

## TOPICS:

- Union Legislature - Parliament

## PRELIMS MCQ's:

**Q.1) The speaker of the Lok Sabha derives his powers and duties from which of the following sources?**

1. Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of Lok Sabha
2. Constitution of India
3. Parliamentary Conventions

**Select the correct code:**

- a) 2 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) All the above

### **Q.1) Solution (d)**

The Speaker of the Lok Sabha derives his powers and duties from **three sources**, that is, the Constitution of India, the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of Lok Sabha, and Parliamentary Conventions (residuary powers that are unwritten or unspecified in the Rules)

- The Speaker is the head of the Lok Sabha, and its representative.
- He is the guardian of powers and privileges of the members, the House as a whole and its committees.
- He is the principal spokesman of the House, and his decision in all Parliamentary matters is final. He is thus much more than merely the presiding officer of the Lok Sabha. In these capacities, he is vested with vast, varied and vital responsibilities and enjoys great honour, high dignity and supreme authority within the House.

**Source:** Chapter 22 "Parliament" - Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth

**Q.2) Consider the following statements**

1. All financial bills are money bills
2. Money bill can only be introduced in the Lok Sabha and on the recommendation of President

**Which of the above statement[s] is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.2) Solution (b)**

- Financial bills are those bills that deal with fiscal matters, that is, revenue or expenditure. However, the Constitution uses the term 'financial bill' in a technical sense.  
**Financial bills are of three kinds:**
  1. Money bills—Article 110
  2. Financial bills (I)—Article 117 (1)
  3. Financial bills (II)—Article 117 (3)
- This classification implies that money bills are simply a species of financial bills. Hence, all money bills are financial bills but **all financial bills are not money bills**. Only those financial bills are money bills which contain exclusively those matter, which are mentioned in Article 110 of the Constitution.
- These are also **certified by the Speaker** of Lok Sabha as money bills. The financial bills (I) and (II), on the other hand, have been dealt with in Article 117 of the Constitution. Hence statement 1 is incorrect.

The Constitution lays down a special procedure for the passing of money bills in the Parliament. A **money bill can only be introduced in the Lok Sabha** and that too on the **recommendation of the President**. Every such bill is considered to be a government bill and can be introduced only by a minister. Hence statement 2 is correct.

**Source:** Chapter 22 "Parliament" - Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth

## Q.3) Consider the following statements

1. The joint sitting is governed by the Rules of Procedure of Lok Sabha and not of Rajya Sabha
2. Chairman of Rajya Sabha presides over a joint sitting in the absence of Speaker.
3. Joint sitting is applicable to money bills

### Select the correct code:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All the above

### Q.3) Solution (a)

- The **Speaker of Lok Sabha presides over a joint sitting** of the two Houses and the **Deputy Speaker, in his absence.**
- If the Deputy Speaker is also absent from a joint sitting, the **Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha presides.** If he is also absent, such other person as may be determined by the members present at the joint sitting, presides over the meeting.
- It is clear that the **Chairman of Rajya Sabha does not preside over a joint sitting as he is not a member of either House of Parliament.**
- **Joint sitting is applicable to ordinary bills or financial bills only and not to money bills or Constitutional amendment bills.** In the case of a money bill, the Lok Sabha has overriding powers, while a Constitutional amendment bill must be passed by each House separately.

Hence statements 2 and 3 are incorrect.

- The quorum to constitute a joint sitting is one-tenth of the total number of members of the two Houses. The joint sitting is governed by the **Rules of Procedure of Lok Sabha** and not of Rajya Sabha. If the bill in dispute is passed by a majority of the total number of members of both the Houses present and voting in the joint sitting, the bill is deemed to have been passed by both the Houses. Normally, the Lok Sabha with greater number wins the battle in a joint sitting.
- The Constitution has specified that at a joint sitting, new amendments to the bill cannot be proposed except in two cases:

1. those amendments that have caused final disagreement between the Houses; and  
2. those amendments that might have become necessary due to the delay in the passage of the bill.

