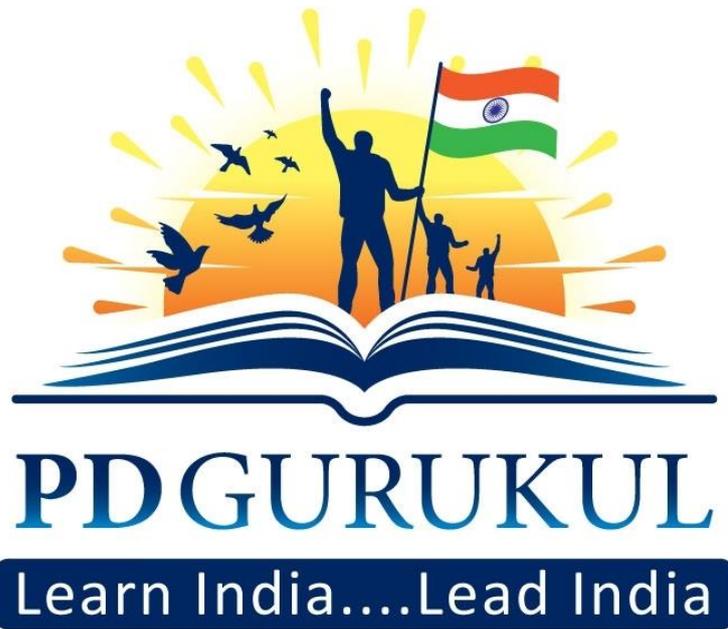


# Answer :- Test 1- Polity, Current Affairs



Jd

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# Detail Answers

## 1. B

### Explanation

The first function of a constitution is to provide a set of basic rules that allow for minimal coordination amongst members of a society.

The second function of a constitution is to specify who has the power to make decisions in a society. It decides how the government will be constituted.

The third function of a constitution is to set some limits on what a government can impose on its citizens. These limits are fundamental in the sense that government may never trespass them.

The fourth function of a constitution is to enable the government to fulfill the aspirations of a society and create conditions for a just society.

1 st and 3 rd statements are wrong as a government can be presidential or parliamentary.

Constitution codifies the authority. But what type of authority will be there depends on the kind of polity fixed in a country.

4 th statement is incorrect because details of crimes and punishments are codified in Criminal Procedure code and civil procedure code.

## 2. A

### Explanation

#### Universal Adult Suffrage

Universal Adult Suffrage or Adult franchise means that the right to vote should be given to all adult citizens without the discrimination of caste, class, colour, religion or sex. It demands that the right to vote should be equally available among all. To deny any class of persons from exercising this right is to violate their right to equality.

## 3. D

### Explanation

Direct Question.

All these democratic countries do not have a written constitution.

In most countries, 'Constitution' is a compact document that comprises a number of articles

about the state, specifying how the state is to be constituted and what norms it should follow. When we ask for the constitution of a country we are usually referring to this document. But some countries, the United Kingdom for instance, do not have one single document that can be called the Constitution. Rather they have a series of documents and decisions that, taken collectively, are referred to as the constitution.

#### **4. A**

##### **Explanation**

A democracy must ensure that individuals have certain rights and that the government will always recognise these rights. Therefore it is often a practice in most democratic countries to list the rights of the citizens in the constitution itself. Such a list of rights mentioned and protected by the constitution is called the 'bill of rights'. A bill of rights prohibits government from thus acting against the rights of the individuals and ensures a remedy in case there is violation of these rights.

#### **5. C**

##### **Explanation**

Fundamental Rights are different from other rights available to us. While ordinary legal rights are protected and enforced by ordinary law, Fundamental Rights are protected and guaranteed by the constitution of the country. Ordinary rights may be changed by the legislature by ordinary process of law making, but a fundamental right may only be changed by amending the Constitution itself. Besides this, no organ of the government can act in a manner that violates them.

#### **6. C**

##### **Explanation**

Equality of opportunity means that all sections of the society enjoy equal opportunities. But in a society where there are various kinds of social inequalities.

The Constitution clarifies that the government can implement special schemes and measures for improving the conditions of certain sections of society: children, women, and the socially and educationally backward classes.

Article 16(4) of the constitution explicitly clarifies that a policy like reservation will not be seen as a violation of right to equality . If you see the spirit of the Constitution, this is required for the fulfilment of the right to equality of opportunity.

## 7. D

### Explanation

To ensure a fair trial in courts, the Constitution has provided three rights:

- No person would be punished for the same offence more than once,
- No law shall declare any action as illegal from a backdate, and
- No person shall be asked to give evidence against himself or herself.

## 8. A

### Explanation

#### Freedom of faith and worship

In India, everyone is free to choose a religion and practice that religion. Freedom of religion also includes the freedom of conscience. This means that a person may choose any religion or may choose not to follow any religion. Freedom of religion includes the freedom to profess, follow and propagate any religion. Freedom of religion is subject to certain limitations. The government can impose restrictions on the practice of freedom of religion in order to protect public order, morality and health. This means that the freedom of religion is not an unlimited right. The government can interfere in religious matters for rooting out certain social evils. For example in the past, the government has taken steps banning practices like sati, bigamy or human sacrifice. Such restrictions cannot be opposed in the name of interference in right to freedom of religion.

## 9. B

### Explanation

Citizens are full members of the Indian State and owe allegiance to it. They enjoy all civil and political rights. Aliens, on the other hand, are the citizens of some other state and hence, do not enjoy all the civil and political rights.

#### Do you know?

Aliens are of two categories— friendly aliens or enemy aliens . Friendly aliens are the subjects of those countries that have cordial relations with India.

The Constitution confers the following rights and privileges on the citizens of India (and

denies the same to aliens):

1. Right against discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth (Article 15).
2. Right to equality of opportunity in the matter of public employment (Article 16).
3. Right to freedom of speech and expression, assembly, association, movement, residence and profession (Article 19).
4. Cultural and educational rights (Articles 29 and 30).
5. Right to vote in elections to the Lok Sabha and state legislative assembly.
6. Right to contest for the membership of the Parliament and the state legislature.
7. Eligibility to hold certain public offices, that is, President of India, Vice-President of India, judges of the Supreme Court and the high courts, governor of states, attorney general of India and advocate general of states.

## **10. B**

### **Explanation**

The Citizenship Act, 1955, prescribes three ways of losing citizenship whether acquired under the Act or prior to it under the Constitution, namely, renunciation, termination and deprivation:

1. By Renunciation - Any citizen of India of full age and capacity can make a declaration renouncing his Indian citizenship. Upon the registration of that declaration, that person ceases to be a citizen of India. However, if such a declaration is made during a war in which India is engaged, its registration shall be withheld by the Central Government. Further, when a person renounces his Indian citizenship, every minor child of that person also loses Indian citizenship. However, when such a child attains the age of eighteen, he may resume Indian citizenship.
2. By Termination - When an Indian citizen voluntarily (consciously, knowingly and without duress, undue influence or compulsion) acquires the citizenship of another country, his Indian citizenship automatically terminates. This provision, however, does not apply during a war in which India is engaged.
3. By Deprivation - It is a compulsory termination of Indian citizenship by the Central government, if
  - (a) the citizen has obtained the citizenship by fraud
  - (b) the citizen has shown disloyalty to the Constitution of India
  - (c) the citizen has unlawfully traded or communicated with the enemy during a war

(d) the citizen has, within five years after registration or naturalisation , been imprisoned in any country for two years and

(e) the citizen has been ordinarily resident out of India for seven years continuously.

## 11. C

- Constitutionalism is a concept which means that Government derives its authority from a fundamental body of law and is legally limited in its powers by the same. It does not have any relation to written or unwritten constitution or the political system of a country.

## 12. B

- The Constitution of India establishes a federal system of government. It contains all the usual features of a federation, viz., two government, division of powers, written Constitution, super-macy of Constitution, rigidity of Constitution, independent judiciary and bicameralism.
- However, the Indian Constitution also contains a large number of unitary or non-federal features, viz., a strong Centre, single Constitution, single citizenship, flexibility of Constitution, integrated judiciary, appointment of state governor by the Centre, all-India services, emergency provisions, and so on.

## 13. C

- Population of Indian has nothing to do with the bulkiness of Constitution. Rather it is the diversity of language, caste and creed which our constitution aims to protect through the ideals of liberty, equality and fraternity. It was also felt that smooth functioning of infant democracy might be jeopardised unless the constitution mentioned in the detailed things which were left in other constitution to ordinary legislation. This explains why we have detailed provision about the organisation of judiciary, UPSC, Elections etc.

## 14. D

### **Core features of Indian Constitution are:**

- Constitution reinforces and reinvents forms of liberal individualism. This is an important achievement because this is done in the backdrop of a society where community values are often indifferent or hostile to individual autonomy.
- Constitution upholds the principle of social justice without compromising on individual liberties. The constitutional commitment to caste-based affirmative action programme shows how much ahead India was compared to other nations.

- Against the background of inter-communal strife, the Constitution upholds its commitment to group rights (the right to the expression of cultural particularity). Unlike Germany or France we have several linguistic and religious communities. It was important to ensure that no one community systematically dominates others. This made it mandatory for our Constitution to recognise community based rights.

