1. For sustainable mitigation of air pollution in Indian cities, which measures are most relevant?  
   (i) Shifting to cleaner fuels and electric mobility  
   (ii) Strict enforcement of industrial emission standards  
   (iii) Benetting stubble burning without alternatives  
   (iv) Expanding urban mass rapid transit systems  
   Select the correct answer using the codes given below:  
   (A) (i), (ii) and (iv) only  
   (B) (i) and (iii) only  
   (C) (ii) and (iv) only  
   (D) All are correct

Answer 21. (A) (i), (ii) and (iv) only

Explanation:

* Transition to cleaner fuels and the adoption of electric vehicles reduce vehicular emissions, a major urban air pollution source.
* Strict enforcement of industrial emission standards ensures that factories and plants comply with pollution control norms, curbing toxic releases.
* Expansion of mass rapid transit systems reduces reliance on private vehicles and cuts urban air pollution.
* Incentivizing or permitting stubble burning without sustainable alternatives aggravates particulate pollution and contradicts air quality goals, so measure (iii) is not a relevant mitigation step.

1. The writings of Indira Goswami (Mamoni Raisom Goswami) focus significantly on:  
   (i) Women’s oppression and spirituality in Assamese society.  
   (ii) The life and challenges of widows in Vrindavan.  
   (iii) Tea garden laborers’ sufferings.  
   (iv) Tribal oral traditions and folklore of Central India.  
   (A) (i) only  
   (B) (i), (ii), and (iii) only  
   (C) (ii) and (iv) only  
   (D) All are correct

Answer 22. (B) (i), (ii), and (iii) only

Explanation:

* Indira Goswami’s celebrated works highlight themes of female suffering, spirituality, and the social practices in Assam, particularly affecting women.
* She is noted for documenting the deprived lives of Vrindavan widows and for her poignant depiction of the exploitation in Assam’s tea plantations.
* Her major works do not focus on Central India’s tribal folklore, making (iv) inapplicable.

1. The “million-plus cities” in India, as per Census 2011, showed growth because of  
   (i) concentration of service sector jobs in urban agglomerations  
   (ii) development of transport and digital infrastructure  
   (iii) large-scale employment in the primary sector  
   (iv) migration driven by educational and healthcare services  
   Select the correct answer using the codes given below.  
   (A) (i), (ii) and (iv) only  
   (B) (ii) and (iii) only  
   (C) (i) and (iii) only  
   (D) All are correct

Answer 23. (A) (i), (ii) and (iv) only

Explanation:

* Service sector hubs and agglomerations drive population influx and urban expansion in larger cities.
* Infrastructure improvements in transport and digital connectivity further attract migrants seeking better opportunities.
* Access to top education and healthcare services spurs urban migration as families seek improved social facilities.
* Large-scale employment in the primary sector (agriculture) is not the primary driver of growth in million-plus urban centres.

1. Disangmukh village in Sivasagar and Chandrapur area near Guwahati were highlighted because  
   (i) Disangmukh was once an Ahom naval base and recent archaeological surveys found ruins.  
   (ii) Chandrapur wetlands were designated as important for Greater Adjutant stork conservation.  
   (iii) Chandrapur waste treatment plant displacement created national-level protests.  
   (A) Only (i) is correct  
   (B) Only (ii) and (iii) are correct  
   (C) (i) and (ii) are correct  
   (D) All are correct

Answer 24. (D) All are correct

Explanation:

* Disangmukh has historical significance as an Ahom riverine base, and archaeological discoveries confirm its legacy.
* The Chandrapur wetlands play a key role in sustaining the globally endangered Greater Adjutant stork.
* The displacement and land-use debates around the Chandrapur waste plant drew widespread protest and policy attention.