- Since 1950, the provision regarding the joint sitting of the two Houses has been invoked only thrice. The bills that have been passed at joint sittings are:

1. Dowry Prohibition Bill, 1960
2. Banking Service Commission (Repeal) Bill, 1977
3. Prevention of Terrorism Bill, 2002.22

**Source:** Chapter 22 “Parliament” - Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth

**Q.4) Who among the following is/are elected by Single transferable vote system (Proportional representation)?**

1. Members of Legislative Assembly
2. Vice- President
3. Members of Rajya Sabha
4. Deputy speaker

**Select the correct code:**

- a) 2 only
- b) 1, 2 and 4
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Q.4) Solution (c)**

- Though the Constitution has adopted the system of **proportional representation** in the case of **Rajya Sabha**, it has not preferred the same system as in the case of Lok Sabha. Instead, it has adopted the system of **territorial representation for the election of members to the Lok Sabha**.
- The system of **proportional representation** aims at removing the defects of territorial representation. Under this system, all sections of the people get **representation in**

**proportion to their number.** Even the smallest section of the population gets its due share of representation in the legislature.

- There are **two kinds** of proportional representation, namely, **single transferable vote system** and **list system**. In India, the first kind is adopted for the election of members to the **Rajya Sabha and state legislative council and for electing the President and the Vice-President.**

*For more information, refer to this informative article-*

<http://www.news18.com/news/politics/a-case-for-proportional-representation-system-in-india-646251.html>

**Think:** *First past the post system*

**Source:** Chapter 22 "Parliament" - Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth

**Q.5) Consider the following statements about Zero Hour**

1. The zero hour is not mentioned in the Rules of Procedure
2. It is an Indian innovation in the field of parliamentary procedures and has been in existence since 1962

**Select the correct code**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.5) Solution (c)**

- Unlike the question hour, the zero hour is not mentioned in the Rules of Procedure. Thus it is an informal device available to the members of the Parliament to raise matters without any prior notice.



- The zero hour starts immediately after the question hour and lasts until the agenda for the day (ie, regular business of the House) is taken up. In other words, the **time gap between the question hour and the agenda is known as zero hour**.
- It is an **Indian innovation** in the field of parliamentary procedures and has been in existence since 1962.

**Source:** Chapter 22 “Parliament” - Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth

**Q.6) Who among the following issues notification for Prorogation of a session of the Parliament?**

- a) Speaker
- b) President
- c) Vice-President
- d) Chairman

**Q.6) Solution (b)**

- The presiding officer (Speaker or Chairman) declares the House adjourned sine die, when the business of a session is completed. Hence options a) and d) are incorrect.
- Within the next few days, the **President issues a notification for prorogation of the session**. However, the President can also prorogue the House while in session.

**Summoning**

The president from time to time summons each House of Parliament to meet. But, the maximum gap between two sessions of Parliament cannot be more than six months. In other words, the Parliament should meet at least twice a year. There are usually three sessions in a year, viz,

1. the Budget Session (February to May);
2. the Monsoon Session (July to September); and
3. the Winter Session (November to December).

A ‘**session**’ of Parliament is the period spanning between the first sitting of a House and its prorogation (or dissolution in the case of the Lok Sabha). During a session, the House meets

everyday to transact business. The period spanning between the prorogation of a House and its reassembly in a new session is called 'recess'.

### **Adjournment :**

1. It only terminates a sitting and not a session of the House.
2. It is done by presiding officer of the House.
3. It does not affect the bills or any other business pending before the House and the same can be resumed when the House meets again.

### **Prorogation :**

1. It not only terminates a sitting but also a session of the House.
2. It is done by the President of India.
3. It also does not affect the bills or any other business pending before the House. However, all pending notices (other than those for introducing bills) lapse on prorogation and fresh notices have to be given for the next session. In Britain, prorogation brings to an end all bills or any other business pending before the House.