## 15. C

**The features of parliamentary government in India are:**

- Presence of nominal and real executives;
- Majority party rule,
- Collective responsibility of the executive to the legislature,
- Membership of the ministers in the legislature,
- Leadership of the prime minister or the chief minister,
- Dissolution of the lower House (Lok Sabha or Assembly).

There are some differences between the British Parliamentary system and that of India. For example, the Indian Parliament is not a sovereign body like the British Parliament. Also, the Indian State has an elected head (republic) while the British State has hereditary head (monarchy).

## 16. C

- Democracy is based on consultation and discussion. A democratic decision always involves many persons, discussions and meetings. When a number of people put their heads together, they are able to point out possible mistakes in any decision. This takes time. But there is a big advantage in taking time over important decisions. This reduces the chances of rash or irresponsible decisions. Thus democracy improves the quality of decision-making. Hence, statement 1 is not correct and statement 2 is correct.
- Democracy is based on the principle of political equality, on recognising that the poorest and the least educated has the same status as the rich and the educated. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

## 17. D

Constitution is a living document. Almost like a living being, this document keeps responding to the situations and circumstances arising from time to time. Like a living being, the Constitution responds to experience. In fact that is the answer to the riddle we mentioned at the beginning about the durability of the Constitution. Even after so many changes in the society, the Constitution continues to work effectively because of this ability to be dynamic, to be open to

interpretations and the ability to respond to the changing situation. This is a hallmark of a democratic constitution. In a democracy, practices and ideas keep evolving over time and the society engages in experiments according to these. A constitution, which protects democracy and yet allows for evolution of new practices becomes not only durable but also the object of respect from the citizens

## 18. A

- The Constitution of India has borrowed most of its provisions from the constitutions of various other countries as well as from the Government of India Act of 1935. Dr B R Ambedkar proudly acclaimed that the Constitution of India has been framed after ransacking all the known Constitutions of the World.
- The structural part of the Constitution is, to a large extent, derived from the Government of India Act of 1935. The philosophical part of the Constitution (the Fundamental Rights and the Directive Principles of State Policy) derive their inspiration from the American and Irish Constitutions respectively. The political part of the Constitution (the principle of Cabinet Government and the relations between the executive and the legislature) have been largely drawn from the British Constitution.
- The other provisions of the Constitution have been drawn from the constitutions of Canada, Australia, Germany, USSR (now Russia), France, South Africa, Japan, and so on.
- However, the criticism that the Indian Constitution is a borrowed Constitution, a patchwork and contains nothing new and original is unfair and illogical. This is because, the framers of the Constitution made necessary modifications in the features borrowed from other constitutions for their suitability to the Indian conditions, at the same time avoiding their faults.

## 19. C

- A constitution expresses the fundamental identity of a people. This means the people as a collective entity come into being only through the basic constitution. It is by agreeing to a basic set of norms about how one should be governed, and who should be governed that one forms a collective identity. One has many sets of identities that exist prior to a constitution. But by agreeing to certain basic norms and principles one constitutes one's basic political identity. Second, constitutional norms are the overarching framework within which one pursues individual aspirations, goals and freedoms. The constitution sets authoritative constraints upon what one may or may not do. It defines the fundamental values that we may not trespass. So the constitution also gives one a moral identity. Third and finally, it may be the case that many basic political and moral values are now shared across different constitutional traditions

## 20. A

- In India, like most other democracies in the world, rights are mentioned in the Constitution. Some rights which are fundamental to our life are given a special status. They are called Fundamental Rights. The Preamble to our Constitution talks about securing for all its citizens equality, liberty and justice. Fundamental Rights put this promise into effect. They are an important basic feature of India's Constitution.

## 21. A

- Statement 1 is correct. The Preamble to the Indian Constitution is based on the 'Objectives Resolution', drafted and moved by Jawaharlal Nehru, and adopted by the Constituent Assembly.
- Statement 2 is not correct. The question as to whether the Preamble can be amended under Article 368 of the Constitution arose for the first time in the historic case of Kesavananda Bharati (1973). It was urged that the Preamble cannot be amended as it is not a part of the Constitution. The petitioner contended that the amending power in Article 368 cannot be used to destroy or damage the basic elements or the fundamental features of the Constitution, which are enshrined in the Preamble.
- The Supreme Court, however, held that the Preamble is a part of the Constitution. The Court stated that the opinion tendered by it in the Berubari Union (1960) in this regard was wrong, and held that the Preamble can be amended, subject to the condition that no amendment is done to the 'basic features'. In other words, the Court held that the basic elements or the fundamental features of the Constitution as contained in the Preamble cannot be altered by an amendment under Article 368.
- The Preamble has been amended only once so far, in 1976, by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, which has added three new words - Socialist, Secular and Integrity to the Preamble. This amendment was held to be valid

## 22. B

The current opinion held by the Supreme Court is that the Preamble is an integral part of the Constitution. However, two things should be noted:

- The Preamble is neither a source of power to legislature nor a prohibition upon the powers of legislature.
- It is non-justiciable, that is, its provisions are not enforceable in courts of law.

## 23. C

### Preamble to Indian Constitution:

- We, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a SOVEREIGN SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC and to secure to all its citizens:
- JUSTICE, Social, Economic and Political;
- LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship;
- EQUALITY of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all;
- FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Nation;
- IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY this twenty-sixth day of November, 1949, do HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION.

## 24. A

- 'Territory of India' is a wider expression than the 'Union of India' because the latter includes only states while the former includes not only the states but also union territories and territories that may be acquired by the Government of India at any future time.

## 25. D

The Citizenship Act, 1955, prescribes three ways of losing citizenship whether acquired under the Act or prior to it under the Constitution, viz, renunciation, termination and deprivation:

When an Indian citizen voluntarily (consciously, knowingly and without duress, undue influence or compulsion) acquires the citizenship of another country, his Indian citizenship automatically terminates. Hence, statement 1 is correct. This provision, however, does not apply during a war in which India is engaged.

Deprivation is a compulsory termination of Indian citizenship by the Central government, if:

- the citizen has obtained the citizenship by fraud;
- the citizen has shown disloyalty to the Constitution of India: Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- the citizen has unlawfully traded or communicated with the enemy during a war;
- the citizen has, within five years after registration or naturalisation, been imprisoned in any country for two years; and
- the citizen has been ordinarily resident out of India for seven years continuously. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

## 26. B

- Statement 1 is not correct: The children of foreign diplomats posted in India and enemy aliens cannot acquire Indian citizenship by birth.
- Statement 2 is correct: To have an adequate knowledge of a language specified in the Eighth Schedule is one of the several qualifications prescribed for acquisition of Citizenship by Naturalisation.

## 27. B

- Statement 1 is not correct. An illegal migrant cannot acquire the Citizenship of India.
- Statement 2 is correct: The Citizenship Act, 1955, prescribes three ways of losing citizenship viz. renunciation, termination and deprivation. If a citizen has, within five years after registration or naturalisation, been imprisoned in any country for two years, his citizenship is compulsorily terminated by the Central Government.

## 28. A

- All Indian citizen have the right to contest for the membership of the Parliament and the state legislature. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- In India both a citizen by birth as well as a naturalised citizen are eligible for the office of President while in USA, only a citizen by birth and not a naturalised citizen is eligible for the office of President. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

## 29. D

Article 20 dealing with Protection in respect of Conviction of offences has three provisions :

- No ex-post-facto law: No person shall be (i) convicted of any offence except for violation of a law in force at the time of the commission of the act, nor (ii) subjected to a penalty greater than that prescribed by the law in force at the time of the commission of the act. An ex-post-facto law is one that imposes penalties retrospectively (retroactively), that is, upon acts already done or which increases the penalties for such acts. However, this limitation is imposed only on criminal laws and not on civil laws or tax laws. In other words, a civil liability or a tax can be imposed retrospectively. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- No double jeopardy: No person shall be prosecuted and punished for the same offence more than once. The protection against double jeopardy is available only in proceedings before a court of law or a judicial tribunal. In other words, it is not available in proceedings before departmental or administrative authorities as they are not of judicial nature.

- No self-incrimination: No person accused of any offence shall be compelled to be a witness against himself. The protection against self-incrimination extends to both oral evidence and documentary evidence. Further, it extends only to criminal proceedings and not to civil proceedings or proceedings which are not of criminal nature. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

### 30. C

- A farmer sells his farm and starts a business - It is an exercise of the Right to freedom to practice any profession, or to carry on any occupation, trade or business.
- A person from Gujarat moves to Maharashtra and settles there - It is an exercise of the right to move freely throughout the country, and to reside in any part of the country.
- A person refuses to believe in any religion - It is an exercise of the Right to Freedom of Religion.
- A person inherits property from his parents - It is not a fundamental right.

### 31. B

Western conception of secularism means mutual exclusion of state and religion in order to protect values such as individual freedom and citizenship rights of individuals. It means that religion and state must be strictly separated. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

#### **Indian concept of secularism includes:**

- The Indian Constitution grants rights to all religious communities such as the right to establish and maintain their educational institutions. Freedom of religion in India means the freedom of religion of both individuals and communities. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- India had religiously sanctioned customs such as untouchability which deprived individuals of the most basic dignity and self-respect. Such customs were so deeply rooted and pervasive that without active state intervention, there was no hope of their dissolution. The state simply had to interfere in the affairs of religion. Such intervention was not always negative. The state could help religious communities by giving aid to educational institutions run by them. Thus, the state may help or hinder religious communities depending on which mode of action promotes values such as freedom and equality.

