1. To mitigate the impact of landslides in the Himalayan region, which measures are effective?  
   (i) Maintaining vegetation cover on slopes  
   (ii) Prohibition on construction on steep hill slopes  
   (iii) Controlled blasting in development projects  
   (iv) Diversion of natural drainage channels  
   Select the correct answer using the codes given below:  
   (A) (i) and (ii) only  
   (B) (i), (ii) and (iii) only  
   (C) (ii), (iii) and (iv) only  
   (D) All are correct

Answer 21. (B) (i), (ii) and (iii) only

Explanation:

* Maintaining vegetation cover stabilizes slopes by reinforcing soil and reducing surface runoff, which directly mitigates landslide risk.
* Restricting or prohibiting construction on steep, unstable slopes reduces anthropogenic triggers such as overloading and slope cutting.
* Where blasting is unavoidable, controlled blasting with proper geotechnical planning reduces vibrations and slope destabilization compared to unregulated blasting.
* Diverting natural drainage channels can destabilize slopes by altering subsurface flow paths and concentrating runoff, so it is not recommended as a mitigation measure.

1. Writings of Mitra Phukan, Anjum Hasan, and Jahnavi Barua are notable for:  
   (i) Contemporary Assamese-English fiction with urban Northeast themes.  
   (ii) Exploration of women’s identity and migration.  
   (iii) Studies of Vaishnava Bhakti saint-poets.  
   (iv) Inclusion of Northeast India into modern Indian English literature canon.  
   (A) (i) and (ii) only  
   (B) (ii) and (iv) only  
   (C) (i), (ii), and (iv) only  
   (D) All of the above

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

Explanation:

* These authors are recognized for contemporary fiction set in or connected to the Northeast, with urban milieus and social change at the core.
* Their works often center women’s subjectivities, identity, and migration, weaving personal journeys with regional backdrops.
* While Vaishnava Bhakti scholarship is vital to Assamese letters, it is not the primary focus of these three anglophone novelists.

1. India’s workforce structure as per Census 2011 shows that  
   (i) share of agricultural labourers in total workforce has declined steadily  
   (ii) growth of female workforce participation in urban areas has outpaced that in rural areas  
   (iii) much of the urban workforce is concentrated in the informal sector  
   (iv) literacy rate directly correlates with decrease in agricultural workforce share  
   Select the correct answer using the codes given below.  
   (A) (i) and (iii) only  
   (B) (i), (iii) and (iv) only  
   (C) (ii) and (iv) only  
   (D) All are correct

Answer 23. (A) (i) and (iii) only

Explanation:

* Long-run structural change reflects a declining share of agricultural workers, including agricultural labourers, in the total workforce.
* A large proportion of urban workers are engaged in informal employment lacking social security, pointing to a significant informal urban economy.
* Female workforce participation growth has generally been stronger in rural cohorts than urban cohorts across the 2000s–2010s; it is not accurate to claim urban has outpaced rural based on Census-era trends.
* Higher literacy correlates with non-farm diversification, but the relationship is not strictly direct or uniform enough to state as a Census 2011 finding.

1. Bamunkhat village in Nagaon district and Barpathar village in Golaghat district were noted nationally because  
   (i) Bamunkhat pioneered community libraries in every household.  
   (ii) Barpathar women SHGs gained fame for eco-friendly eri & muga weaving.  
   (iii) Both villages were declared drought-prone areas during Assam’s 2024 crop survey.  
   (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:

* Bamunkhat drew attention for innovative, community-led reading initiatives that placed books at the heart of village life, inspiring household-level libraries.
* Barpathar’s women self-help groups were highlighted for sustainable eri and muga silk weaving practices that align with eco-friendly livelihoods.
* Drought-prone designation for both in 2024 is not a widely reported national highlight tied to these villages’ recognition.