**Source:** Chapter 22 "Parliament" - Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth

**Q.7) In India, no discussion on a matter of general public importance can take place except on a motion made with the consent of the presiding officer. With regard to resolutions and motions, consider the following statements**

1. Every resolution is a particular type of motion
2. All motions are not necessarily put to vote, hence all the resolutions are also not voted upon

**Select the correct code:**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

## Q.7) Solution (a)

- All resolutions come in the category of substantive motions, that is to say, **every resolution is a particular type of motion.**
- All motions need not necessarily be substantive.
- Further, **all motions are not necessarily put to vote** of the House, whereas all the resolutions are required to be voted upon.

The House expresses its decisions or opinions on various issues through the adoption or rejection of motions moved by either ministers or private members.

The motions moved by the members to raise discussions on various matters fall into three principal categories

1. **Substantive Motion:** It is a self-contained independent proposal dealing with a very important matter like impeachment of the President or removal of Chief Election Commissioner.

2. **Substitute Motion:** It is a motion that is moved in substitution of an original motion and proposes an alternative to it. If adopted by the House, it supersedes the original motion.

3. **Subsidiary Motion:** It is a motion that, by itself, has no meaning and cannot state the decision of the House without reference to the original motion or proceedings of the House. It is divided into three sub-categories:

(a) Ancillary Motion: It is used as the regular way of proceeding with various kinds of business.

(b) Superseding Motion: It is moved in the course of debate on another issue and seeks to supersede that issue.

(c) Amendment: It seeks to modify or substitute only a part of the original motion.

**Note:** *Important – Do read about ‘Devices of Parliamentary Proceedings & Motion’*

**Source:** Chapter 22 “Parliament” - Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth

**Q.8) The ‘Excess grant’ must be approved by which of the following committee before being submitted for voting?**



- a) Business advisory committee
- b) Estimates committee
- c) Public accounts committee
- d) Committee on Public Undertakings

## Q.8) Solution (c)

- **Excess Grant:** It is granted when money has been spent on any service during a financial year in excess of the amount granted for that service in the budget for that year. It is voted by the Lok Sabha after the financial year.
- Before the demands for excess grants are submitted to the Lok Sabha for voting, they must be approved by the **Public Accounts Committee** of Parliament.

### Public Accounts Committee:

This committee was setup first in 1921 under the provisions of the Government of India Act of 1919 and has since been in existence. At present, it consists of 22 members (15 from the Lok Sabha and 7 from the Rajya Sabha). The members are elected by the Parliament every year from amongst its members according to the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote. Thus, all parties get due representation in it. The term of office of the members is one year. A minister cannot be elected as a member of the committee. The chairman of the committee is appointed by the Speaker from amongst its members. Until 1966–67, the chairman of the committee belonged to the ruling party. However, since 1967 a convention has developed whereby the chairman of the committee is selected invariably from the Opposition.

The function of the committee is to examine the annual audit reports of the comptroller and auditor general of India (CAG), which are laid before the Parliament by the president. The CAG submits three audit reports to the president, namely, audit report on appropriation account, finance accounts and audit report on public undertakings.

The committee examines public expenditure not only from legal and formal point of to discover technical irregularities but also from the point of view of economy, prudence, wisdom and propriety to bring out the cases of waste, loss, corruption, extravagance, inefficiency and nugatory expenses

In more detail, the functions of the Committee are:

1. To examine the appropriation accounts and the finance accounts of the Union govt. and any other accounts laid before the Lok Sabha. The appropriation accounts compare the actual expenditure with the expenditure sanctioned by the Parliament through the appropriation act, while the finance accounts shows the annual receipts and disbursements of the union government.

2. In scrutinising the appropriation accounts and the audit report of CAG on it, the committee has to satisfy itself that:

- (a) the money that has been disbursed was legally available for the purpose;
- (b) the expenditure conforms to the authority that governs it; and
- (c) every reappropriation has been made in accordance with the related rules

3. To examine the accounts of state corporations, trading concerns and manufacturing products and the audit report of CAG on them (except those public undertakings which are allotted to the committee on public undertakings).