### 32. D

- Both the statements are not correct.
- Being the basic structure of the Constitution, as ruled by the SC, Article 32 (Right to Constitutional Remedies) cannot be abridged or taken away even by an amendment of the Constitution.

- The right to move the SC for the enforcement of the FRs, as provided by the Constitution, can be suspended by the President during a national emergency (Article 359). Thus Article 32 cannot be abridged/curtailed but can be temporarily suspended.

### 33. A

Article 19(2) provides that reasonable restrictions can be imposed on exercise of Freedom of Speech and expression under the following conditions: the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality, or in relation to contempt of court, defamation or incitement to an offence.

- Leaking classified material by Intelligence officer. - can compromise security of state
- Giving speech to take up arms - public order
- Speech which can hamper stability of government in Lok Sabha - it does not fall under any criteria and hence would not be a reasonable restriction
- Contempt of Court.

### 34. D

- Statement 1 is not correct : Fundamental Rights are different from other rights available to us. While ordinary legal rights are protected and enforced by ordinary law, Fundamental Rights are protected and guaranteed by the constitution of the country.
- Statement 2 is not correct : Ordinary rights may be changed by the legislature by ordinary process of law making, but a fundamental right may only be changed by amending the Constitution itself. Besides this, no organ of the government can act in a manner that violates them. However, fundamental rights are not absolute or unlimited rights. Government can put reasonable restrictions on the exercise of our fundamental rights.

### 35. C

All the statements are correct.

- Article 21: Right to life and personal liberty is available to both citizens and non-citizens.
- Its ambit has been expanded by the SC from time to time. The Article has undergone interpretations in various cases like Gopalan Case (1950), Menaka Case (1978) etc.
- As formally enshrined in the Article 21 of the Constitution, no person shall be deprived of his life and personal liberty except according to procedure established by law.

The Article has undergone various interpretations in this regard. In Menaka Case (1978), the SC ruled that the right to life and personal liberty of a person can be deprived by a law provided

the procedure prescribed by that law is reasonable, fair and just. In other words, it has introduced the American expression ‘due process of law’. In effect, the protection under Article 21 should be available not only against arbitrary executive action but also against arbitrary legislative action. *Rajbala v. Haryana* (2015), a two-judge bench of the Supreme Court of India strongly rejected the doctrine of substantive due process in India. In cases like *Ramlila Maidan Incident* (2012) and *Selvi v. State of Karnataka* (2010), SC has repeatedly held that substantive due process and due process generally are a part of Indian constitutional law under Article 21 of the Constitution.

### 36. A

- The directive principles are meant for promoting the ideal of social and economic democracy. They seek to establish a ‘welfare state’ in India. However, unlike the Fundamental Rights, the directives are non-justiciable in nature, that is, they are not enforceable by the courts for their violation. Yet, the Constitution itself declares that ‘these principles are fundamental in the governance of the country and it shall be the duty of the state to apply these principles in making laws’. Hence, they impose a moral obligation on the state authorities for their application. But, the real force (sanction) behind them is political, that is, public opinion.
- The fundamental duties serve as a reminder to citizens that while enjoying their rights, they have to be quite conscious of duties they owe to their country, their society and to their fellow-citizens. However, like the Directive Principles, the duties are also non-justiciable in nature.
- The Fundamental rights are justiciable in nature. They are enforceable by the courts for their violation. The aggrieved person can directly go to the Supreme Court which can issue the writs of habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, certiorari and quo warranto for the restoration of his rights.

### 37. A

- Statement 1 is not correct. The Article 22 grants protection to persons who are arrested or detained under a preventive detention law which is available to both citizens as well as aliens.
- Statement 2 is correct. The Constitution has divided the legislative power with regard to preventive detention between the Parliament and the state legislatures. The Parliament has exclusive authority to make a law of preventive detention for reasons connected with defence, foreign affairs and the security of India. Both the Parliament as well as the state legislatures can concurrently make a law of preventive detention for reasons connected with the security of a state, the maintenance of public order and the maintenance of supplies and services essential to the community.

### 38. C

Statement 1 is correct. A linguistic minority is a group of people whose mother tongue is different from that of the majority in the state or part of a state. Thus, the linguistic minorities are determined on a statewise basis.

Statement 2 is correct. The Seventh Constitutional Amendment Act of 1956 inserted a new Article 350-B in Part XVII of the Constitution. This article contains the following provisions:

- There should be a Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities. He is to be appointed by the President of India.
- It would be the duty of the Special Officer to investigate all matters relating to the safeguards provided for linguistic minorities under the Constitution. He would report to the President up on those matters at such intervals as the President may direct. The President should place all such reports before each House of Parliament and send to the governments of the states concerned.

### 39. C

All the statements are correct.

Article 14 says that the State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India. This provision confers rights on all persons whether citizens or foreigners.

The concept of 'equality before law' is of British origin while the concept of 'equal protection of Laws' has been taken from the American Constitution. The first concept connotes:

- the absence of any special privileges in favour of any person,
- the equal subjection of all persons to the ordinary law of the land administered by ordinary law courts, and
- no person (whether rich or poor, high or low, official or non-official) is above the law. The second concept, on the other hand, connotes:
  - the equality of treatment under equal circumstances, both in the privileges conferred and liabilities imposed by the laws,
  - the similar application of the same laws to all persons who are similarly situated, and
  - the like should be treated alike without any discrimination. Thus, the former is a negative concept while the latter is a positive concept. However, both of them aim at establishing equality of legal status, opportunity and justice.

The Supreme Court held that where equals and unequals are treated differently, Article 14 does not apply. While Article 14 forbids class legislation, it permits reasonable classification of persons, objects and transactions by the law. But the classification should not be arbitrary, artificial or evasive. Rather, it should be based on an intelligible differential and substantial distinction.

## 40. C

Freedom of Speech and Expression (Article 19(a)): It implies that every citizen has the right to express his views, opinions, belief and convictions freely by word of mouth, writing, printing, picturing or in any other manner. The Supreme Court held that the freedom of speech and expression includes the following:

- Right to propagate one's views as well as views of others.
- Freedom of the press.
- Freedom of commercial advertisements.
- Right against tapping of telephonic conversation.
- Right to telecast, that is, government has no monopoly on electronic media.
- Right against bundh called by a political party or organisation.
- Right to know about government activities.
- Freedom of silence. (3 is correct)
- Right against imposition of pre-censorship on a newspaper. (2 is correct)
- Right to demonstration or picketing but not right to strike. (1 is not correct)

## 41. D

- Rights are necessary for the very sustenance of a democracy. In a democracy every citizen has to have the right to vote and the right to be elected to government. For democratic elections to take place, it is necessary that citizens should have the right to express their opinion, form political parties and take part in political activities. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Rights protect minorities from the oppression of majority. They ensure that the majority cannot do whatever it likes. Rights are guarantees which can be used when things go wrong. Things may go wrong when some citizens may wish to take away the rights of others. This usually happens when those in majority want to dominate those in minority. The government should protect the citizens' rights in such a situation. But sometimes elected governments may not protect or may even attack the rights of their own citizens. That is why some rights need to be placed higher than the government, so that the government cannot violate them. In most democracies the basic rights of the citizen are written down in the constitution. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Right has to be recognised by the society we live in. Rights acquire meaning only in society. Every society makes certain rules to regulate our conduct. They tell us what is right and what is wrong. What is recognised by the society as rightful becomes the basis of rights. That is why the notion of rights changes from time to time and society to society. Two hundred years ago

anyone who said that women should have right to vote would have sounded strange. Today not granting them vote in Saudi Arabia appears strange. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

## 42. D

- Dr. Ambedkar considered the right to constitutional remedies as ‘heart and soul of the constitution’. It is so because this right gives a citizen the right to approach a High Court or the Supreme Court to get any of the fundamental rights restored in case of their violation. The Supreme Court and the High Courts can issue orders and give directives to the government for the enforcement of rights.

## 43. C

The Constitution confers the following rights and privileges on the citizens of India (and denies the same to aliens):

- Right against discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth (Article 15).
- Right to equality of opportunity in the matter of public employment (Article 16).
- Right to freedom of speech and expression, assembly, association, movement, residence and profession (Article 19).
- Cultural and educational rights (Articles 29 and 30).
- Right to vote in elections to the Lok Sabha and state legislative assembly.
- Right to contest for the membership of the Parliament and the state legislature.
- Eligibility to hold certain public offices, that is, President of India, Vice-President of India, judges of the Supreme Court and the high courts, governor of states, attorney general of India and advocate general of states.

Equality before law and equal protection of law, and Right to elementary education are rights available to both citizens and foreigners (except enemy aliens).

## 44. A

- All the statements are correct.
- 86th constitutional amendment act added the following:
- Article 51-A(k): To provide opportunities for education to his child or ward between the age of six and fourteen years. This duty was added by the 86th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2002.
- Article 45: To provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years.
- Article 21-A: Article 21 A declares that the State shall provide free and compulsory education to

all children of the age of six to fourteen years in such a manner as the State may determine.

#### **45. C**

- Statement 1 is correct: The doctrine of judicial review was borrowed from the Constitution of the United States of America
- Statement 2 is correct: Article 13 declares that all laws that are inconsistent with or in derogation of any of the fundamental rights shall be void. In other words, it expressly provides for the doctrine of judicial review. This power has been conferred on the Supreme Court (Article 32) and the high courts (Article 226) that can declare a law unconstitutional and invalid on the ground of contravention of any of the Fundamental Rights.

