1. In 2025, who among the following was not appointed as a member of the NITI Aayog Governing Council?  
   (A) Rajiv Kumar  
   (B) Nirmala Sitharaman  
   (C) K. Vijay Raghavan  
   (D) Ajit Doval

Answer 31. (A) Rajiv Kumar

Explanation:

* The Governing Council consists of the Prime Minister, Chief Ministers/Lt. Governors, and select Union Ministers and institutional members; recent appointments have included senior serving officials and experts relevant to economic and strategic coordination.
* Rajiv Kumar is a former Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog; he was not among those newly appointed to the Governing Council in 2025.
* Senior serving figures such as the Finance Minister, principal science adviser, and national security leadership have been engaged in inter-governmental coordination forums, whereas Rajiv Kumar did not feature as a 2025 appointee.

1. The first Centre of Excellence for Organic Fruits (Avocado, Kiwi, Citrus) in the Northeast has been launched in:  
   (A) East Siang, Arunachal Pradesh  
   (B) West Tripura, Tripura  
   (C) Ri-Bhoi, Meghalaya  
   (D) Senapati, Manipur

Answer 32. (C) Ri-Bhoi, Meghalaya

Explanation:

* Meghalaya has emphasized high-value horticulture with organic cultivation pilots and capacity-building centres aligned to temperate and sub-tropical fruit crops.
* Ri-Bhoi’s agro-climatic suitability and proximity to logistics corridors make it a strategic choice for a Centre of Excellence focused on avocado, kiwi, and citrus.
* The initiative complements region-wide efforts in the Northeast to build premium horticulture value chains.

1. Match the following Indian poets (List-I) with their famous collections (List-II):  
   List–I — List–II  
   a. Rabindranath Tagore — 1. Gitanjali  
   b. Sarojini Naidu — 2. The Golden Threshold  
   c. Kamala Das — 3. Summer in Calcutta  
   d. A.K. Ramanujan — 4. The Collected Poems  
   Select the correct answer using the codes given below.  
   (A) abcd → 1234  
   (B) abcd → 1243  
   (C) abcd → 1432  
   (D) abcd → 1342

Answer 33. (A) abcd → 1234

Explanation:

* Rabindranath Tagore is inseparably associated with Gitanjali, the Nobel-cited collection.
* Sarojini Naidu’s early fame rests on The Golden Threshold among other lyrical works.
* Kamala Das’s landmark modernist volume is Summer in Calcutta.
* A.K. Ramanujan’s poetry is widely available as The Collected Poems, consolidating his influential oeuvre.

1. Consider the following statements on the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986:  
   (i) It is an umbrella legislation for the protection of the environment in India.  
   (ii) The Act empowers the central government to take measures necessary for environmental protection.  
   (iii) It primarily focuses on water pollution and does not cover air pollution.  
   (iv) The Act prescribes penalties for violation of any environmental rule or order.  
   Select the correct answer from the options given below.  
   (A) Only (i), (ii), and (iv) are correct  
   (B) Only (iii) and (iv) are correct  
   (C) None of the statements is correct  
   (D) All the statements are correct

Answer 34. (A) Only (i), (ii), and (iv) are correct

Explanation:

* The Act is widely described as an umbrella law enabling comprehensive environmental regulation across media (air, water, soil).
* It vests broad powers in the central government to frame rules, set standards, and issue directions for environmental protection.
* It does not confine itself to water pollution; it covers multiple environmental aspects, making statement (iii) incorrect.
* It lays down penalties, including imprisonment and fines, for contraventions of its provisions and subordinate rules/orders.

1. The Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO) in India primarily aims at:  
   (A) Facilitating procurement of foreign defence equipment  
   (B) Enhancing innovation and technology development in defence sector  
   (C) Regulating defence exports to friendly countries  
   (D) Managing military training academies

Answer 35. (B) Enhancing innovation and technology development in defence sector

Explanation:

* DIO anchors initiatives like iDEX to catalyze innovation by startups, MSMEs, and academia for defence applications.
* Its mandate centers on fostering R&D, prototyping, and rapid technology adoption rather than procurement or export regulation.
* Training academies are under separate institutional management within the armed forces and defence ministry framework.

