1. The objectives of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) include:  
   (i) Provide financial support to farmers suffering crop loss  
   (ii) Encourage adoption of modern farm technology  
   (iii) Facilitate crop insurance and risk mitigation  
   (iv) Control market prices of crops  
   Select the correct answer using the codes given below.  
   (A) (i) and (iii) only  
   (B) (i), (ii), and (iii) only  
   (C) (ii) and (iv) only  
   (D) All of the above

Answer 81. (B) (i), (ii), and (iii) only

Explanation:

* PMFBY aims primarily to provide financial support and compensate farmers for crop losses.
* It also promotes modern agricultural practices to improve productivity and sustainability.
* Crop insurance serves as a key risk mitigation tool under the scheme.
* The scheme does not focus on controlling market prices, which is handled by other mechanisms.

1. The Ease of Doing Business Index measures a country’s:  
   (A) Fiscal health  
   (B) Regulatory environment for business startups and operations  
   (C) Environmental sustainability  
   (D) Public health infrastructure

Answer 82. (B) Regulatory environment for business startups and operations

Explanation:

* The Ease of Doing Business Index evaluates how conducive the regulatory environment is to starting and operating a business.
* It considers factors such as permits, licensing, taxation, and enforcement of contracts.
* Fiscal health, environmental sustainability, and public health infrastructure are not the primary focus of this index.

1. The Assam Co-operative Societies Act was enacted in:  
   (A) 1946  
   (B) 1960  
   (C) 1959  
   (D) 1972

Answer 83. (C) 1959

Explanation:

* The Assam Co-operative Societies Act was enacted in 1959 to regulate and promote cooperative societies within the state.
* It governs their formation, management, and operations to enhance cooperative development.

1. The primary goal of the “Renewable Energy Development Agency” (NREDA) is:  
   (A) Promote renewable energy technologies and support their deployment at the grassroots level  
   (B) Facilitate international energy trade  
   (C) Manage coal mining operations  
   (D) Regulate retail electricity markets

Answer 84. (A) Promote renewable energy technologies and support their deployment at the grassroots level

Explanation:

* NREDA focuses on promoting renewable energy technologies such as solar, wind, biomass, especially in rural and remote areas.
* It supports capacity building and implementation of decentralized renewable systems.
* It does not operate in coal management or retail electricity market regulation.

1. According to 2024 Nobel laureates, which factor is crucial for escaping poverty traps?  
   (A) Foreign aid inflows  
   (B) Stable and inclusive institutions  
   (C) Natural resources availability  
   (D) Trade liberalization

Answer 85. (B) Stable and inclusive institutions

Explanation:

* The 2024 Nobel laureates emphasized that stable, inclusive institutions are essential to breaking poverty cycles by providing fair governance, justice, and opportunities.
* While aid, resources, and trade can contribute, institutions form the fundamental enabling environment.

1. Which cricketer was named captain of the ICC Men's Test Team of the Year 2024?  
   (A) Kane Williamson  
   (B) Steve Smith  
   (C) Joe Root  
   (D) Virat Kohli

Answer 86. (A) Kane Williamson

Explanation:

* Kane Williamson was recognized as the captain of the ICC Men’s Test Team of the Year 2024 due to consistent leadership and outstanding performances.
* Other listed players have had notable careers but were not named captain in 2024.

1. The Finance Commission also recommends the principles which should govern the grants in aid of the revenues of the States from the Consolidated Fund of India. Which part of the Constitution mandates this?  
   (A) Article 275(1)  
   (B) Article 280  
   (C) Article 282  
   (D) Article 300A

Answer 87. (A) Article 275(1)

Explanation:

* Article 275(1) empowers the Finance Commission to recommend the principles for grants-in-aid to states from the Consolidated Fund of India.
* Articles 280 and 282 relate to the Finance Commission’s broader functions and miscellaneous grants, respectively.
* Article 300A pertains to property rights.

1. Which Indian research station serves as the base for Arctic region scientific expeditions?  
   (A) Maitri  
   (B) Bharati  
   (C) Dakshin Gangotri  
   (D) Himadri

Answer 88. (D) Himadri

Explanation:

* Himadri is India’s Arctic research base located in the Svalbard archipelago, facilitating scientific studies in the Arctic climate and environment.
* The other stations—Maitri, Bharati, and Dakshin Gangotri—are Antarctic research stations.

1. Where was the "Assam Agitation" (1979–1985) primarily centered?  
   (A) Guwahati  
   (B) Silchar  
   (C) Tezpur  
   (D) Dibrugarh

Answer 89. (A) Guwahati

Explanation:

* Guwahati was the focal point of the Assam Agitation, housing major protests and political activities led by student and social groups during 1979-1985.
* The city was a hub for mobilization, sit-ins, and negotiations.

1. Who was the first Speaker of the Assam Legislative Assembly in 1937?  
   (A) Dhirendra Nath Sarma  
   (B) Basanta Kumar Das  
   (C) Tarun Ram Phukan  
   (D) Rajendranath Barua

Answer 90. (A) Dhirendra Nath Sarma

Explanation:

* Dhirendra Nath Sarma served as the first Speaker of the Assam Legislative Assembly constituted under the Government of India Act 1935 in 1937.
* The Speaker’s role is crucial in overseeing assembly proceedings and ensuring legislative decorum.