#### **46. B**

The Constitution specifies the cultural and educational rights of the minorities:

- Any section of citizens with a distinct language or culture have a right to conserve it. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Admission to any educational institution maintained by government or receiving government aid cannot be denied to any citizen on the ground of religion or language.
- All minorities have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

Right to profess, practice and propagate one's religion is a right envisaged under the right to freedom of religion. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

#### **47. A**

- The Fundamental Rights are meant for promoting the idea of political democracy. They operate as limitations on the tyranny of the executive and arbitrary laws of the legislature.
- However, the Fundamental Rights are not absolute and subject to reasonable restrictions. Further, they are not sacrosanct and can be curtailed or repealed by the Parliament through a constitutional amendment act. They can also be suspended during the operation of a National Emergency except the rights guaranteed by Articles 20 and 21.

#### **48. D**

Features of the Fundamental Rights:

The Fundamental Rights guaranteed by the Constitution are characterised by the following:

- Some of them are available only to the citizens while others are available to all persons

whether citizens, foreigners or legal persons like corporations or companies.

- They are not absolute but qualified. The state can impose reasonable restrictions on them.
- Most of them are available against the arbitrary action of the State, with a few exceptions like those against the State's action and against the action of private individuals. (Statement 3 is not correct)
- Some of them are negative in character, that is, place limitations on the authority of the State, while others are positive in nature, conferring certain privileges on the persons.
- They are justiciable, allowing persons to move the courts for their enforcement, if and when they are violated.
- They are defended and guaranteed by the Supreme Court.
- They are not sacrosanct or permanent. The Parliament can curtail or repeal them but only by a constitutional amendment act and not by an ordinary act. Moreover, this can be done without affecting the basic structure of the Constitution. (Statement 2 is not correct)
- They can be suspended during the operation of a National Emergency except the rights guaranteed by Articles 20 and 21. Further, the six rights guaranteed by Article 19 can be suspended only when emergency is declared on the grounds of war or external aggression (i.e., external emergency) and not on the ground of armed rebellion (i.e., internal emergency).
- Their scope of operation is limited by Article 31-A, B and C
- Their application to the members of armed forces, para-military forces, police forces, intelligence agencies and analogous services can be restricted or abrogated by the Parliament (Article 33).
- Their application can be restricted while martial law is in force in any area. Martial law means military rule imposed under abnormal circumstances to restore order (Article 34). It is different from the imposition of national emergency.
- Most of them are directly enforceable (self-executory) while a few of them can be enforced on the basis of a law made for giving effect to them. Such a law can be made only by the Parliament and not by state legislatures so that uniformity throughout the country is maintained (Article 35). (Statement 1 is not correct).

## 49. D

- Statement 1 is not correct. Fundamental Duties are only confined to the citizens and do not extend to the foreigners.
- Statement 2 is not correct: The Supreme Court under Article 32 has the power to issue directions or orders or writs for the enforcement of Fundamental Rights only.

## 50. D

- Fundamental Rights are guaranteed against the actions of the Legislatures, the Executive, and any other authorities instituted by the government. There can be no law or action that violates the Fundamental Rights. If any act of the Legislature or the Executive takes away or limits any of the Fundamental Rights it will be invalid. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- Courts also enforce the Fundamental Rights against private individuals and bodies. The Supreme Court and High Courts have the power to issue directions, orders or writs for the enforcement of the Fundamental Rights. They can also award compensation to the victims and punishment to the violators. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

## 51. D

- The Directive Principles along with the Fundamental Rights contain the philosophy of the Constitution and is the soul of the Constitution. Granville Austin has described the Directive Principles and the Fundamental Rights as the ‘\_Conscience of the Constitution’.

## 52. C

The following principles reflect the ideology of socialism as they lay down the framework of a democratic socialist state, aim at providing social and economic justice, and set the path towards welfare state. They direct the state:

- To promote the welfare of the people by securing a social order permeated by justice— social, economic and political—and to minimise inequalities in income, status, facilities and opportunities (Article 38).
- To secure (a) the right to adequate means of livelihood for all citizens; (b) the equitable distribution of material resources of the community for the common good; (c) prevention of concentration of wealth and means of production; (d) equal pay for equal work for men and women; (e) preservation of the health and strength of workers and children against forcible abuse; and (f) opportunities for healthy development of children (Article 39).
- To promote equal justice and to provide free legal aid to the poor (Article 39 A).
- To secure the right to work, to education and to public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement (Article 41).
- To make provision for just and humane conditions for work and maternity relief (Article 42).
- To secure a living wage, a decent standard of life and social and cultural opportunities for all workers (Article 43).
- To take steps to secure the participation of workers in the management of industries (Article 43 A).
- To raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living of people and to improve public health

(Article 47).

To organise village panchayats and enable them to function as units of self-government is a Gandhian principle. (Article 40)

### **53. B**

- The Fundamental Duties were inserted in the Constitution by the 42nd Amendment Act of 1976.
- They were included on the recommendations of the Swaran Singh Committee.

### **54. C**

- The Directive Principles are non-justiciable in nature, that is, they are not legally enforceable by the courts for their violation. Therefore, the government (Central, state and local) cannot be compelled to implement them. Nevertheless, the Constitution (Article 37) itself says that these principles are fundamental in the governance of the country and it shall be the duty of the State to apply these principles in making laws.
- The Directive Principles, though non-justiciable in nature, help the courts in examining and determining the constitutional validity of a law. The Supreme Court has ruled many a times that in determining the constitutionality of any law, if a court finds that the law in question seeks to give effect to a Directive Principle, it may consider such law to be 'reasonable' in relation to Article 14 (equality before law) or Article 19 (six freedoms) and thus save such law from unconstitutionality.
- The Fundamental Rights are meant for promoting the ideal of political democracy. They prevent the establishment of an authoritarian and despotic rule in the country, and protect the liberties and freedoms of the people against the invasion by the State. They operate as limitations on the tyranny of the executive and arbitrary laws of the legislature.

### **55. C**

- DPSPs are supplementary to the fundamental rights of the citizens. They are intended to fill in the vacuum in Part III by providing for social and economic rights. Their implementation creates a favourable atmosphere for the full and proper enjoyment of the fundamental rights by the citizens. Political democracy, without economic democracy, has no meaning. Thus, DPSP ensure both social and economic democracy.

## 56. A

- Values that inspired and guided the freedom struggle and were in turn nurtured by it, formed the foundation for India's democracy. These values are embedded in the Preamble of the Indian Constitution. They guide all the articles of the Indian Constitution. The Constitution begins with a short statement of its basic values. This is called the Preamble to the constitution. Taking inspiration from American model, most countries in the contemporary world have chosen to begin their constitutions with a preamble.

## 57. D

The part IV of the constitution on Directive Principles provides for:

- the goals and objectives that we as a society should adopt.
- certain rights that individuals should enjoy apart from the Fundamental Rights.
- certain policies that the government should adopt.

## 58. D

Apart from the Directives included in Part IV, there are some other Directives ( which are also non-justiciable in nature) contained in other Parts of the Constitution. They are:

- Claims of SCs and STs to Services: The claims of the members of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes shall be taken into consideration, consistently with the maintenance of efficiency of administration, in the making of appointments to services and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or a State (Article 335 in Part XVI).
- Instruction in mother tongue: It shall be the endeavour of every state and every local authority within the state to provide adequate facilities for instruction in the mother-tongue at the primary stage of education to children belonging to linguistic minority groups (Article 350-A in Part XVII).
- Development of the Hindi Language: It shall be the duty of the Union to promote the spread of the Hindi language and to develop it so that it may serve as a medium of expression for all the elements of the composite culture of India (Article 351 in Part XVII).

## 59. C

Options 1 and 2 are correct. Options 3 and 4 form part of DPSP. LIST OF FUNDAMENTAL DUTIES

According to Article 51 A, it shall be the duty of every citizen of India:

- to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the

National Anthem;

- to cherish and follow the noble ideals that inspired the national struggle for freedom;
- to uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India;
- to defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so;
- to promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic and regional or sectional diversities and to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women;
- to value and preserve the rich heritage of the country's composite culture;
- to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife and to have compassion for living creatures;
- to develop scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform;
- to safeguard public property and to abjure violence;
- to strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavour and achievement; and
- to provide opportunities for education to his child or ward between the age of six and fourteen years. This duty was added by the 86th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2002.

## 60. B

**Justification and Learning:** "Arctic greening" is a term related with the CO<sub>2</sub> fertilization effect.

The carbon fertilization effect suggests that the increase of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere increases the rate of photosynthesis in plants. The effect varies depending on the plant species, the temperature, and the availability of water and nutrients.

From a quarter to half of Earth's vegetated lands has shown significant greening over the last 35 years largely due to rising levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide.

Scientists have been finding, that as northern portions of the planet (Arctic) warm up even as total atmospheric carbon dioxide increases, there's been an increase in plant growth in these regions.

Studies led by Trevor Keenan from the Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (Berkeley Lab) show that, from 2002 to 2014, plants appear to have gone into overdrive, starting to pull more carbon dioxide out of the air than they have done before.