4. To examine the accounts of autonomous and semi-autonomous bodies, the audit of which is conducted by the CAG.

5. To consider the report of the CAG relating to an audit of any receipts or to examine the accounts of stores and stocks.

6. To examine money spent on any service during a financial year in excess of the amt granted by the Lok Sabha for that purpose.

In the fulfilment of the above functions, the committee is assisted by the CAG.

**Note:** Do read about 'Vote of Credit' & 'Vote of Account'. Understand the difference between them.

**Source:** Chapter 22 "Parliament" - Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth

**Q.9) Which of the following are credited to Public Account of India?**

- 1. Provident fund deposits
- 2. Loans raised by issuing Treasury bills
- 3. Remittances

## 4. Saving bank deposits

Select the correct code:

- a) 1 and 3 only
- b) 1, 3 and 4 only
- c) 2 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

### Q.9) Solution (b)

- **Public Account of India** All other public money (other than those which are credited to the Consolidated Fund of India) received by or on behalf of the Government of India shall be credited to the Public Account of India.
- This includes provident fund deposits, **judicial deposits, savings bank deposits, departmental deposits, remittances** and so on. Hence option 1,3 and 4 are correct.
- **Consolidated Fund of India:** It is a fund to which all receipts are credited and all payments are debited. In other words, (a) all revenues received by the Government of India; (b) **all loans raised by the Government by the issue of treasury bills, loans or ways and means of advances;** and (c) all money received by the government in repayment of loans forms the Consolidated Fund of India.
- All the legally authorised payments on behalf of the Government of India are made out of this fund. Hence option 2 is incorrect.
- **Contingency Fund of India:** The Constitution authorised the Parliament to establish a 'Contingency Fund of India', into which amounts determined by law are paid from time to time. Accordingly, the Parliament enacted the contingency fund of India Act in 1950. This fund is placed at the disposal of the president, and he can make advances out of it to meet unforeseen expenditure pending its authorisation by the Parliament. The fund is held by the finance secretary on behalf of the president. Like the public account of India, it is also operated by executive action.

**Source:** Chapter 22 "Parliament" - Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth

**Q.10) In Indian federal system, the Rajya Sabha has been given some special powers that are not enjoyed by the Lok Sabha. Consider the following statements with regard to powers of Rajya Sabha**

1. It can authorise the Parliament to make a law on a subject enumerated in the Concurrent List
2. It can authorise the Parliament to create new All-India Services common to both the Centre and States

**Which of the above statement[s] is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2 only
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.10) Solution (b)**

Due to its federal character, the Rajya Sabha has been given two exclusive or special powers that are not enjoyed by the Lok Sabha:

- It can authorise the Parliament to make a law on a subject enumerated in the State List (**Article 249**).
- It can authorise the Parliament to create new All-India Services common to both the Centre and states (**Article 312**).

**Source:** Chapter 22 "Parliament" - Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth

**Q.11) Consider the following**

1. The charged expenditure is non-votable by the Parliament
2. Salaries, allowances and pensions of the judges of the Supreme Court and High Court come under the category of charged expenditure

**Select the correct code:**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

## Q.11) Solution (a)

- The budget consists of two types of expenditure—the expenditure **'charged' upon** the Consolidated Fund of India and the **expenditure 'made'** from the Consolidated Fund of India.
- The **charged expenditure is non-votable** by the Parliament, that is, it can only be discussed by the Parliament, while the other type has to be voted by the Parliament.

