Humboldt Current 3. Pacific  
d. Benguela Current 4. Atlantic  
Select the correct answer using the codes given below.  
(A) abcd → 1234  
(B) abcd → 1324  
(C) abcd → 1243  
(D) abcd → 1432

Answer 28. (A) abcd → 1234

Explanation:

* Labrador Current is a cold current in the Atlantic Ocean.
* Oyashio Current is a cold current in the Pacific Ocean.
* Humboldt Current is also a cold current in the Pacific Ocean.
* Benguela Current flows as a cold current in the Atlantic Ocean.

29. Which of the following statements about Asian Games is not correct?  
(A) The first Asian Games were held in New Delhi in 1951.  
(B) India has hosted the Asian Games twice, in 1951 and 1982.  
(C) The Asian Games are organized by the Asian Olympic Committee.  
(D) The 19th Asian Games were held in Hangzhou, China in 2023.

Answer 29. (C) The Asian Games are organized by the Asian Olympic Committee.

Explanation:

* The Asian Games are organized by the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA), not the Asian Olympic Committee.
* Statements (A), (B), and (D) about the first games, hosting India, and the 19th games in Hangzhou respectively are correct.

30. What does the QUAD Critical and Emerging Technology Working Group focus on?  
(A) Cooperation in nuclear weapons development  
(B) Collaboration on AI, 5G/6G, quantum computing, and secure telecom supply chains  
(C) Transfer of conventional weapons systems  
(D) Joint development of military training facilities in the Indo-Pacific

Answer 30. (B) Collaboration on AI, 5G/6G, quantum computing, and secure telecom supply chains

Explanation:

* The QUAD Critical and Emerging Technology Working Group is mandated to collaborate on advanced technology areas including artificial intelligence, next-generation telecom (5G/6G), quantum computing, and ensuring secure supply chains for critical technologies.
* It does not focus on weapon development, arms transfers, or joint military training facilities.