The result was that the rate at which carbon dioxide accumulates in the atmosphere did not increase during this time period, although previously, it had grown considerably in concert with growing greenhouse gas emissions.

## 61. C.

**Justification: Statement 1:** The Straits of Malacca provide China with its shortest maritime access to Europe, Africa, and the Middle East.

- Approximately 80% of its Middle Eastern energy imports also pass through the Straits of Malacca. As the world's biggest oil importer, energy security is a key concern for China while current sea routes used to import Middle Eastern oil are frequently patrolled by the United States' Navy.
- In the event that China were to face hostile actions from a state or non-state actor, energy imports through the Straits of Malacca could be halted, which in turn would paralyse the Chinese economy in a scenario that is frequently referred to as the "Malacca Dilemma".
- In addition to vulnerabilities faced in the Straits of Malacca region, China is heavily dependent upon sea-routes that pass through the South China Sea, near the disputed Spratly Islands and Paracel Islands, which are currently a source of tension between China, Taiwan, Vietnam, the Philippines, and the United States.
- The CPEC project will allow Chinese energy imports to circumvent these contentious areas and find a new artery in the west, and thereby decrease the possibility of confrontation between the United States and China.

**Statement 2:** In addition to its significance to reduce Chinese dependence on the Sea of Malacca and South China Sea routes, CPEC will provide China an alternative and shorter route for energy imports from the Middle East, thereby reducing shipping costs and transit times.

The currently available sea-route to China is roughly 12,000 kilometres long, while the distance from Gwadar Port to Xinjiang province is approximately 3,000 kilometres, with another 3,500 kilometres from Xinjiang to China's eastern coast.

**Learning:** CPEC is a collection of infrastructure projects that are currently under construction throughout Pakistan.

The CPEC is a landmark project in the annals of history of Pakistan. It is the largest investment Pakistan has attracted since independence and largest by China in any foreign country.

The CPEC Alignments will improve connectivity to restive Xinjiang, thereby increasing the region's potential to attract public and private investment.

CPEC is considered central to China–Pakistan relations; its central importance is reflected by China's inclusion of the project as part of its 13th five-year development plan.

The CPEC projects will also complement China's Western Development plan, which includes not only Xinjiang, but also the neighbouring regions of Tibet and Qinghai.

## 62. C

**Justification:** Statement 2: Look at the word “only” in S2. Statements containing ‘only’, ‘must’, ‘always’ and other such extreme words are usually wrong.

A zoonosis is any disease or infection that is naturally transmissible from vertebrate animals to humans. Animals thus play an essential role in maintaining zoonotic infections in nature.

Zoonoses may be bacterial, viral, or parasitic, or may involve unconventional agents.

As well as being a public health problem, many of the major zoonotic diseases prevent the efficient production of food of animal origin and create obstacles to international trade in animal products.

According to WHO, the Nipah virus infection is a newly emerging zoonosis. Kozhikode and Malappuram districts have been declared free of Nipah virus recently by the Kerala government.

### 63. B.

**Justification:** The Karakoram pass falls on the boundary of Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir and China (Xinjiang Autonomous Region).

It also plays a major geographic role in the dispute between Pakistan and India over control of the Siachen Glacier area immediately to the west of the pass.

This situation arose from the Simla Agreement, signed in 1972 between India and Pakistan, when the treaty failed to specify the last 100 km (60 mi) or so of the cease-fire line from the end of the Line of Control to the border with China.

A potential China-India-Pakistan tripoint at Karakoram Pass is referenced in a 1963 boundary treaty between China and Pakistan concerning the Trans-Karakoram Tract, but India was not party to that treaty nor any tripoint agreement.

The current de facto tripoint is about 100 km west of the pass near Indira Col in the Siachen Muztagh, where the Actual Ground Position Line between Indian and Pakistani forces meets the border with China.

### 64. A

**Justification: Statement 3:** There is very little helium-3 available on the Earth. However, there are thought to be significant supplies on the Moon.

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)'s second moon mission — the Rs 800 crore 'Chandrayaan-2' — will hunt for deposits of Helium-3 — a waste-free nuclear energy that could answer many of Earth's energy problems.

There are approximately 1 million metric tons of Helium-3 embedded in the moon, although only about a quarter of that can realistically be brought to Earth.

**Statement 1 and 2:** The isotope of Helium could theoretically meet global energy demands for three to five centuries.

This kind of energy is also expected to be worth trillions of dollars (one expert estimated Helium-3's value at about five billion US dollars a ton).

Since the isotope is not radioactive, it could be used in fusion reactors for nuclear energy without dangerous nuclear by-products.

**Mechanism:** In current nuclear fusion reactors, the hydrogen isotopes tritium and deuterium are used as the fuel, with atomic energy released when their nuclei fuse to create helium and a neutron.

Nuclear fusion effectively makes use of the same energy source that fuels the Sun and other stars, and does not produce the radioactivity and nuclear waste that is the by-product of current nuclear fission power generation. However, the so-termed "fast" neutrons released by nuclear fusion reactors fuelled by tritium and deuterium lead to significant energy loss and are extremely difficult to contain.

One potential solution may be to use helium-3 and deuterium as the fuels in "aneutronic" (power without neutrons) fusion reactors. The involved nuclear reaction here when helium-3 and deuterium fuse creates normal helium and a proton, which wastes less energy and is easier to contain. Nuclear fusion reactors using helium-3 could therefore provide a highly efficient form of nuclear power with virtually no waste and no radiation.

## 65. B

**Justification:** Under LRS, all resident individuals can freely remit \$250,000 overseas every financial year for a permissible set of current or capital account transactions.

Remittances are permitted for overseas education, travel, medical treatment and purchase of shares and property, apart from maintenance of relatives living abroad, gifting and donations. Individuals can also open, maintain and hold foreign currency accounts with overseas banks for carrying out transactions.

**Not permitted:** However, the rules do not allow remittances for trading on the foreign exchange markets, margin or margin calls to overseas exchanges and counterparties and the purchase of Foreign Currency Convertible Bonds issued by Indian companies abroad. Sending money to certain countries and entities is also barred.

**Learning:** Under LRS, people can't send money to countries identified as 'non cooperative' by the Financial Action Task Force. Remittances are also prohibited to entities identified as posing terrorist risks.

- Concerned over funds sent abroad under the 'maintenance of close relative' category of the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS), the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has narrowed the definition of relatives to check the flow of funds.
- RBI has aligned the definition of 'relative' with the definition given in Companies Act, 2013 instead of Companies Act, 1956. Hence, funds under the 'maintenance of close

relative' category can be sent only to immediate relatives such as parents, spouses, children and their spouses.

- Outward remittances under maintenance of close relatives shot up to almost \$3 billion in 2017-18 from a mere \$174 million in 2013-14. In fact, funds sent under this category have more than doubled since 2015-16. Overall outward remittances under LRS went up to \$11 billion from \$1 billion in the same period.

## 66. B

**Justification: Statement 2:** The Tashkent Declaration was a peace agreement between India and Pakistan signed on 10 January 1966 that resolved the Indo-Pakistani War of 1965.

The declaration stated that Indian and Pakistani forces would pull back to their pre-conflict positions, pre-August lines, no later than 25 February 1966, the nations would not interfere in each other's internal affairs, economic and diplomatic relations would be restored, there would be an orderly transfer of prisoners of war, and the two leaders would work towards improving bilateral relations.

**Statement 1:** The agreement was criticized in India because it did not contain a no-war pact or any renunciation of guerrilla warfare in Kashmir. After signing the agreement, Indian Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri died mysteriously in Tashkent.

## 67. B

**Learning:** The question was asked because Ukraine was in news for some time due to Crimean annexation and we are covering a chapter related to Russian revolution.

## 68. D

**Justification:** It is a Schedule 'C' Miniratna Category II Central Public Sector Enterprises, registered under Section 8 (Not for Profit motive) of the Companies Act 2013, (corresponding to Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956) is functioning under the Administrative Control of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.

It is 100% owned Govt. of India Central Public Sector Enterprises with an objective of benefiting the persons with disability to the maximum extent possible by manufacturing

Rehabilitation Aids for persons with disabilities and by promoting, encouraging and developing the availability, use, supply and distribution of Artificial Limbs and other Rehabilitation Aids to the disabled persons of the country.

**Learning:** The main objectives of the Corporation are

- (1) To promote, encourage and develop the availability, use, supply and distribution at reasonable cost in the country of Artificial Limbs and accessories and constituents thereof to needy persons particularly disabled Defence personnel, hospitals and such other welfare institutions.
- (2) To establish facilities for the manufacture of Artificial Limbs and accessories and constituents thereof and all other things which can be or may conveniently be used for the manufacture of or in connection with such articles, things as aforesaid.
- (3) To carry on the business of manufacturers, buyers, sellers, importers, exporters, dealers in and of Artificial Limbs and accessories and constituents thereof and all other things which can be or may conveniently be used for the manufacture of or in connection with such articles, things as aforesaid.

Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD-Divyangjan Shashaktikaran Vibhag), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) for the Financial Year 2018-19. It covers major developments to be achieved in this year for the Empowerment of Divyangjan of the country.

## 69. B

**Learning:** Nepal for having eliminated trachoma as a public health problem – a milestone, as the country becomes the first in WHO's South-East Asia Region to defeat the world's leading infectious cause of blindness.

