1. The Assam Government’s recognition of "Tiwa Autonomous Council’s" heritage festival Jonbeel Mela in 2024 was significant because the mela  
   (A) is among the rare barter trade fairs still practiced in India  
   (B) is the biggest tea-trading event in Assam  
   (C) celebrates the Ahom kingdom’s naval legacy  
   (D) promotes Buddhism as the main faith of the Tiwas

Answer 1. (A) is among the rare barter trade fairs still practiced in India

Explanation:

* Jonbeel Mela is renowned for maintaining a living barter system where hill and plains communities exchange goods without money, making it a rare surviving barter fair in India.
* The fair’s identity is rooted in indigenous exchange and cultural practices rather than tea-trading, naval commemorations, or religious propagation.
* The Tiwa-led event emphasizes inter-community harmony and customary tribute rituals, not promotion of Buddhism as a primary faith.

1. On February 5, 2025, Assam introduced the "Xudhakontho Music Archive," preserving rare compositions of Bhupen Hazarika digitally. Bhupen Hazarika, besides being the "Bard of Brahmaputra," was also the President of which prestigious Indian cultural body in 1999–2004?  
   (A) Sangeet Natak Akademi  
   (B) Sahitya Akademi  
   (C) Lalit Kala Akademi  
   (D) Indian Council for Cultural Relations

Answer 2. (A) Sangeet Natak Akademi

Explanation:

* Bhupen Hazarika served as the chairperson/president of the Sangeet Natak Akademi during 1999–2004, reflecting his national leadership in performing arts.
* His tenure coincided with key cultural recognitions, including elevating Sattriya to a major Indian dance form.
* The other listed bodies do not match the period of his apex institutional leadership.

1. On December 10, 2024, Assam’s Dimasa community celebrated the Bushu festival on the Diyung valley. Consider the following statements:  
   (i) Bushu is essentially a post-harvest agricultural festival.  
   (ii) It is celebrated with the traditional Baiba and Jhumur dances.  
   (iii) The Dimasa kingdom’s last capital was Maibang in present-day Dima Hasao district.  
   (iv) Dimasa myths trace their ancestry to Krima, regarded as the first Dimasa woman.

Answer 3. (i), (ii) and (iii) are correct; (iv) is not established

Explanation:

* Bushu (Busu Dima) is a post-harvest festival observed after completion of jhum cultivation, marked by communal feasting and dance.
* Festivities include traditional Dimasa dances such as Baiba along with music and competitions, forming a core cultural expression of the event.
* Maibang is recorded as the last capital of the Dimasa (Kachari) kingdom in the present Dima Hasao region, anchoring the community’s historical geography.
* The specific ancestral attribution to “Krima” as the first Dimasa woman is not a standard or widely attested mythic motif in established Dimasa origin narratives.

1. Which of the following statements about Kamakhya Temple is incorrect?  
   (A) It is one of the most important Shakti Peethas in India.  
   (B) The Ambubachi Mela celebrated here is related to the fertility of Goddess Kamakhya.  
   (C) The temple is situated atop the Nilachal Hill in Guwahati.  
   (D) It was constructed by the Ahom king Suheldev in the 4th century CE.

Answer 4. (D) It was constructed by the Ahom king Suheldev in the 4th century CE.

Explanation:

* Kamakhya is counted among the most significant Shakti Peethas, with traditions linking it to the Sati legends.
* The Ambubachi Mela symbolizes the annual menstruation of the goddess, celebrated as a fertility festival at Nilachal Hill.
* The attribution to an Ahom king named Suheldev in the 4th century CE is historically incorrect; Suheldev is not an Ahom ruler, and the temple’s extant structures reflect later reconstructions by Koch and Ahom patrons across medieval centuries.

1. In December 2024, Assam recorded a breakthrough in Kaziranga National Park regarding swamp deer (barasingha). Which of the following best describes this conservation success?  
   (A) Barasingha population rose from less than 100 to over 1000 individuals in 50 years  
   (B) The species was declared free from poaching threats  
   (C) The species was classified under Schedule IV of the Wildlife Protection Act  
   (D) Kaziranga swamp deer were relocated to the Western Ghats for the first time

Answer 5. (A) Barasingha population rose from less than 100 to over 1000 individuals in 50 years

Explanation:

* Long-term protection and habitat management in Kaziranga have seen the eastern swamp deer rebound to over a thousand individuals from earlier critical lows.
* Conservation success is measured through sustained population increases and range stabilization rather than categorical elimination of threats.
* The legal protection status remains higher than Schedule IV, and no relocation to the Western Ghats has been part of the species’ Assam recovery narrative.

