1. Consider the following statements about “BHOG – Blissful Hygienic Offering to God”:  
   Statement 1: It is a food safety initiative of FSSAI for places of worship where prasad is prepared and served.  
   Statement 2: Under BHOG, states are required to ensure mandatory certification of all temple food preparation sites under ISO standards.  
   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:

* BHOG is an initiative under the national food safety framework that guides places of worship on safe preparation, handling, and distribution of prasad/langar, with training and audits to improve hygiene standards.
* The initiative operates on voluntary certification and facilitation, not a blanket mandate for ISO certification of every temple kitchen, so the claim of compulsory ISO certification is incorrect.
* State and local authorities support identification, training, and audit processes to encourage compliance and certification uptake without making it legally mandatory.

1. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 sets forth long-term goals for the education sector. Consider the following:  
   Objective 1: To achieve a Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of 50% in higher education by 2035.  
   Objective 2: To promote multilingualism by mandating education in native language at all levels.  
   Objective 3: To restructure school curriculum into a 5+3+3+4 design.  
   Objective 4: To establish a common Higher Education Commission of India.  
   Which of the above objectives is/are not correct?  
   (A) 1 and 4 only  
   (B) 2 only  
   (C) 3 only  
   (D) 2 and 3 only

Answer 12. (B) 2 only

Explanation:

* NEP 2020 targets a 50% GER in higher education by 2035 and proposes the 5+3+3+4 school structural design, both of which are core features.
* It encourages mother tongue/regional language as medium of instruction at least till Grade 5 (preferably till Grade 8 and beyond) but does not mandate native language at all levels, so Objective 2 is not correct.
* It proposes creation of the Higher Education Commission of India as an umbrella regulator, aligning with Objective 4.

1. In the Balance of Payments (BoP), Capital Account transactions primarily represent:  
   (A) One-way transfers such as foreign aid and remittances.  
   (B) Cross-border transactions of real estate, investments, and loans.  
   (C) Export and import of goods and services.  
   (D) Taxation of multinational companies in the host country.

Answer 13. (B) Cross-border transactions of real estate, investments, and loans

Explanation:

* The capital/financial account records movements of capital including FDI, portfolio flows, commercial borrowings, external assistance loans, and changes in reserves.
* One-way transfers like remittances and grants fall under the current account’s secondary income, not capital.
* Trade in goods and services is part of the current account, while taxation is not a BoP line item.

1. The Bank Rate in Indian monetary policy refers to:  
   (A) Rate at which RBI lends long-term funds to commercial banks without collateral.  
   (B) Rate charged by commercial banks for loans to small borrowers.  
   (C) Rate of interest on interbank lending overnight.  
   (D) Mandatory minimum interest charged on housing loans.

Answer 14. (A) Rate at which RBI lends long-term funds to commercial banks without collateral

Explanation:

* The Bank Rate is the rate at which the central bank is prepared to lend long-term or rediscount eligible instruments; it serves as a policy signaling/penal benchmark.
* Overnight interbank rates relate to call money; repo is a separate short-term collateralized tool; retail loan rates are market-determined and regulated via other norms.
* Thus, the Bank Rate is a central bank lending/discount rate and not a retail or overnight interbank rate.

1. With reference to Meenakshi Amman Temple’s Chithirai Festival (Madurai), consider:  
   (i) It marks the celestial wedding of Goddess Meenakshi and Lord Sundareswarar.  
   (ii) The festival is held in the month of Chithirai (April–May).  
   (iii) It commemorates the coronation of King Rajaraja Chola I.  
   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:

* Chithirai Thiruvizha centers on the celestial wedding (Meenakshi–Sundareswarar) and associated rituals, including processions across Madurai.
* It is held during the Tamil month of Chithirai (April–May) and includes the famed Alagar’s journey.
* It does not commemorate the coronation of Rajaraja Chola I, rendering (iii) incorrect.

1. Which of the following about La Niña conditions are correct?  
   (i) Intensification of trade winds across the equatorial Pacific.  
   (ii) Higher sea surface temperatures near the coast of Peru.  
   (iii) Increased rainfall in Australia and Southeast Asia.  
   (iv) Cooler than normal waters in the Eastern Pacific.  
   Select the correct answer using the codes given below.  
   (A) (i), (iii) and (iv) only  
   (B) (ii) and (iii) only  
   (C) (i) and (ii) only  
   (D) (i), (ii) and (iv) only

Answer 16. (A) (i), (iii) and (iv) only

Explanation:

* La Niña features stronger-than-average easterly trade winds that enhance upwelling and push warm waters westwards.
* It produces cooler-than-normal waters in the eastern and central Pacific, particularly off Peru/Ecuador, not warmer; thus (ii) is incorrect.
* The westward displacement of convection generally increases rainfall over Australia and parts of Southeast Asia.

