81. Which of the following are objectives of the "Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)" scheme?  
(i) Provide income support to small and marginal farmers  
(ii) Promote sustainable agriculture practices  
(iii) Increase direct input subsidy on fertilizers  
(iv) Enhance farmers’ access to credit  
Select the correct answer using the codes given below.  
(A) (i) only  
(B) (i) and (iv) only  
(C) (i), (ii), and (iii) only  
(D) (i), (ii), (iii), and (iv)

Answer 81. (A) (i) only

Explanation:

* The primary objective of PM-KISAN is to provide income support to small and marginal farmers by direct cash transfer.
* Promotion of sustainable agriculture, increased fertilizer subsidies, and credit access are addressed by other schemes, not this one specifically.

82. The Global Competitiveness Index (GCI) primarily assesses which of the following dimensions?  
(A) Infrastructure  
(B) Health and primary education  
(C) Macroeconomic stability  
(D) All of the above

Answer 82. (D) All of the above

Explanation:

* The GCI evaluates multiple dimensions including infrastructure quality, health and education levels, and macroeconomic stability, among other factors influencing economic competitiveness.

83. When was the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) formed under the Sixth Schedule provisions?  
(A) 1993  
(B) 2003  
(C) 2010  
(D) 2015

Answer 83. (B) 2003

Explanation:

* The Bodoland Territorial Council was established in 2003 under the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution to provide autonomy to the Bodo-dominated areas in Assam.

84. The “Perform Achieve Trade” (PAT) mechanism under the National Mission on Enhanced Energy Efficiency aims to:  
(A) Promote circular trading of renewable energy certificates  
(B) Enhance energy efficiency through tradable energy saving certificates  
(C) Subsidize coal mining companies  
(D) Provide financial aid to power producers

Answer 84. (B) Enhance energy efficiency through tradable energy saving certificates

Explanation:

* PAT is a market-based mechanism that awards tradable energy saving certificates to industries achieving energy efficiency targets, encouraging overall reduction in energy consumption.

85. Which of the following economists is known for seminal work on institutions shaping economic outcomes, and won the Nobel Prize in 2024?  
(A) Abhijit Banerjee  
(B) Daron Acemoglu  
(C) Esther Duflo  
(D) Robert Shiller

Answer 85. (B) Daron Acemoglu

Explanation:

* Daron Acemoglu is renowned for his research on the role of institutions in economic development and was a co-recipient of the Nobel Prize in 2024 for this work.

86. Who was declared the 'Player of the Tournament' in the ICC T20 World Cup, 2024?  
(A) Jos Buttler  
(B) KL Rahul  
(C) Suryakumar Yadav  
(D) Glenn Maxwell

Answer 86. (A) Jos Buttler

Explanation:

* Jos Buttler displayed exceptional performance throughout the ICC T20 World Cup 2024 and was awarded 'Player of the Tournament' for his batting and leadership.

87. Which of the following is NOT a function of the Finance Commission of India?  
(A) Distribution of net proceeds of taxes between the Centre and States  
(B) Making recommendations on grants-in-aid to States from the Consolidated Fund of India  
(C) Formulating fiscal policies for states  
(D) Suggesting measures to augment the Consolidated Fund of States

Answer 87. (C) Formulating fiscal policies for states

Explanation:

* The Finance Commission recommends distribution of tax revenues and grants but does not formulate fiscal policies; such policies are made by the respective governments.

88. Which is the first Indian research station established in Antarctica?  
(A) Bharati  
(B) Maitri  
(C) Dakshin Gangotri  
(D) Himadri

Answer 88. (C) Dakshin Gangotri

Explanation:

* Dakshin Gangotri was India's first permanent research base established in Antarctica in 1983.

89. Where was the first session of the Assam Sahitya Sabha held in 1917?  
(A) Guwahati  
(B) Jorhat  
(C) Sivasagar  
(D) Dibrugarh

Answer 89. (B) Jorhat

Explanation:

* The inaugural session of Assam Sahitya Sabha was held in Jorhat in 1917 to promote Assamese language, literature, and culture.

90. Who presided over the inaugural session of the Assam Provincial Congress in 1921?  
(A) Chabilal Upadhyaya  
(B) Gopinath Bordoloi  
(C) Tarun Ram Phukan  
(D) Mohendra Mohan Choudhury

Answer 90. (A) Chabilal Upadhyaya

Explanation:

* Chabilal Upadhyaya, a prominent freedom fighter, presided over the first Assam Provincial Congress session in 1921 which played a key role in the Indian freedom movement in Assam.