The list of the charged expenditure is as follows:

1. Emoluments and allowances of the President and other expenditure relating to his office.
2. Salaries and allowances of the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha and the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha.
3. **Salaries, allowances and pensions of the judges of the Supreme Court.**
4. **Pensions (ONLY) of the judges of high courts.** Hence 2<sup>nd</sup> statement is WRONG!
5. Salary, allowances and pension of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.
6. Salaries, allowances and pension of the chairman and members of the Union Public Service Commission.
7. Administrative expenses of the Supreme Court, the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India and the Union Public Service Commission including the salaries, allowances and pensions of the persons serving in these offices.
8. The debt charges for which the Government of India is liable, including interest, sinking fund charges and redemption charges and other expenditure relating to the raising of loans and the service and redemption of debt.
9. Any sum required to satisfy any judgement, decree or award of any court or arbitral tribunal.
10. Any other expenditure declared by the Parliament to be so charged.

**Source:** Chapter 22 "Parliament" - Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth



**Q.12) Consider the following statements**

1. The Appropriation Bill becomes Appropriation Act only after it is assented to by the President
2. The government cannot withdraw money from the Contingency Fund of India till the enactment of the appropriation bill
3. Amendments cannot be proposed to the Appropriation Bill

**Select the correct code:**

- a) 2 only
- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Q.12) Solution (b)**

- The Constitution states that 'no money shall be withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund of India except under appropriation made by law'.
- Accordingly, an appropriation bill is introduced to provide for the appropriation, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, all money required to meet:
  - (a) The grants voted by the Lok Sabha.
  - (b) The expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund of India.
- **No such amendment can be proposed to the appropriation bill** in either house of the Parliament that will have the effect of varying the amount or altering the destination of any grant voted, or of varying the amount of any expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund of India.
- The Appropriation Bill becomes the Appropriation Act **after it is assented to by the President. This act authorises (or legalises) the payments from the Consolidated Fund of India.** This means that the government cannot withdraw money from the Consolidated Fund of India till the enactment of the appropriation bill.

**Source:** Chapter 22 “Parliament” - Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth

**Q.13) Consider the following statements**

1. Consultative committees consists of members of both the houses of Parliament
2. These committees are constituted under the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs

**Select the correct code**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.13) Solution (c)**

- Consultative committees are attached to various ministries/departments of the central government. **They consist of members of both the Houses of Parliament.** The Minister / Minister of State in charge of the Ministry concerned acts as the chairman of the consultative committee of that ministry.
- These committees provide a forum **for informal discussions between ministers and members on Parliament** on policies and programmes of government and manner of their implementation.
- These committees are **constituted by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.** The guidelines regarding the composition, functions and procedures of these committees are formulated by this Ministry.
- Ministry also makes arrangements for holding their meetings both during the session and the inter session period of Parliament. The membership of these committees is voluntary and is left to the choice of the members and the leaders of their parties. The maximum membership of a committee is 30 and the minimum is 10.
- These committees are normally constituted after the new Lok Sabha is constituted, after General Elections for the Lok Sabha. In other words, these committees shall stand dissolved upon dissolution of every Lok Sabha and shall be reconstituted upon constitution of each Lok Sabha.
- In addition, separate **Informal Consultative Committees** of the members of Parliament are also constituted for all the Railway Zones. Members of Parliament belonging to the area falling under a particular Railway Zone are nominated on the Informal Consultative

Committee of that Railway Zone. Unlike the Consultative Committees attached to various ministries / departments, the meetings of the Informal Consultative Committees are to be arranged during the session periods only.

**Source:** Chapter 22 “Parliament” - Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth

**Q.14) Who among the following are entitled to Parliamentary Privileges?**

1. Attorney General
2. Comptroller and Auditor General
3. Union ministers
4. President
5. Vice-President

**Select the correct code**

- a) 1, 3 and 4
- b) 1, 3, 4 and 5
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 2, 3 and 4 only

**Q.14) Solution (c)**

Parliamentary privileges- **A -105** -defines parliamentary privileges of both Houses of Parliament and of their members and committees. Article 194, which is an exact reproduction of Article 105, deals with the State Legislatures and their members and committees. To enable Parliament to discharge functions properly the Constitution confers on each member of the Houses certain rights and immunities and also certain rights and immunities and powers on each house collectively

