1. Which of the following are aims of the “Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF)” initiative?  
   (i) Reduce input costs for farmers  
   (ii) Eliminate use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides  
   (iii) Promote carbon sequestration in soils  
   (iv) Increase reliance on imported seeds  
   Select the correct answer using the codes given below.  
   (A) (i), (ii), and (iii) only  
   (B) (ii) and (iv) only  
   (C) (i) and (iv) only  
   (D) All of the above

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

Explanation:

* Zero Budget Natural Farming aims to reduce farmers’ input costs by avoiding chemical fertilizers and pesticides.
* It promotes natural processes that lead to increased soil carbon sequestration.
* Reliance on imported seeds is not a goal; rather, it encourages use of indigenous seeds and natural farming inputs.

1. Which of the following is NOT a component of the World Bank’s Logistics Performance Index?  
   (A) Customs efficiency  
   (B) Infrastructure quality  
   (C) Internet penetration  
   (D) Timeliness of shipments

Answer 82. (C) Internet penetration

Explanation:

* The Logistics Performance Index assesses customs efficiency, infrastructure quality, and timeliness, among other logistics factors.
* Internet penetration is not directly included as a component of this index.

1. The iconic Assam Accord, signed between the Government of India and AASU, was signed in which year?  
   (A) 1979  
   (B) 1985  
   (C) 1991  
   (D) 1997

Answer 83. (B) 1985

Explanation:

* The Assam Accord was signed in 1985, marking the end of the six-year Assam Agitation and setting terms for addressing illegal immigration and development.

1. The “National Thermal Power Corporation” (NTPC) mainly engages in:  
   (A) Generating electricity by thermal power plants, primarily coal-based  
   (B) Distribution of electricity at the consumer level  
   (C) Developing rural electrification programs  
   (D) Manufacturing transformers and switchgear

Answer 84. (A) Generating electricity by thermal power plants, primarily coal-based

Explanation:

* NTPC is India's largest power generation company focusing mainly on thermal power stations using coal and other fossil fuels.
* Distribution and manufacturing functions belong to other organizations.

1. The book “Why Nations Fail” is co-authored by:  
   (A) Daron Acemoglu and Simon Johnson  
   (B) Simon Johnson and James A. Robinson  
   (C) Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson  
   (D) Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo

Answer 85. (C) Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson

Explanation:

* “Why Nations Fail” is a seminal work by Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson analyzing the role of political and economic institutions in national development.

1. Who won the 'Purple Cap' for most wickets in IPL 2024?  
   (A) Yuzvendra Chahal  
   (B) Jasprit Bumrah  
   (C) Harshal Patel  
   (D) Rahul Chahar

Answer 86. (C) Harshal Patel

Explanation:

* Harshal Patel emerged as the leading wicket-taker in IPL 2024, earning the Purple Cap award for his outstanding bowling performance.

1. The current 16th Finance Commission has how many members including the Chairperson?  
   (A) 3  
   (B) 4  
   (C) 5  
   (D) 6

Answer 87. (C) 5

Explanation:

* The 16th Finance Commission consists of five members including the Chairperson, as per the constitutional and regulatory framework.

1. The Indian Antarctic research station ‘Maitri’ is primarily located in which region?  
   (A) Schirmacher Hills  
   (B) Larsemann Hills  
   (C) Queen Maud Land  
   (D) Himalayan Range

Answer 88. (A) Schirmacher Hills

Explanation:

* Maitri station, India’s second permanent Antarctic station, is situated in the Schirmacher Hills region of Antarctica.

1. Which place is known as the birthplace of great Vaishnavite saint Srimanta Sankardev?  
   (A) Bordowa (Nagaon)  
   (B) Majuli  
   (C) Sivasagar  
   (D) Tezpur

Answer 89. (A) Bordowa (Nagaon)

Explanation:

* Srimanta Sankardev, the founder of Neo-Vaishnavism in Assam, was born in Bordowa village in the Nagaon district.

1. Who was the President of the Assam Provincial Congress Committee during the Civil Disobedience Movement?  
   (A) Ganesh Gogoi  
   (B) Bishnuram Medhi  
   (C) Ambikagiri Raichoudhury  
   (D) Siddhinath Sarma

Answer 90. (B) Bishnuram Medhi

Explanation:

* Bishnuram Medhi served as the President of the Assam Provincial Congress Committee during the Civil Disobedience Movement and played a prominent role in Assam’s freedom struggle.