1. Consider the following statements about refineries in Assam:  
   (i) Refinery locations include Digboi, Bongaigaon, Numaligarh, and Guwahati.  
   (ii) The Guwahati refinery was commissioned in 1962 as the first public sector refinery of India.  
   (iii) Bongaigaon refinery is part of Indian Oil Corporation.  
   (iv) Sivasagar district has two public sector refineries.  
   (A) (i), (ii), and (iii) only  
   (B) (i) and (ii) only  
   (C) All are correct  
   (D) (iv) only

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

Explanation:

* Assam’s major refinery centres include Digboi (oldest), Numaligarh, Bongaigaon, and Guwahati.
* Guwahati refinery, commissioned in 1962, holds the distinction of being India’s first public sector refinery.
* The Bongaigaon refinery is under the Indian Oil Corporation.
* Sivasagar district does not house two separate public refineries; this statement is inaccurate.

1. According to Census 2011, Assam’s decadal growth rate of population was highest among which of the following districts (descending order)?  
   (i) Dhubri  
   (ii) Nagaon  
   (iii) Barpeta  
   (iv) Hailakandi  
   (A) Dhubri, Barpeta, Nagaon, Hailakandi  
   (B) Dhubri, Nagaon, Hailakandi, Barpeta  
   (C) Dhubri, Hailakandi, Nagaon, Barpeta  
   (D) Nagaon, Dhubri, Barpeta, Hailakandi

Answer 26. (C) Dhubri, Hailakandi, Nagaon, Barpeta

Explanation:

* Dhubri had the highest decadal population growth among Assam’s districts in 2011.
* Hailakandi followed, with Nagaon next and Barpeta having the lowest among these four.

1. Match the following islands with the oceans/seas in which they lie:  
   List-I — List-II  
   a. Galapagos — 1. Pacific Ocean  
   b. Seychelles — 2. Indian Ocean  
   c. Azores — 3. Atlantic Ocean  
   d. Sakhalin — 4. Sea of Okhotsk  
   Select the correct answer using the codes given below.  
   (A) abcd → 1234  
   (B) abcd → 1342  
   (C) abcd → 1423  
   (D) abcd → 1243

Answer 27. (A) abcd → 1234

Explanation:

* The Galapagos Islands are in the Pacific Ocean.
* Seychelles are located in the Indian Ocean.
* The Azores archipelago is situated in the North Atlantic Ocean.
* Sakhalin sits within the Sea of Okhotsk, off Russia’s eastern coast.

1. Match the following saltwater lakes with their continents:  
   List-I — List-II  
   a. Caspian Sea — 1. Asia/Europe  
   b. Great Salt Lake — 2. North America  
   c. Dead Sea — 3. Asia (West)  
   d. Lake Urmia — 4. Asia (Iran)  
   Select the correct answer using the codes given below.  
   (A) abcd → 1234  
   (B) abcd → 1324  
   (C) abcd → 1432  
   (D) abcd → 1243

Answer 28. (A) abcd → 1234

Explanation:

* The Caspian Sea lies between Asia and Europe.
* The Great Salt Lake is located in Utah, USA, North America.
* The Dead Sea straddles the West Asian region between Jordan and Israel/Palestine.
* Lake Urmia is found in northwestern Iran, Asia.

1. Which of the following about National Sports Awards (India) is not correct?  
   (A) The Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna is the highest sports honor of India.  
   (B) The Arjuna Award was instituted in 1961.  
   (C) The Dronacharya Award is presented to outstanding athletes of India.  
   (D) The Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar is given to organizations contributing to sports promotion.

Answer 29. (C) The Dronacharya Award is presented to outstanding athletes of India.

Explanation:

* The Dronacharya Award honors outstanding coaches for producing successful sportspersons nationally and internationally.
* The Khel Ratna is India’s highest sporting honor while the Arjuna Award has been awarded since 1961 for outstanding achievement in sports.
* The Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar recognizes institutions and organizations for their contribution to promotion and development of sports in India.

1. Under India’s international cooperation, Mission Innovation 2.0 refers to:  
   (A) A UN program on vocational training in South Asia  
   (B) A global initiative on accelerating clean energy research and development  
   (C) India’s PPP-based strategy for skill enhancement  
   (D) None of the above

Answer 30. (B) A global initiative on accelerating clean energy research and development

Explanation:

* Mission Innovation 2.0 is an international partnership aimed at doubling clean energy R&D investments and fostering collaboration to advance affordable, clean energy solutions.
* The initiative involves over 20 countries and the European Commission, with India as a committed partner in advancing renewable energy innovation.