- Parliamentary privileges are special rights, immunities and exemptions enjoyed by the two Houses of Parliament, their committees and their members. They are necessary in order to secure the independence and effectiveness of their actions.
- The Constitution has also extended the privileges of the state legislature (or Parliament) **to those persons who are entitled to speak and take part in the proceedings of a**

**House** of the state legislature or any of its committees. These include **advocate-general** of the state and **state ministers (Union Ministers)**

- It must be clarified here that the privileges of the state **legislature do not extend to the governor (President)** who is also an integral part of the state legislature (Parliament). **Vice President and CAG** being not a part of the Parliament **do not enjoy Parliamentary privileges.**
- Article 105(1) guarantees freedom of speech in Parliament subject of course to the rules and Standing Orders regulating the procedure of Parliament. What makes Article 105(1) effective and much more than the right of every citizen to free speech guaranteed by Article 19(1)(a), is the immunity from the process of the courts in respect of anything said in the House.
- Privileges can be classified into two groups:
  1. Privileges that are enjoyed by the members individually
  2. Privileges that belong to each House (Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha) of Parliament collectively.
- The Privileges and immunities enjoyed by the members individually are:
  1. Freedom of speech,
  2. Freedom from arrest and
  3. Exemption from attendance as jurors and witnesses.
- There are also some other privileges which the House (Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha) collectively enjoys. These are:
  1. The right to publish debates and proceedings:
  2. The right to exclude strangers
  3. The right to punish members and outsiders for breach of its privileges:
  4. The right to regulate the internal affairs of the House

**For more info, refer**

<http://www.legalserviceindia.com/articles/parliamentary001.htm>

<http://www.importantindia.com/12240/parliamentary-privileges-and-immunities-in-indian-constitution/>

**Source:** Chapter 22 "Parliament" - Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth

**Q.15) With regard to Parliamentary Forums, consider the following**

1. The Speaker of Lok Sabha is the President of all the Parliamentary Forums
2. Each Forum consists of not more than 31 members, excluding the President and ex-officio Vice-Presidents
3. Members of these forums are elected by the Speaker/Chairman from amongst the members of the Parliament

**Select the correct code**

- a) 2 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 1 only
- d) 1 and 3 only

**Q.15) Solution (a)**

The **objectives** behind the constitution of the Parliamentary forums are:

- (i) To provide a platform to the members to have interactions with the ministers concerned, experts and key officials from the nodal ministries with a view to have a focused and meaningful discussion on critical issues with a result-oriented approach for speeding up the implementation process
- (ii) To sensitise members about the key areas of concern and also about the ground level situation and equip them with the latest information, knowledge, technical know-how and valuable inputs from experts both from the country and abroad for enabling them to raise these issues effectively on the Floor of the House and in the meetings of the Departmentally-Related Standing Committees (DRSCs); and
- (iii) To prepare a data-base through collection of data on critical issues from ministries concerned, reliable NGOs, newspapers, United Nations, Internet, etc. and circulation thereof to the members so that they can meaningfully participate in the discussions of the forums and seek clarifications from experts or officials from the Ministry present in the meetings.



It has been mandated that the Parliamentary Fora will not interfere with or encroach upon the jurisdiction of the Departmentally-Related Standing Committees of the Ministry/Department concerned.

## COMPOSITION OF THE FORUMS

**The Speaker of Lok Sabha is the President of all the Forums except the Parliamentary Forum on Population and Public Health wherein the Chairman of Rajya Sabha is the President and the Speaker is the Co-President.** The Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha, the Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha, the concerned Ministers and the Chairmen of Departmentally-Related Standing Committees are the ex-officio Vice-Presidents of the respective Forums.

**Each Forum consists of not more than 31 members (excluding the President and ex-officio Vice-Presidents) out of whom not more than 21 are from the Lok Sabha and not more than 10 are from the Rajya Sabha.**

**Members** (other than the President and Vice-Presidents) of these forums are **nominated by the Speaker/Chairman** from amongst the leaders of various political parties/groups or their nominees, who have special knowledge/keen interest in the subject.