Trachoma is a chronic infective disease of the eye and is the leading cause of infective blindness globally. Trachoma is a disease of poor environmental and personal hygiene and inadequate access to water and sanitation.

It affects the conjunctiva under the eyelids. Repeated infections cause scarring leading to in-turning of the eyelashes and eyelids. This further causes damage to the cornea and blindness.

Trachoma was the second leading cause of preventable blindness in Nepal in the 1980s. In 2002, the Government of Nepal stepped up efforts to eliminate the disease with the establishment of a national trachoma programme. From 2002 to 2005, following the implementation of sustained control activities, the prevalence of active (inflammatory) trachoma fell by 40%.

## 70. B

**Justification: Statement 1:** Contributing 32% to the country's Gross Value Added (GVA), MSMEs also pave the way for industrialisation in rural and backward areas. Why the disbursement of credit is significant is because according to the National Sample Survey (NSS) (2015-16) there are 633.8 lakh unincorporated non-agriculture MSMEs that are also providing employment to 11.10 crore workers in the country, but the percentage of credit they receive is not in commensurate.

**Statement 2:** According to the Economic Survey 2017-18, data on credit disbursed by banks shows that out of a total outstanding credit of Rs 26,041 billion as in November 2017, 82.6% of the amount was lent to large enterprises and MSMEs got only 17.4 % of total credit.

**Statement 3 and 4:** As the Economic Survey states in detail, the major schemes implemented for the development of MSME sector are:

- Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) is aimed at generating selfemployment opportunities by establishing micro-enterprises in the non-farm sector by encouraging and assisting traditional artisans and unemployed youth.
- Credit Guarantee Scheme for Micro and Small Enterprises covers collateral free credit facility (term loan and/or working capital) extended by eligible lending institutions including Non- Banking Financial Company (NBFC) to new and existing micro and small enterprises up to Rs 200 lakh per borrowing unit.
- Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (CLCSS) aims at facilitating technology upgradation of the MSME sector.
- The Government has also initiated the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana for development and refinancing activities relating to micro industrial units. The purpose of Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency (MUDRA) is to provide funding to the non-corporate small business sector.

## 71. D

**Justification:** These are the findings of the report:

- 600 million people face high-to extreme water stress.
- 75% of households do not have drinking water on premise. 84% rural households do not have piped water access.
- 70% of our water is contaminated; India is currently ranked 120 among 122 countries in the water quality

## Index

- The report ranks Gujarat at the top in managing its water resources in the reference year (2016-17) followed by Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra.
- The worst states include Jharkhand, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.
- Among North Eastern and Himalayan states, Tripura has been adjudged number one in 2016-17 followed by Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Assam.
- In terms of incremental change in the index (over 2015-16 level), Rajasthan holds number one position in general states and Tripura ranks at first position amongst Northeastern and Himalayan states.

## **Further,**

- Encouragingly, several water-scarce states are the leaders in Index performance. Several high and medium performers have suffered from severe droughts in recent years, indicating that corrective action is starting in at least some of the areas that need it the most.
- Most states report a high percentage of urban population having access to drinking water, except for the North-Eastern and Eastern regions, which report less than half of the urban population having access.
- Though, some states with large urban areas—Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala—are also only able to provide drinking water to 53-72% of urban populations.

## **72. B**

**Justification:** It aims to quickly and effectively transform some of the most underdeveloped districts of the country.

The broad contours of the programme are Convergence (of Central & State Schemes), Collaboration (of Central, State level 'Prabhari' Officers & District Collectors), and Competition among districts driven by a Mass Movement or a Jan Andolan.

With States as the main drivers, this program will focus on the strength of each district, identify low-hanging fruits for immediate improvement, measure progress, and rank districts.

To enable optimum utilization of their potential, this program focusses closely on improving people's ability to participate fully in the burgeoning economy. Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture & Water Resources, Financial Inclusion & Skill Development, and Basic Infrastructure are this programme's core areas of focus.

### 73. A

**Justification:** The Brus, also referred to as the Reangs, are spread across the northeastern states of Tripura, Assam, Manipur, and Mizoram.

A bout of ethnic violence forced thousands of people from the Bru tribe to leave their homes in Mizoram. As many as 32,876 people belonging to 5,407 families are living in the refugee camps in the Jampui Hills of Tripura.

In a major breakthrough on repatriation laced Bru persons from Mizoram since 1997, an agreement has been signed by Government of India, Governments of Mizoram and Tripura and Mizoram Bru Displaced People's Forum (MBDPF).

The central government will provide financial assistance for rehabilitation of Bru community members in Mizoram and address their issues of security, education, livelihood, etc. in consultation with the governments of Mizoram and Tripura.

### 74. D

**Justification:** The CWC was in news recently because OPCW has granted itself new powers to assign blame for attacks, despite protests by Russia. Until now, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) could only say whether chemical weapons were used – but not who had used them.

This is an important step forward for arms control. It strengthens the unravelling consensus against the use of chemical weapons. It marks a victory for the rules-based international order, which itself is under increasing strain given the rise of populists and nationalism in many countries.

### 75. B

**Justification: Statement 1 and 4:** The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has restricted the manufacture of Oxytocin formulations for domestic use to public sector only. Coupled with this, it has also banned the import of Oxytocin and its formulations. The order comes into effect from July 1.

Only Karnataka Antibiotics & Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (KAPL), a public sector company, will manufacture this drug for domestic use. It will supply the drug to registered hospitals and clinics in public and private sector directly.

**Statement 2 and 3:** The drug is widely misused in the dairy industry. Oxytocin is also used to increase the size of vegetables such as pumpkins, watermelons, eggplants, gourds, and cucumbers.

**Learning:** Oxytocin has also been dubbed the hug hormone, cuddle chemical, moral molecule, and the bliss hormone due to its effects on behaviour, including its role in love and in female reproductive biological functions in reproduction.

Oxytocin is a hormone that is made in the brain, in the hypothalamus. It is transported to, and secreted by, the pituitary gland, which is located at the base of the brain.

It acts both as a hormone and as a brain neurotransmitter.

The release of oxytocin by the pituitary gland acts to regulate two female reproductive functions: Childbirth and Breast-feeding.

## 76. C

**Learning:** The Global Environment Facility was established on the eve of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit to help tackle our planet's most pressing environmental problems.

- It is an international partnership of 183 countries, international institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector that addresses global environmental issues.
- GEF funds are available to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to meet the objectives of the international environmental conventions and agreements.
- The World Bank serves as the GEF Trustee, administering the GEF Trust Fund.
- India has announced it will increase for the next four years the money it pays to the Global Environment Facility (GEF), a mechanism to provide grants for environment projects. India will increase its commitments from \$12 million to \$15 million to the GEF's new four-year investment cycle, known as GEF-7.

It is a FINANCIAL MECHANISM for five major international environmental conventions: the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

## 77. C

**Learning:** The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) has come up with its report titled 'Women in Prisons' which aims to build an understanding of the various entitlements of women in prisons, the various issues faced by them and possible methods for resolution of the same.

A majority of female inmates are in the age group of 30-50 years (50.5%), followed by 18-30 years (31.3%).

### **Highlights of the report- important recommendations:**

**Who is vulnerable?** Women- elderly, disabled, pregnant, mothers who have recently given birth but whose children are not with them in prison, those who have miscarried, or those who have recently undergone abortion.

**Arrangements for women with care-giving responsibilities:** Prior to their imprisonment, women with care-giving responsibilities must be allowed to make arrangements for their children, and a reasonable suspension of detention may also be provided for this purpose. Provisions for extended and frequent visits, and admission of children into Childcare institutions have also been proposed.

**Bail:** Bail should be granted to those under-trial women who have spent one-third of their maximum possible sentence in detention, by making necessary changes in Section 436A of the CrPC which provides for release after half of the maximum sentence has been served.

**Special care for pregnant and lactating women:** A separate accommodation for mothers in postnatal stage to maintain hygiene and protect the infant from contagion, for at least a year after childbirth has been proposed.

## 78. B

**Background:** Space junk is an ever-growing problem with more than 7,500 tonnes of redundant hardware now thought to be circling the Earth. Ranging from old rocket bodies and defunct spacecraft through to screws and even flecks of paint – this material poses a collision hazard to operational missions.

The rising population of space debris increases the potential danger to all space vehicles, but especially to the International Space Station (ISS), space shuttles, satellites and other spacecraft.

**Learning:** The first spacecraft to demonstrate active space debris-removal technologies — such as a harpoon, a net and a drag sail — in orbit has been released from the International Space Station to commence its mission.

RemoveDebris is aimed at performing key ADR technology demonstrations (e.g., capture, deorbiting) representative of an operational scenario during a low-cost mission using novel key technologies for ADR. The project is based on and aimed at contributing to global/European ADR roadmaps.

A microsatellite called here RemoveSAT, will release, capture and deorbit two space debris targets, called DebrisSats, in sequence using various rendezvous, capture and deorbiting technologies thus demonstrating in orbit, key ADR technologies for future missions in what promises to be the first ADR technology mission internationally.

## 79. B

**Learning:** At present, India has in its armoury the Agni series — Agni-1 with 700 km range, Agni-2 with 2,000 km range, Agni-3 and Agni-4 with 2,500 km to more than 3,500 km range. Agni-V will be inducted into the nuclear arsenal very soon. It is a strategic asset which will act as a deterrent.

