1. Which forest ecosystems in India act as the most effective carbon sinks?  
   (i) Mangroves  
   (ii) Tropical moist evergreen forests  
   (iii) Tropical dry deciduous forests  
   (iv) Alpine scrub  
   Select the correct answer using the codes given below:  
   (A) (i) and (ii) only  
   (B) (ii) and (iii) only  
   (C) (i), (ii) and (iii) only  
   (D) All are correct

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

Explanation:

* Mangroves are highly efficient at carbon sequestration due to dense below-ground biomass and peat formation.
* Tropical moist evergreen forests have high productivity and biomass, acting as significant carbon sinks among forest types.
* Tropical dry deciduous forests store carbon but are less efficient than evergreen or mangrove systems; still, they make a meaningful contribution.
* Alpine scrub features low productivity and sparse biomass, making it a relatively poor carbon sink compared to others listed.

1. Literary works of Aruni Kashyap are notable for:  
   (i) Writing in both Assamese and English.  
   (ii) Documenting insurgency and violence in Assam through fiction.  
   (iii) Historian of Ahom kingdom’s chronicles.  
   (iv) Promoter of Assamese translations in world literature.  
   (A) (i) only  
   (B) (i) and (ii) only  
   (C) (i), (ii), and (iv) only  
   (D) (ii) and (iii) only

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

Explanation:

* Aruni Kashyap is recognized for writing in both Assamese and English, expanding the reach of Assamese literature.
* His novels and stories often explore themes of insurgency, conflict, and the lived consequences of violence in Assam.
* He actively promotes translation of Assamese works into global literary spaces, fostering cross-cultural literary exchange.
* He is not classified as a historian of the Ahom chronicles.

1. The National Rurban Mission (NRuM) launched in 2016 was intended to  
   (i) bridge the rural–urban divide by providing urban-like amenities in rural clusters  
   (ii) mitigate uncontrolled migration from villages to cities  
   (iii) convert all census towns into statutory towns automatically  
   (iv) encourage local economic development and skill generation  
   Select the correct answer using the codes given below.  
   (A) (i) and (ii) only  
   (B) (i), (ii) and (iv) only  
   (C) (ii) and (iii) only  
   (D) All are correct

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

Explanation:

* The NRuM aims to provide integrated infrastructure and urban-level amenities in selected rural clusters, closing the rural–urban service gap.
* By upgrading rural infrastructure, it hopes to reduce the push factors behind migration to urban centers.
* It fosters economic development and skill-building in these clusters.
* Automatic conversion of census towns to statutory towns is not included in the scheme’s design.

1. Udalguri model villages and Bhogdoi riverside villages of Jorhat received focus because  
   (i) Udalguri villages engaged in Bodo women-led organic farming cooperatives.  
   (ii) Bhogdoi villages suffered from heavy river pollution and industrial effluents.  
   (iii) Udalguri was chosen by FAO for pilot climate-smart agriculture program.  
   (A) Only (i) is correct  
   (B) Only (ii) is correct  
   (C) (i) and (ii) are correct  
   (D) (i), (ii), and (iii) are correct

Answer 24. (D) (i), (ii), and (iii) are correct

Explanation:

* In Udalguri, Bodo-led women's cooperatives have pioneered organic and climate-smart farming practices.
* Bhogdoi villages of Jorhat came under scrutiny due to serious river pollution from urban and industrial sources affecting village life.
* FAO’s pilot program for climate-smart village initiatives selected regions of Udalguri to test innovations in resilient farming.