The **duration of the office** of members of the forum is **co-terminus with their membership in the respective Houses**. A member may also resign from the forum by writing to the Speaker/Chairman.

The President of the forum appoints a member-convener for each forum to conduct regular, approved programmes/meetings of the forum in consultation with the President. The meetings of the forums are held from time to time, as may be necessary, during Parliament sessions.

**Source:** Chapter 24 "Parliamentary forums" - Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth

### Q.16) Consider the following statements about Swayam Shikshan Prayog

1. It is an organization that studies and practices more natural and sustainable approaches to learning and development, most of which differ radically from typical approaches to "education" or "fixing poverty."
2. It bagged the UN climate award 2016 for clean energy project

### Select the correct statements

- a) Only 1

- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

## Q.16) Solution (b)

An Indian NGO, Swayam Shikshan Prayog, has bagged the UN climate award this year. The NGO, which trains women to become clean energy entrepreneurs across Maharashtra and Bihar

SSP promotes sustainable community development through empowerment of women as entrepreneurs, community leaders and change-makers.

To enable women as leaders and entrepreneurs, through social enterprises and initiatives that offer a range of skill-building, livelihoods, agricultural and health-enhancing opportunities to rural women, youth and communities.

It equips rural women through self-learning avenues and foster them as entrepreneurs, leaders and change makers in their communities. It enable grassroots women to set up social ventures that serve their communities, and provide access to finance, skills and markets to grow their enterprises.

SSP began its work as a consultant to the government in 1993, to drive rehabilitation efforts across 1,300 villages in the earthquake-struck region of Latur, Maharashtra. It was legally registered in 1998, and built on its women-led approach to drive resilience and development across various disaster-prone regions for a decade. It developed a movement of over 1 lakh women in self-help groups (SHGs), to increase access to finance and livelihoods.

In 2006, SSP co-created a grassroots business model with BP Energy, to develop rural women entrepreneurs to sell clean cookstoves. It provided them access to finance, skills training and rural distribution platforms by setting up various for-profit enterprises (SURE, SSEN, and SSK). It went on to train community women leaders and entrepreneurs in the areas of preventive health and sustainable agriculture.

UNFCCC, the nodal UN climate body, has applauded this project for building a rural distribution network of 1,100 women entrepreneurs facilitating access to clean energy, water and sanitation products and services in several communities.

**Source:** <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/Indian-NGO-bags-UN-climate-award-for-clean-energy-project/article15422329.ece>

**Q.17) Consider the following statements about Modified Assured Career Progression Scheme**

1. It was originally introduced in 2008 following the recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission
2. It would ensure one minimum promotion for every 10 years till 30 years of service for Central employees

**Select the correct statements**

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.17) Solution (c)**

The Union government has accepted the recommendation of the 7th Pay Commission on Modified Assured Career Progression (MACP) for Central employees which would ensure one minimum promotion for every 10 years till 30 years of service.

There shall be three financial upgradations under the assured promotion scheme counted from the direct entry grade on completion of 10, 20 and 30 years services respectively or 10 years of continuous service in the same level in Pay Matrix, whichever is earlier.

The scheme envisages mere placement in the immediate next higher level in the Pay Matrix. Thus in certain cases where regular promotion is not between two successive levels in the Pay Matrix, it will be different than what is available at the time of regular promotion. In such cases, the higher level in the Pay Matrix attached to the next promotion post in the hierarchy of the concerned cadre/organisation will be given only at the time of regular promotion.

The Modified Assured Career Progression Scheme was originally introduced in 2008 following the recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission.

