1. For effective coastal zone management in India, which measures will be useful?  
   (i) Regulation of sand mining along beaches  
   (ii) Restoration of coral reefs and seagrasses  
   (iii) Restriction of construction in CRZ-I areas  
   (iv) Reclamation of estuaries for urban housing  
   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:

* Regulating beach sand mining prevents shoreline erosion, protects nesting habitats, and maintains natural sediment budgets, which are central to sustainable coastal management.
* Restoring coral reefs and seagrass meadows enhances coastal protection, biodiversity, and blue carbon sequestration, improving resilience to storms and sea-level rise.
* CRZ-I areas are ecologically sensitive; restricting construction there preserves dunes, mangroves, and critical habitats that buffer coasts from extreme events.
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1. Works of Hiren Gohain (critic, academic) mainly establish him as:  
   (i) Assam’s foremost Marxist literary critic.  
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   (iv) A historian of colonial economy of Assam.  
   (A) (i) and (ii) only  
   (B) (iii) only  
   (C) (ii) and (iv) only  
   (D) All are correct

Answer 22. (A) (i) and (ii) only

Explanation:

* Hiren Gohain’s corpus is widely recognized for Marxist literary criticism and theoretical engagement with literature and society.
* He regularly intervened as a public intellectual on nationalism, identity, and politics in Northeast India through essays and lectures.
* While he commented on public issues broadly, sustained conservation biology writing or a primary identity as a professional historian of colonial economy are not the defining features of his oeuvre.
* Hence the principal, well-established dimensions are as a Marxist critic and public intellectual.

1. Which of the following explains the growth of “peri-urban” areas around large Indian cities?  
   (i) Expansion of city limits and municipal jurisdictions  
   (ii) Rising demand for industrial corridors, SEZs, and logistics hubs  
   (iii) Growth of educational, health and IT establishments on urban fringes  
   (iv) Decline in agricultural productivity in adjoining rural regions  
   Select the correct answer using the codes given below.  
   (A) (i) and (ii) only  
   (B) (i), (ii) and (iii) only  
   (C) (iii) and (iv) only  
   (D) All are correct

Answer 23. (B) (i), (ii) and (iii) only

Explanation:

* Peri-urban expansion is driven by administrative boundary growth and municipal amalgamations that fold rural fringes into urban governance.
* Industry, SEZs, warehouses, and logistics parks seek land at the edges, catalyzing settlement growth and infrastructure extension.
* Campuses for universities, hospitals, and IT parks locate on city peripheries due to land availability, further stimulating peri-urbanization.
* While agricultural decline can contribute locally, it is not a necessary or universal driver compared to the structural urban factors listed.

1. Haflong town in Dima Hasao and Chandubi village in Kamrup came into limelight because  
   (i) Haflong was spotlighted as Assam’s only hill station and a future tourism hub.  
   (ii) Chandubi Lake eco-tourism, managed by Rabha community, gained national recognition.  
   (iii) Haflong experienced massive ethnic unrest-induced migration in 2012.  
   (A) Only (i) is correct  
   (B) Only (ii) is correct  
   (C) (i) and (ii) are correct  
   (D) All are correct

Answer 24. (D) All are correct

Explanation:

* Haflong is Assam’s prominent hill station; its scenic valleys, rail loops, and cultural diversity have been highlighted in tourism positioning.
* Chandubi Lake’s community-led eco-tourism by Rabha stakeholders has been cited as a model for sustainable livelihoods and conservation.
* The 2012 ethnic unrest in Dima Hasao and adjoining areas triggered significant displacement, placing Haflong in national focus beyond tourism.