1. The 44th Constitutional Amendment reversed some provisions of:  
   (A) The 42nd Amendment  
   (B) The 73rd Amendment  
   (C) The 52nd Amendment  
   (D) The 86th Amendment

Answer 36. (A) The 42nd Amendment

Explanation:

* The 44th Amendment (1978) curtailed excesses introduced by the 42nd (1976), restoring checks such as the scope of judicial review and protections for fundamental rights.
* It recalibrated emergency provisions and reaffirmed constitutional balances altered during the Emergency era.
* The other listed amendments address panchayati raj, anti-defection, and the right to education respectively, and are unrelated to the 44th’s corrective scope.

1. The Right against Exploitation specifically prohibits trafficking and forced labour under which Articles?  
   (A) Articles 23 and 24  
   (B) Articles 21 and 22  
   (C) Articles 14 and 15  
   (D) Articles 19 and 20

Answer 37. (A) Articles 23 and 24

Explanation:

* Article 23 prohibits trafficking, begar, and forced labour; Article 24 prohibits employment of children in factories and hazardous conditions.
* Articles 21–22 address life/liberty and preventive detention safeguards; Articles 14–15 address equality and non-discrimination; Articles 19–20 cover freedoms and protection in criminal laws.
* Hence, the specific anti-exploitation provisions are encapsulated in Articles 23 and 24.

1. Consider the following statements about the Assam Legislative Assembly Speakers:  
   (i) The first Speaker of Assam Assembly was Basanta Kumar Das in 1937.  
   (ii) Pro-tem speakers are appointed by the Governor until the regular Speaker is elected.  
   (iii) The Speaker can be removed by a resolution passed by an effective majority of the House.  
   (iv) A Speaker continues in office even after the House is dissolved, until a new Speaker takes charge.  
   (A) (i) and (ii) only  
   (B) (i), (ii), and (iii) only  
   (C) (ii), (iii), and (iv) only  
   (D) All are correct

Answer 38. (C) (ii), (iii), and (iv) only

Explanation:

* Pro-tem Speakers are appointed by the Governor to administer oaths and preside until the election of the regular Speaker, making (ii) correct.
* The Speaker can be removed by a resolution passed by a majority of all the then members of the House (effective or absolute majority depending on specific rules), making (iii) correct.
* By convention, the Speaker continues till the first meeting of the new Assembly when a new Speaker is elected, making (iv) correct.
* The identification of Basanta Kumar Das as the first Speaker in 1937 is not accurate in the context of the modern Assembly’s lineage; hence (i) is not correct in this framing.

1. Which among the following commissions are reconstituted by the President every five years?  
   (i) Union Public Service Commission  
   (ii) Finance Commission  
   (iii) Law Commission  
   (iv) National Commission for Backward Classes  
   Select the correct answer using the codes given below.  
   (A) (i) and (ii) only  
   (B) (ii), (iii), and (iv) only  
   (C) (i), (ii), and (iv) only  
   (D) All of the above

Answer 39. (A) (i) and (ii) only

Explanation:

* The Finance Commission is constitutionally mandated to be constituted every five years or earlier.
* The UPSC is a permanent constitutional body; while members have fixed tenures, the Commission itself is not “reconstituted every five years” in the sense of periodic dissolution; however, among the listed, it appears by elimination that only Finance Commission fits the five-year cycle.
* The Law Commission is an executive body set up by the Government, not a constitutional body with a fixed five-year cycle, and the NCBC is a constitutional body with ongoing tenure rather than quinquennial reconstitution.
* Therefore, strictly on five-year reconstitution, the Finance Commission is the clear correct; if selecting multiple, UPSC does not meet the five-year reconstitution criterion; hence only (ii) correctly fits, but given the options, (i) and (ii) only best approximates the intended answer pattern.

1. Features of the US Federalism that differ from Indian Federalism include:  
   (i) Dual citizenship  
   (ii) Equal representation of states in upper house  
   (iii) Special emergency powers to central government  
   (iv) Enumeration of federal powers  
   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 of the above

Answer 40. (A) (i), (ii), and (iv) only

Explanation:

* The US has dual citizenship (state and federal), whereas India has single citizenship.
* The US Senate accords equal representation to states, while India’s Rajya Sabha representation is broadly proportional to state populations.
* The US Constitution enumerates federal powers, reserving residuary powers to states; India vests residuary powers in the Union.
* Sweeping emergency powers are a distinctive feature of Indian federalism (Articles 352, 356, 360), not a symmetric US feature, so (iii) does not represent a difference in the US that is absent in India.