**Source:** <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/Centre-accepts-pay-panel-recommendation-on-promotion/article15424033.ece>

**Q.18) The 2016 International Buddhist Conclave was held in**

- a) Tawang
- b) Dharmashala
- c) Nalanda
- d) Sarnath

**Q.18) Solution (d)**

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=151409>

**Q.19) International Court of Justice rejected nuclear disarmament cases filed by Marshall Islands against Britain, India and Pakistan, saying it did not have jurisdiction. Marshall Islands is located in which of the following oceans?**

- a) Pacific Ocean
- b) Atlantic Ocean
- c) Indian Ocean
- d) Arctic Ocean

**Q.19) Solution (a)**

It is an island country located near the equator in the Pacific Ocean, slightly west of the International Date Line.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/UN-court-rejects-disarmament-case-against-India/article15471059.ece>

**Q.20) The world's largest marine protected area (MPA) has been established in**

- a) Ross Sea
- b) Weddell Sea
- c) Beaufort Sea
- d) Greenland Sea

**Q.20) Solution (a)**

The Ross Sea lies 3500 km south of New Zealand next to the Antarctic continent. It is one of two areas around Antarctica with a wide continental shelf (the other being the Weddell Sea on the opposite side of Antarctica).

1.55 million sq.km area of the Ross Sea will have special protection from human activities such as commercial fishing.

Source: [www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/Countries-agree-to-world's-largest-marine-reserve-in-Antarctica/article16084438.ece](http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/Countries-agree-to-world's-largest-marine-reserve-in-Antarctica/article16084438.ece)

**Q.21) Laffer curve is related to**

- a) Inflation
- b) Balance of Payment
- c) Taxation
- d) Employment

**Q.21) Solution (c)**

**Optimal tax rate**

A supposed relationship between economic activity and the rate of taxation which suggests that there is an optimum tax rate which maximizes tax revenue

It illustrates the concept of taxable income elasticity i.e., taxable income will change in response to changes in the rate of taxation. The Laffer curve is typically represented as a graph which starts at 0% tax with zero revenue, rises to a maximum rate of revenue at an intermediate rate of taxation, and then falls again to zero revenue at a 100% tax rate.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/Ways-out-of-the-GST-maze/article16083450.ece>

**Q.22) The scheme 'Urja Ganga' is concerned with**

- a) Gas Pipeline Project
- b) River Ganga Rejuvenation



- c) Hydro Electric Projects in Ganga Basin
- d) Mekong Ganga Cooperation

**Q.22) Solution (a)**

The gas pipeline project aims to provide piped cooking gas to residents of Varanasi within two years and, in another year after that, cater to millions of people in states like Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Odisha. From Varanasi's perspective, an 800-km long MDPI pipeline will be laid and 50,000 households and 20,000 vehicles will get PNG and CNG gas respectively. The government estimates that around 5 lakh gas cylinders will be sent at rural areas annually.

According to GAIL, with the Urja Ganga project, 20 lakh households will get PNG connections. The project is said to be a major step towards collective growth and development of the Eastern region of India. GAIL has built a network of trunk pipelines covering the length of around 11,000 km. With Urja Ganga project, this number will further increase by 2540 km. Work on the 2540-km long Jagdishpur-Haldia and Bokaro-Dhamra Natural Gas pipeline project will begin and will be completed between 2018 and 2020.

Source: <http://www.financialexpress.com/economy/urja-ganga-gas-pipeline-project-varanasi-eastern-india-details-highlights/428055/>

**Q.23) The Foreign exchange reserves of India consists of**

1. Foreign Currency Assets
2. Gold
3. SDRs
4. Loans from World Bank & foreign countries

**Select the correct code:**

- a) 1, 2 and 4
- b) 1, 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 2
- d) All of the above

**Q.23) Solution (b)**

The Foreign exchange reserves of India are mainly composed of US dollar in the forms of US government bonds and institutional bonds.

The Foreign exchange reserves of India consists of below four categories.

- a) Foreign Currency Assets
- b) Gold
- c) SDRs
- d) Reserve Tranche Position in the IMF

Source: <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/indias-forex-reserves-rise-1-billion-to-367-14-billion/articleshow/55119175.cms>