1. Consider the following statements about tea and oil industries in Assam:  
   (i) Several tea estates in Upper Assam were the sites of initial oil exploration in the early 20th century.  
   (ii) British planters were instrumental in early oil drilling near Digboi.  
   (iii) Oil royalties from OIL are a major financial resource for the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC).  
   (iv) The Assam Oil Company was originally founded to transport crude oil to Kolkata for refining.  
   (A) (i), (ii), and (iv) only  
   (B) (ii) and (iv) only  
   (C) (iii) only  
   (D) All are correct

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

Explanation:

* Oil exploration in Assam began around tea estates, with British planters playing a significant supporting and entrepreneurial role, particularly in Digboi.
* Oil royalties are a source for the Assam government but not a major, direct financial resource specifically for BTC.
* The Assam Oil Company was formed for extraction and to manage shipment of crude oil to Kolkata, where the closest refinery was located at the time.

1. Arrange the following Assam towns by their female literacy rate (Census 2011, highest to lowest):  
   (i) Jorhat  
   (ii) Nagaon  
   (iii) Tezpur  
   (iv) North Lakhimpur  
   (A) Jorhat, Tezpur, Nagaon, North Lakhimpur  
   (B) Tezpur, Jorhat, North Lakhimpur, Nagaon  
   (C) Jorhat, North Lakhimpur, Nagaon, Tezpur  
   (D) Tezpur, Nagaon, Jorhat, North Lakhimpur

Answer 26. (A) Jorhat, Tezpur, Nagaon, North Lakhimpur

Explanation:

* According to Census 2011, Jorhat consistently had one of the highest female literacy rates among Assam towns, followed closely by Tezpur.
* Nagaon and North Lakhimpur had comparatively lower female literacy percentages.
* This order reflects the educational infrastructure and socio-economic history of these urban centers.

1. Match the following grasslands with their locations:  
   List-I — List-II  
   a. Pampas — 1. South America  
   b. Prairie — 2. North America  
   c. Veld — 3. South Africa  
   d. Steppe — 4. Central Asia  
   Select the correct answer using the codes given below.  
   (A) abcd → 1234  
   (B) abcd → 1243  
   (C) abcd → 1342  
   (D) abcd → 1324

Answer 27. (A) abcd → 1234

Explanation:

* Pampas are extensive temperate grasslands in South America, especially Argentina.
* Prairies are found chiefly in central North America.
* Veld is the grassland type typical of South Africa.
* Steppes are vast semi-arid grasslands of Eurasian Central Asia.

1. Match the following capes with their locations:  
   List-I — List-II  
   a. Cape of Good Hope — 1. South Africa  
   b. Cape Horn — 2. Chile  
   c. Cape Comorin — 3. India  
   d. Cape York — 4. Australia  
   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:

* Cape of Good Hope is situated at the southern tip of South Africa.
* Cape Horn is the southernmost tip of South America in Chile.
* Cape Comorin (Kanyakumari) is the southern tip of mainland India.
* Cape York is the northernmost point of mainland Australia.

1. Which of the following about International Paralympic Committee (IPC) is correct?  
   (A) It was founded in 1989 and is headquartered in Bonn, Germany.  
   (B) It conducts Paralympic Games every two years.  
   (C) Only visually impaired athletes participate in Paralympics.  
   (D) It is an organ under the United Nations Sports Council.

Answer 29. (A) It was founded in 1989 and is headquartered in Bonn, Germany.

Explanation:

* The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) was established in 1989 and has its headquarters in Bonn.
* Paralympic Games occur at the same interval as the Olympics (every four years), and athletes with various physical and intellectual disabilities compete.
* The IPC is not a UN body but an independent international organization.

1. The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), initiated by India, is:  
   (A) A UN-sanctioned treaty body for marine disaster risk monitoring  
   (B) A G20 trade agreement on resilient supply chains  
   (C) An international coalition to promote resilient infrastructure systems against climate and disaster risks  
   (D) None of the above

Answer 30. (C) An international coalition to promote resilient infrastructure systems against climate and disaster risks

Explanation:

* The CDRI was launched as a multi-stakeholder global partnership to boost the resilience of infrastructure systems against climate impacts and disasters.
* It includes governments, international agencies, and the private sector and is not specific to the UN or G20 frameworks.
* Its focus is to develop and share best practices, policies, and technical support for disaster-resilient infrastructure worldwide.