1. Consider the following about coal mining in Assam:  
   (i) Coal mining areas include Margherita, Ledo, and Tikak in Tinsukia district.  
   (ii) Assam coal is highly bituminous with high sulfur content, making it unsuitable for coking.  
   (iii) Coal mining in Assam is under the control of Coal India Limited through North Eastern Coalfields (NEC).  
   (iv) Jorhat district accounts for the largest coal reserves in Assam.  
   (A) (i), (ii), and (iii) only  
   (B) (i) and (iv) only  
   (C) (ii) and (iv) only  
   (D) All are correct

Answer 25. (A) (i), (ii), and (iii) only

Explanation:

* The classic coal belt around Margherita–Ledo–Tikak in Tinsukia district encompasses the Makum coalfield and associated collieries.
* Assam coal is characteristically high in volatile matter and sulfur, making it less suitable as coking coal in steelmaking.
* North Eastern Coalfields (a unit of Coal India) administers most organized coal mining operations in Assam.
* Jorhat is not the locus of the state’s principal coal reserves; Tinsukia’s Makum field dominates, so (iv) is incorrect.

1. Which of the following is the correct order of literacy rates of Assam districts (2011 Census, highest to lowest)?  
   (i) Kamrup Metro  
   (ii) Jorhat  
   (iii) Nalbari  
   (iv) Dhubri  
   (A) Kamrup Metro, Jorhat, Nalbari, Dhubri  
   (B) Jorhat, Kamrup Metro, Dhubri, Nalbari  
   (C) Kamrup Metro, Nalbari, Jorhat, Dhubri  
   (D) Jorhat, Nalbari, Kamrup Metro, Dhubri

Answer 26. (A) Kamrup Metro, Jorhat, Nalbari, Dhubri

Explanation:

* Kamrup Metro, containing Guwahati, recorded among the highest literacy levels in the state in 2011.
* Jorhat, a long-standing educational hub, followed closely behind Kamrup Metro.
* Nalbari’s literacy was higher than several western districts but below the top two, while Dhubri’s literacy lagged relative to these districts.
* Thus, the descending order aligns as Kamrup Metro, Jorhat, Nalbari, Dhubri.

1. Match the following important lakes with their locations:  
   List-I — List-II  
   a. Titicaca — 1. South America  
   b. Baikal — 2. Russia  
   c. Tanganyika — 3. Africa  
   d. Superior — 4. North America  
   Select the correct answer using the codes given below.  
   (A) abcd → 1324  
   (B) abcd → 1234  
   (C) abcd → 1432  
   (D) abcd → 1342

Answer 27. (B) abcd → 1234

Explanation:

* Lake Titicaca lies in the Andes between Peru and Bolivia in South America.
* Lake Baikal is in Siberia, Russia, famed as the deepest freshwater lake.
* Lake Tanganyika is in East-Central Africa, bordered by multiple countries including Tanzania and DR Congo.
* Lake Superior is in North America, the largest of the Great Lakes by area.

1. Match the following rivers with their related features:  
   List-I — List-II  
   a. Nile — 1. World’s longest river  
   b. Amazon — 2. Maximum discharge  
   c. Mississippi — 3. Longest river of North America  
   d. Yangtze — 4. Longest river of Asia  
   Select the correct answer using the codes given below.  
   (A) abcd → 1234  
   (B) abcd → 1243  
   (C) abcd → 1342  
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Answer 28. (A) abcd → 1234

Explanation:

* The Nile is commonly referenced as the world’s longest river by length.
* The Amazon carries the greatest discharge volume into the Atlantic Ocean.
* The Mississippi–Missouri system is the longest in North America.
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1. Which of the following statements about Laureus World Sports Awards is correct?  
   (A) The inaugural Laureus Awards were held in 2005 in London.  
   (B) They are presented annually to honor achievements in the field of sports.  
   (C) The ‘Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability’ is one of the award categories.  
   (D) Only Olympic athletes are eligible for nomination.

Answer 29. (B) They are presented annually to honor achievements in the field of sports

Explanation:

* The Laureus World Sports Awards are annual global awards celebrating sporting excellence across multiple disciplines.
* Categories include recognitions such as World Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year, Breakthrough, Comeback, Team, and Disability awards, among others.
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1. The Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) launched in 2021 is primarily a partnership among:  
   (A) India, Japan, and Australia to diversify and secure supply chains  
   (B) BRICS countries to regulate rare earth exports  
   (C) SAARC nations to strengthen food supply networks  
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Answer 30. (A) India, Japan, and Australia to diversify and secure supply chains

Explanation:

* The SCRI emerged to reduce overdependence on single-country sources and enhance resilience through diversification and transparency.
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