1. Consider the following about Oil India Limited (OIL):  
   (i) OIL was originally founded as a joint venture with Burma Oil Company in 1889.  
   (ii) Its present headquarters is in Duliajan, Assam.  
   (iii) OIL is India’s second largest national oil and gas company after ONGC.  
   (iv) It is listed under both BSE and NSE.  
   (A) (i), (ii), and (iii) only  
   (B) (ii) and (iii) only  
   (C) (i) and (iv) only  
   (D) All are correct

Answer 25. (B) (ii) and (iii) only

Explanation:

* OIL’s headquarters is at Duliajan, Assam, and it is widely referred to as India’s second national oil and gas company after ONGC by scale and role.
* The company traces formal incorporation to 1959 as a Burmah Oil–Government of India joint venture; 1889 pertains to early oil discovery history, not OIL’s JV founding.
* OIL is publicly listed on Indian exchanges, but the “1889 JV founding” statement is inaccurate in form and chronology.

1. Based on the 2011 Census, choose the correct descending order of population among Barak Valley towns:  
   (i) Silchar  
   (ii) Karimganj  
   (iii) Hailakandi  
   (iv) Badarpur  
   (A) Silchar, Karimganj, Hailakandi, Badarpur  
   (B) Karimganj, Silchar, Hailakandi, Badarpur  
   (C) Silchar, Hailakandi, Karimganj, Badarpur  
   (D) Silchar, Karimganj, Badarpur, Hailakandi

Answer 26. (A) Silchar, Karimganj, Hailakandi, Badarpur

Explanation:

* Silchar is the largest urban centre in the Barak Valley.
* Karimganj town’s population exceeds Hailakandi’s, and Badarpur is smaller than both, yielding the given descending order.
* This ordering aligns with district-town demographic profiles from the 2011 enumeration.

1. Match the following glaciers with the mountain ranges where they are located:  
   List-I — List-II  
   a. Siachen — 1. Karakoram  
   b. Gangotri — 2. Garhwal Himalaya  
   c. Baltoro — 3. Karakoram  
   d. Batura — 4. Karakoram  
   Select the correct answer using the codes given below.  
   (A) abcd → 1234  
   (B) abcd → 1324  
   (C) abcd → 1432  
   (D) abcd → 1243

Answer 27. (A) abcd → 1234

Explanation:

* Siachen lies in the eastern Karakoram.
* Gangotri is in the Garhwal Himalaya (Uttarakhand).
* Baltoro is a major Karakoram glacier in Pakistan.
* Batura is also part of the Karakoram system.

1. Match the following volcanoes with their respective countries:  
   List-I — List-II  
   a. Mount Kilimanjaro — 1. Tanzania  
   b. Mount Fuji — 2. Japan  
   c. Mount Elbrus — 3. Russia  
   d. Mount Cotopaxi — 4. Ecuador  
   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:

* Kilimanjaro is in Tanzania, Fuji in Japan, Elbrus in Russia (Caucasus), and Cotopaxi in Ecuador (Andes).
* These are classic country–volcano associations widely referenced in physical geography.

1. Which of the following statements about Khelo India Programme is not correct?  
   (A) It was launched in 2018 by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.  
   (B) It aims to strengthen the sports ecosystem at the grassroots level.  
   (C) It provides annual financial assistance of ₹5 lakh for 8 years to Khelo India Athletes.  
   (D) Only athletes above 25 years of age are eligible for selection.

Answer 29. (D) Only athletes above 25 years of age are eligible for selection.

Explanation:

* Khelo India is a youth-focused sports development programme launched in 2018.
* It strengthens grassroots infrastructure and talent identification and supports selected athletes with a stipend of ₹5 lakh per annum for up to 8 years.
* Eligibility is in junior/under-17 and under-21 categories; it is not restricted to athletes above 25 years.

1. What is the Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA) launched by India at G20 2023 primarily aimed at?  
   (A) Convening oil producers to regulate global ethanol prices  
   (B) Facilitating collaboration and adoption of sustainable biofuels globally  
   (C) Coordinating nuclear power usage instead of fossil fuels  
   (D) Exclusive partnership between India and Brazil on ethanol supply

Answer 30. (B) Facilitating collaboration and adoption of sustainable biofuels globally

Explanation:

* The GBA is a multi-stakeholder initiative to accelerate biofuel adoption through technology cooperation, standard setting, and market development.
* It is not a price cartel, a nuclear energy forum, or a bilateral India–Brazil exclusivity arrangement.