1. In March 2025, the Assamese film “Chameli Memsaab” was digitally restored on its 50th anniversary. This film had originally won the National Film Award for:  
   (A) Best Feature Film in Assamese (1975)  
   (B) Best Cinematography (1975)  
   (C) Best Musical Score (1971)  
   (D) Best Costume Design (1971)

Answer 6. (A) Best Feature Film in Assamese (1975)

Explanation:

* Chameli Memsaab, released in 1975, received the National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Assamese.
* It is also celebrated for Bhupen Hazarika’s acclaimed music, but the notable National Award recorded for that year in this context includes the top Assamese feature category.
* The other options do not accurately capture the film’s primary national award recognition and timeline.

1. In March 2025, a new fossil species of turtle was discovered from Assam’s coal mines. These fossil-rich sites are primarily located at:  
   (A) Digboi  
   (B) Makum  
   (C) Margherita  
   (D) Doomdooma

Answer 7. (B) Makum

Explanation:

* Assam’s Oligocene fossil beds yielding diverse plant and vertebrate remains are centered in the Makum Coalfield of Tinsukia district.
* Discoveries from these seams have illuminated paleoclimate and biogeographic histories of Northeast India.
* While nearby towns like Margherita and Digboi are associated with coal and oil heritage, Makum specifically denotes the paleontologically rich coalfield.

1. The Bodo community has had immense socio-political significance in Assam. Consider the following statements:  
   (i) The Bodos follow Bathou religion, where the Siju plant symbolizes their supreme deity.  
   (ii) The Bagurumba is the traditional Bodo folk dance often called the "butterfly dance."  
   (iii) The Bodo language is one of the 22 scheduled languages of India under the Eighth Schedule.  
   (iv) Historically, Bodos are considered descendants of Indo-Aryan settlers in Brahmaputra valley.  
   Which of the above statements is/are not correct?  
   (A) (iv) only  
   (B) (ii) only  
   (C) (i) and (ii)  
   (D) (iii) only

Answer 8. (A) (iv) only

Explanation:

* Bathouism centers on the worship of Bathoubwrai, with the Siju (Euphorbia) plant symbolizing the supreme deity at household shrines.
* Bagurumba is a signature Bodo dance, popularly known as the butterfly dance for its graceful, nature-inspired movements.
* Bodo is recognized in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution as a scheduled language.
* The Bodos are a Tibeto-Burman ethnic group, not Indo-Aryan descendants, making statement (iv) incorrect.

1. Consider the following regarding the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI):  
   Statement 1: It is published annually by Germanwatch, NewClimate Institute and Climate Action Network International.  
   Statement 2: The index evaluates 60 countries and the European Union, together responsible for over 90% of global emissions.  
   Statement 3: The top three ranks of the index are usually left vacant to highlight that no country is yet on a Paris-compatible path.  
   Statement 4: India consistently ranks among the bottom 30 in recent years.  
   Which of the above statements are correct?  
   (A) 1, 2 and 3 only  
   (B) 1 and 4 only  
   (C) 2, 3 and 4 only  
   (D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer 9. (A) 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

* CCPI is jointly released by Germanwatch, NewClimate Institute, and Climate Action Network International each year.
* The index assesses the climate performance of 60 countries plus the EU bloc, representing the vast bulk of global greenhouse emissions.
* In recent editions, the first three ranks have been intentionally left empty to signal the gap to a fully Paris Agreement–compatible trajectory.
* India has generally placed in the “high” or “medium” performance tiers rather than the bottom 30, so statement 4 is not correct.

1. With reference to antimicrobial resistance in India, consider:  
   Statement 1: India launched the National Action Plan on AMR in 2017 in alignment with WHO’s Global Action Plan.  
   Statement 2: AMR is monitored in India through the Indian Council of Medical Research’s AMR Surveillance Network.  
   Statement 3: Use of antibiotics in food-producing animals is a major concern for AMR spread in India.  
   Statement 4: India is the first country in the world to ban all antibiotic use in livestock and aquaculture.  
   Which of the above statements are correct?  
   (A) 1, 2 and 3 only  
   (B) 1 and 4 only  
   (C) 2, 3 and 4 only  
   (D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer 10. (A) 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

* India adopted its National Action Plan on AMR in 2017, mirroring pillars of the WHO Global Action Plan.
* The ICMR coordinates an AMR surveillance network across tertiary hospitals and labs to monitor resistance trends.
* Antimicrobial use in poultry, livestock, and aquaculture is a documented driver of resistance, prompting regulatory advisories and stewardship efforts.
* India has not banned all antibiotic use in food animals; it regulates and restricts certain uses, but a complete ban claim is incorrect.