It is a surface-to-surface missile which can carry nuclear warhead weighing 1.5 tonnes to a distance of over 5,000 km and is the longest missile in India's arsenal capable of reaching most parts of China.

The missile features many new indigenously-developed technologies, including the very high accuracy Ring Laser Gyro based Inertial Navigation System (RINS), and the most modern and accurate Micro Navigation System (MINS) which improves the accuracy of the missile.

## 80. A

**Justification: Statement 1:** Roughly spherical in shape, they contain hundreds of thousands, and sometimes millions, of stars. Studying them helps astronomers estimate the age of the universe or figure out where the center of a galaxy lies.

There are about 150 known globular clusters in the Milky Way galaxy, according to Georgia State University's HyperPhysics website. Most are estimated to be at least 10 billion years old, and contain some of the oldest stars in the galaxy. The clusters likely formed very early, before the galaxy flattened into a spiral disc.

**Statement 2:** Some globular clusters, such as Messier 13 (M13) in the constellation Hercules, can be seen with the naked eye.

The density of stars in a globular cluster is much greater than the density of stars around the sun, and the clusters are not found to contain any gas. The abundance of any elements heavier than helium is only 1 percent to 10 percent of the abundance of the same elements in the sun.

Globular clusters formed from giant molecular clouds, or huge masses of gas that form stars as they collapse. Because there is less free gas available now than at the beginning of the universe, globular clusters generally cannot form today.

## 81. D

**Learning:** The Golden Globe Race is being conducted by Sir Robin Knox Johnston of UK to commemorate 50 years since the world's first solo non-stop circumnavigation undertaken by him in 1968 onboard the Indian built boat, Suhaili.

The uniqueness of the race is that boat designs and technology newer than 1968 is not permitted, hence use of Global Positioning System (GPS), satellite communication, navigational aids, etc is forbidden.

Commander Abhilash Tomy of the Indian Navy is the only invitee from Asia.

## 82. D

**Justification: Statement 1:** The Scheme of Banking Ombudsman, which has been functioning for quite some time, does not look into systemic issues with a view to enforcing a prescribed quality of service.

Ideally, such a function should be performed by a Self-Regulatory Organisation (SRO) but in view of the existing framework of the banking sector in India, it was felt that an independent, autonomous Board will be best suited for the function.

Therefore, Dr. Y.V. Reddy, the then Governor, RBI, in his Monetary Policy Statement (April 2005) announced setting up of the Banking Codes and Standards Board of India in order to ensure that a comprehensive code of conduct for fair treatment of customers was evolved and adhered to.

**Statement 2:** The Banking Codes and Standards Board of India (BCSBI) is an independent banking industry watchdog that protects consumers of banking services in India.

The board oversee compliance with the “Code of Bank’s Commitment to Customers”.

It is an independent and autonomous body, registered as a separate society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 on 18 February 2006.

The Reserve Bank of India recently extended financial support to the Board, meeting its expenses for the first five years.

**Learning:** Membership of BCSBI is voluntary and open to scheduled banks. Initially the membership of BCSBI was open to scheduled commercial banks and has now been extended to include Regional Rural Banks and select Urban Co-operative Banks.

**The main objectives of the BCSBI are**

- To plan, evolve, prepare, develop, promote and publish comprehensive Codes and Standards for banks, for providing for fair treatment to their customers.
- To function as an independent and autonomous body to monitor, and to ensure that the Codes and Standards adopted by banks are adhered to, in letter and spirit, while delivering services to their customers.

**83. B**

**Learning:** It is proposed to be established in Chilika lake. It is the largest coastal lagoon in India and the second largest lagoon in the world after The New Caledonian barrier reef in New Caledonia.

It is the largest wintering ground for migratory waterfowl found anywhere on the Indian subcontinent.

It is one of the hotspot of biodiversity in the country, and some rare, vulnerable and endangered species listed in the IUCN Red List of threatened Animals inhabit in the lagoon for atleast part of their life cycle.

On account of its rich bio-diversity and ecological significance, Chilika was designated as the 1<sup>st</sup> “Ramsar Site” of India.

**84. D**

**Background:** Minor Forest Produce (MFP) is a major source of livelihood for tribals living in forest areas. The importance of MFPs for this section of the society can be gauged from the fact that around 100 million forest dwellers depend on MFPs for food, shelter, medicines and cash income.

It provides them critical subsistence during the lean seasons, particularly for primitive tribal groups such as hunter gatherers, and the landless. Tribals derive 20-40% of their annual income from MFP on which they spend major portion of their time.

This activity has strong linkage to women's financial empowerment as most of the MFPs are collected and used/sold by women. MFP sector has the potential to create about 10 million workdays annually in the country.

**Justification:** As per the plan, TRIFED will facilitate establishment of MFP-led multi-purpose Van Dhan Vikas Kendras, a cluster of 10 SHGs comprising of 30 tribal MFP gatherers each, in the tribal areas.

- The initiative aims to promote MFPs-centric livelihood development of tribal gatherers and artisans. It mainstreams the tribal community by promoting primary level value addition to MFP at grassroots level. Through this initiative, the share of tribals in the value chain of Non- Timber Forest Produce is expected to rise from the present 20% to around 60%.
- The scheme will be implemented through Ministry of Tribal Affairs as Nodal Department at the Central Level and TRIFED as Nodal Agency at the National Level.
- At State level, the State Nodal Agency for MFPs and the District collectors are envisaged to play a pivot role in scheme implementation at grassroot level.
- Locally the Kendras are proposed to be managed by a Managing Committee (an SHG) consisting of representatives of Van Dhan SHGs in the cluster.

## 85. C

**Justification:** The Main Objectives of the Company are:

- To plan and execute an integrated programme on development and implementation of renewable energy projects
- To own, manage, investigate, plan, promote, develop, design, construction, operation, maintenance, renovation, modernization of power projects in solar, on-shore/off-shore wind, geo-thermal, tidal, bio-gas, bio-mass, small hydro and other renewable energy sources in India and abroad
- To carry on business of generation, forecasting, purchasing, producing, manufacturing, importing, exporting, exchanging, selling and trading in power products and services in India and abroad
- To plan, develop, maintain, lease, hire, manage solar parks, infrastructure facilities, and all related ancillary facilities & services in India and abroad

- To carry on the business of planning, investigation, survey, research, design and preparation of preliminary feasibility and detailed project reports, related to Power Projects in India and abroad
- To co-ordinate the activities of its subsidiaries and Joint Venture Companies, to determine their economic and financial objectives / targets and to review, control, guide and direct their performance with a view to secure an optimum utilization of all resources placed at their disposal.

## 86. C

### **Answer Justification :**

**Background:** According to a survey, there are about 6.5 crore MSMEs in India which have created over 11 crore job opportunities. Such enterprises have registered over 10 per cent growth in recent times which is much more compared to large enterprises

**Justification:** The Solar Charkha Mission will entail a subsidy of Rs 550 crore in the initial two years for 50 clusters and every cluster will employ 400 to 2000 artisans. The mission will generate employment in rural areas and contribute to the green economy.

The scheme also aims at linking five crore women across the country to the initiative. The mission is expected to create one lakh jobs during the first two years.

The sampark portal, was also launched alongside and connects youth with job opportunities. Both these initiatives are targeted at MSMEs.

## 87. B

### **Answer Justification :**

**Background:** Payments for exports are open to risks even at the best of times. The risks have assumed large proportions today due to the far-reaching political and economic changes that are sweeping the world. An outbreak of war or civil war may block or delay payment for goods exported.

A coup or an insurrection may also bring about the same result. Economic difficulties or balance of payment problems may lead a country to impose restrictions on either import of certain goods or on transfer of payments for goods imported.

In addition, the exporters have to face commercial risks of insolvency or protracted default of buyers. The commercial risks of a foreign buyer going bankrupt or losing his capacity to pay are aggravated due to the political and economic uncertainties.

Export credit insurance is designed to protect exporters from the consequences of the payment risks, both political and commercial, and to enable them to expand their overseas business without fear of loss.

**Justification and Learning:** Wholly owned by Government of India, it was set up in 1957 with the objective of promoting exports from the country by providing Credit Risk Insurance and related services for exports. It functions under the administrative control of Ministry of Commerce & Industry

ECGC is essentially an export promotion organization, seeking to improve the competitiveness of the Indian exporters by providing them with credit insurance covers.

### **How does ECGC help exporters?**

ECGC Offers insurance protection to exporters against payment risks.

- Provides guidance in export-related activities.
- Makes available information on different countries with it's own credit ratings.
- Makes it easy to obtain export finance from banks/financial institutions.
- Assists exporters in recovering bad debts.
- Provides information on credit-worthiness of overseas buyers.

Cabinet has approved the capital infusion of Rs.2000 crore for strengthening of Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC).

## **88. B**

**Justification:** Districts which span 10 States — Bihar, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Telangana, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh — are described as those affected by Left Wing Extremism (LWE) and constitute the 'Red Corridor.'

The Union Cabinet has approved the "Universal Service Obligation Fund [USOF]" supported scheme to provide mobile services at 4072 tower locations identified by MHA in inhabited uncovered areas affected by Left Wing Extremism of 96 districts in 10 States for Phase-II project.

Project will also provide the mobile services to help the residents in unconnected inhabited villages which would improve the economic activities in the region.