1. Which of the following interlinking canal–river pairs is/are not correctly matched?  
   (i) Ken-Betwa Link – Chambal and Betwa  
   (ii) Par-Tapi-Narmada Link – Narmada and Tapi  
   (iii) Kosi-Mechi Link – Ganga and Mechi  
   (iv) Damanganga–Pinjal Link – Damanganga and Pinjal  
   Select the correct answer using the codes given below.  
   (A) (i) only  
   (B) (i) and (iii) only  
   (C) (ii) and (iv) only  
   (D) (i), (ii) and (iii) only

Answer 17. (B) (i) and (iii) only

Explanation:

* Ken–Betwa links the Ken river to the Betwa river in Bundelkhand; it does not involve the Chambal, making (i) incorrect.
* Par–Tapi–Narmada is designed to link west-flowing rivers between Par and Tapi to Narmada, so (ii) is correctly framed.
* Kosi–Mechi is an intra-basin link from Kosi to Mechi (not a Ganga–Mechi link), making (iii) incorrect.
* Damanganga–Pinjal proposes water transfer from Damanganga to Pinjal for urban supply, so (iv) is correctly matched.

1. Consider the following statements about Pagladiya River:  
   (i) It originates from the Bhutan hills and is a north bank tributary of Brahmaputra.  
   (ii) Known for severe flash floods due to glacial-melt in source region.  
   (iii) It flows through Nalbari district of Assam before meeting Brahmaputra.  
   (iv) It merges with Dhansiri before joining Brahmaputra.  
   Which are not correct?  
   (A) (iv) only  
   (B) (ii) and (iv) only  
   (C) (i) and (iii) only  
   (D) (ii) only

Answer 18. (B) (ii) and (iv) only

Explanation:

* The Pagladiya arises in the Bhutan hills and joins the Brahmaputra on its north bank, flowing through districts including Nalbari.
* Its destructive floods are primarily monsoon rain-driven; glacial melt is not the main driver for its flash flooding.
* The river does not merge with the Dhansiri; it directly meets the Brahmaputra, making (iv) incorrect.

1. Which of the following interlinking canal–river pairs is/are not correctly matched?  
   (i) Ken-Betwa Link – Chambal and Betwa  
   (ii) Par-Tapi-Narmada Link – Narmada and Tapi  
   (iii) Kosi-Mechi Link – Ganga and Mechi  
   (iv) Damanganga–Pinjal Link – Damanganga and Pinjal  
   Select the correct answer using the codes given below.  
   (A) (i) only  
   (B) (i) and (iii) only  
   (C) (ii) and (iv) only  
   (D) (i), (ii) and (iii) only

Answer 19. (B) (i) and (iii) only

Explanation:

* The Ken–Betwa project connects Ken and Betwa rivers, not Chambal and Betwa, so (i) is incorrect.
* Par–Tapi–Narmada is a west-flowing river link aligning with Narmada and Tapi, so (ii) is correct.
* Kosi–Mechi links Kosi to Mechi within Bihar, not Ganga to Mechi, so (iii) is incorrect.
* Damanganga–Pinjal is correctly matched for water diversion to the Pinjal system.

1. In recent years, landslides have become more frequent in Assam’s hilly districts (Karbi Anglong, Dima Hasao). This is best explained by:  
   (i) High-intensity rainfall events due to climate change.  
   (ii) Road-widening, stone quarrying, and unscientific hill cutting.  
   (A) Only (i) is right  
   (B) Only (ii) is right  
   (C) Both (i) and (ii) inclusive to explain landslide frequency  
   (D) Only (i) and (ii) true, but insufficient as inclusive explanation

Answer 20. (C) Both (i) and (ii) inclusive to explain landslide frequency

Explanation:

* Intensified extreme rainfall events increase soil saturation, pore pressure, and trigger failures on steep, weathered slopes.
* Anthropogenic factors—road cuts without proper slope stabilization, quarrying-induced undercutting, and deforestation—reduce slope strength and resilience.
* The observed rise in landslide incidence is best explained by the combined, inclusive impact of climatic extremes and local land-use/engineering pressures.