It will give impetus to the e-Governance activities in the backward and LWE affected area with the availability of digital mobile connectivity.

**The considerations on which the government has examined the districts with LWE features are:**

- Their violence profile.
- An assessment of the kind of logistical and other support provided to armed Maoist cadres by their sympathisers and over ground workers.
- The kind of positive changes brought about by development work that these districts have seen.

**89. A**

**Answer Justification :**

**Learning:** Behdienkhlam is one of the most colourful festivals of Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya.

It is celebrated to invoke the gods for a bumper harvest and drive away plague.

It is the ritualistic expression of the relentless struggle of mankind to overcome the destructive forces of nature, including diseases, since the dawn of civilization.

During the festival, decorated and colourful raths are immersed in 'Wah Ainar,' a muddy pool.

The non-Christian 'Pnar' people who believe either in the traditional faith of 'Niamtre' or Hinduism observe this festival.

**90. B**

**Answer Justification :**

**Learning:** This dam across the Godavari River is under construction located in West Godavari District and East Godavari District in Andhra Pradesh state and its reservoir spreads in parts of Chhattisgarh and Orissa States also.

The project is multipurpose major terminal reservoir project on river Godavari for development of Irrigation, Hydropower and drinking water facilities to East Godavari, Vishakhapatnam, West Godavari and Krishna districts of Andhra Pradesh.

The project is likely to displace over 1.88 lakh people across 222 villages and so far, 1,730 persons in six villages have been rehabilitated by the government.

## 91. C

### **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** The FATF blacklist was the common shorthand description for the Financial Action Task Force list of "Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories" (NCCTs).

The FATF blacklist or OECD blacklist has been issued by the Financial Action Task Force since 2000 and lists countries which it judges to be non-cooperative in the global fight against money laundering and terrorist financing, calling them "Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories" (NCCTs).

Although non-appearance on the blacklist was perceived to be a mark of approbation for offshore financial centres (or "tax havens") who are sufficiently well regulated to meet all of the FATF's criteria, in practice the list included countries that did not operate as offshore financial centres

Although its main focus is on tax crime, the OECD is also concerned with money laundering and has complemented the work carried out by the FATF.

Recently, in a blow to Pakistan, the Financial Action Task Force has placed it on the 'grey list' for failing to curb anti-terror financing. The decision was taken at the global financial watchdog Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) plenary session held recently in Paris.

## 92. A

### **Answer Justification :**

**Learning:** UNMOGIP, one of the oldest UN mission, was deployed in January 1949 to supervise the ceasefire between India and Pakistan in the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

The tasks of UNMOGIP have been to observe, to the extent possible, developments pertaining to the strict observance of the ceasefire of 17 December 1971 and to report thereon to the Secretary- General.

The group, based in Rawalpindi, is composed of 43 military observers and 23 international civilian personnel.

Since the Simla Agreement of 1972, India has adopted a non-recognition policy towards third parties in their bilateral exchanges with Pakistan over the question regarding the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

The military authorities of Pakistan have continued to lodge alleged ceasefire violations complaints with UNMOGIP.

**93. B**

**Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** The decennial Census of India has been conducted 15 times, As of 2011. While it has been conducted every 10 years, beginning in 1872, the first complete census was taken in the year 1881.

Post 1949, it has been conducted by the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

All the census since 1951 are conducted under 1948 Census of India Act.

According to an amended rule notified by the Registrar-General of India (RGI), the data collected during the 2021 Census will be stored electronically, the first time since the decennial exercise was conducted in 1951 in Independent India.

**94. A**

**Answer Justification :**

**Learning:** APTA, previously named the Bangkok Agreement, was signed in 1975 as an initiative of ESCAP.

The six member countries are Bangladesh, China, India, Laos, Korea and Sri Lanka.

Being the oldest preferential trade agreement among developing countries in Asia-Pacific, APTA aims to promote economic development through the adoption of mutually beneficial trade liberalization measures that will contribute to intra-regional trade expansion and provides for economic integration through coverage of merchandise goods, services, investment and trade facilitation.

**Significance of APTA:**

- Open to all developing member countries, APTA is a truly region-wide trade agreement spanning East and South Asia, with potential to expand to other sub-regions, including Central Asia and the Pacific.
- APTA is the first plurilateral agreement among the developing countries in the region to adopt common operational procedures for certification and verification of the origin of goods and it has the longest effective implementation period amongst the trade agreements in the entire Asia-Pacific.
- Notably, APTA is the only operational trade agreement linking China and India, two of the fastest growing markets in the world, and other major markets such as the Republic of Korea.

## 95. A

### **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** It is an international and intergovernmental institution, owned and managed by its Member States, for the generation and application of early warning information.

RIMES evolved from the efforts of countries in Africa and Asia, in the aftermath of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, to establish a regional early warning system within a multi-hazard framework for the generation and communication of early warning information, and capacity building for preparedness and response to trans-boundary hazards.

RIMES was established on 30 April 2009, and was registered with the United Nations on 1 July 2009.

RIMES operates from its regional early warning center located at the campus of the Asian Institute of Technology in Pathumthani, Thailand.

RIMES caters to differential needs and demands of its Member States by enhancing capacities for end-to-end multi-hazard early warning, in particular:

- Hazard monitoring, detection, analysis, prediction, and forecasting
- Risk assessment
- Potential impact analysis
- Generation of tailored risk information at different time scales
- Risk communication
- Application of tailored risk information in decision-making.

## 96. A

### **Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** The Payments Council of India was formed under the aegis of IAMAI in the year 2013 catering to the needs of the digital payment industry.

The Council was formed inter-alia for the purposes of representing the various regulated nonbanking payment industry players, to address and help resolve various industry level issues and barriers which require discussion and action.

The council works with all its members to promote payments industry growth and to support our national goal of 'Cash to Less Cash Society' and 'Growth of Financial Inclusion' which is also the Vision Shared by the RBI and Government of India.

PCI works closely with the regulators i.e. Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Finance Ministry and any similar government, departments, bodies or Institution to make 'India a less cash society'.

**Learning:** IMMAI was established in 2004 by the leading online publishers, but in the last 10 years has come to effectively address the challenges facing the digital and online industry including mobile content and services, online publishing, mobile advertising, online advertising, ecommerce and mobile & digital payments among others.

It is the only professional industry body representing the online and mobile VAS industry in India.

**97. B**

**Answer Justification :**

**Learning:** The Global Findex database is the world's most comprehensive data set on how adults save, borrow, make payments, and manage risk. Launched with funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the database has been published every three years since 2011.

The data are collected in partnership with Gallup, Inc., through nationally representative surveys of more than 150,000 adults in over 140 economies. The 2017 edition includes updated indicators on access to and use of formal and informal financial services. And it adds new data on the use of financial technology (fintech), including the use of mobile phones and the internet to conduct financial transactions.

Financial inclusion is on the rise globally. The 2017 Global Findex database shows that 1.2 billion adults have obtained an account since 2011, including 515 million since 2014. Between 2014 and 2017, the share of adults who have an account with a financial institution or through a mobile money service rose globally from 62 percent to 69 percent.

In developing economies, the share rose from 54 percent to 63 percent. Yet, women in developing economies remain 9 percentage points less likely than men to have a bank account. This third edition of the database points to advances in digital technology that are key to achieving the World Bank goal of Universal Financial Access by 2020.

**98. C**

**Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** RIMPAC is held biennially during June and July of even-numbered years from Honolulu, Hawaii.

It is hosted and administered by the United States Navy's Pacific Fleet, headquartered at Pearl Harbor. The US invites military forces from the Pacific Rim and beyond to participate.

With RIMPAC the United States Pacific Command seeks to enhance interoperability between Pacific Rim armed forces, ostensibly as a means of promoting stability in the region to the benefit of all participating nations.

Described by the US Navy as a unique training opportunity that helps participants foster and sustain the cooperative relationships that are critical to ensuring the safety of sea lanes and security on the world's oceans.

**99. A**

**Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** NIC is providing web hosting services to the various Indian Government Ministries / Departments / Organisations / Institutions as well as State Government Departments and District Administrations. This is not extended to private organizations.

It hosts over 4000 Websites / Portals of various Central Government Ministries, departments, State Governments, UTs as well as Government Organizations & Institutions

A web hosting service is where a server is shared by multiple web hosting customers. Shared hosting is an inexpensive solution for smaller Web sites, and Web sites that don't require complex custom applications.

NIC Data Centres offers the Service of Virtual Server / Machine to its user and any Government Department / Organization. These Virtual Machine can be used for Website, Database and web application hosting etc.

**100. A**

**Answer Justification :**

**Justification:** It was founded in 2000 and restructured in September 2009, consists of OECD countries and other jurisdictions that agreed to implement tax related transparency and information exchange.

It addresses tax evasion, tax havens, offshore financial centres, tax information exchange agreements, double taxation and money laundering. The forum works under the auspices of the OECD and G20. In 2000 it published a blacklist of 35 tax havens, which by 2009 had shrunk to zero.

It has since focused on increasing the standard for information exchange. As of January 2018, the Forum had 147 member tax jurisdictions and the European Union.

**Statement 2:** The Forum promotes the implementation of two internationally agreed standards on exchange of information for tax purposes. Members must commit to at least implement the Exchange of Information on Request (EOIR) standard, the lowest common denominator for information exchange, which is a weaker standard than Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI) standard. We will cover these standards in detail later.