

**DAY 1**  
**SUBJECT –POLITY**

**TOPICS:**

- **Constitution – Historical Background, Making of the Constitution, Philosophy of the Constitution**
- **Union and its Territory**
- **Citizenship**

**PRELIMS MCQ's:**

**Q.1) Which of the following pair[s] is/are correctly matched?**

<b>Provision</b>	<b>Source</b>
1. Institution of Speaker and her role	- USA
2. The idea of residual powers	- Canada
3. Law making procedure	- United Kingdom

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.1) Solution (c)**

Institution of speaker and her role is taken from UK (**British Constitution**) . The other 2 statements are right.

- **Government of India Act 1935:** Federal Scheme (also from constitution of Canada), Office of Governor, Judiciary, Public Service Commission, Emergency Provisions, Administrative Details,
- **British Constitution:** Parliamentary form of government, The idea of single citizenship, The idea of the Rule of law, Institution of Speaker and his role, Lawmaking procedure, Procedure established by Law.

- **United States Constitution:** Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Federal structure of government, Electoral College, Independence of the judiciary and separation of powers among the three branches of the government, Judicial review, President as supreme commander of armed forces, Equal Protection under law.
- **Irish Constitution:** Directive principles of state policy {Ireland itself borrowed it from Spain}.
- **Australian Constitution:** Freedom of trade and commerce within the country and between the states, Power of the national legislature to make laws for implementing treaties, even on matters outside normal Federal jurisdiction, Concurrent List.
- **French Constitution:** Ideals of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.
- **Canadian Constitution:** A quasi-federal form of government — a federal system with a strong central government, Distribution of powers between the central government and state governments, Residual powers retained by the central government.
- **Constitution of the Soviet Union:** Fundamental Duties.
- **Weimar Constitution (Germany):** . Emergency Provision Under article 356.
- **South Africa:** Amendment of Constitution
- **Japan:** Due Procedure of Law

**Source:** Chapter 2 “Making of the Indian Constitution” - Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth

**Q.2) Which of the following is/are the features of Parliamentary form of the government?**

1. Bicameralism
2. Leadership of the Chief Minister
3. Collective responsibility of the executive to the Parliament
4. Membership of the ministers in the legislature

**Choose the correct option**

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

**Q.2) Solution (c)**

Bicameralism is **not** essentially a feature of parliamentary democracy.

The parliamentary system is also known as the 'Westminster' model of government, responsible government and cabinet government. The Constitution establishes the parliamentary system not only at the Centre but also in the states. The features of parliamentary government in India are:

- (a) Presence of nominal and real executives
- (b) Majority party rule
- (c) **Collective responsibility of the executive to the legislature** (foundation principle of Parliamentary govt)
- (d) **Membership of the ministers in the legislature**
- (e) **Leadership of the prime minister or the chief minister**
- (f) Dissolution of the lower House (Lok Sabha or Assembly)

Even though the Indian Parliamentary System is largely based on the British pattern, there are some fundamental differences between the two. For example, the Indian Parliament is not a sovereign body like the British Parliament. Further, the Indian State has an elected head (republic) while the British State has hereditary head (monarchy).

In a parliamentary system whether in India or Britain, the role of the Prime Minister has become so significant and crucial that the political scientists like to call it a 'Prime Ministerial Government'.

**Source:** Chapter 3 "Salient Features of Indian Constitution" - Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth

**Q.3) After the great revolt of 1857, the British Government felt the necessity of seeking the cooperation of the Indians in the administration of their country. In pursuance of this policy of association, many Acts were enacted.**

**Which Act, introduced, for the first time, bicameralism and direct elections in the country?**

- a) Morley-Minto Reforms
- b) Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms
- c) Government of India Act, 1935
- d) Government of India Act, 1892

**Q.3) Solution (b)**

On August 20, 1917, the British Government declared, for the first time, that its objective was the gradual introduction of responsible government in India

The **Government of India Act of 1919** was thus enacted, which came into force in 1921. This Act is also known as **Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms** (Montagu was the Secretary of State for India and Lord Chelmsford was the Viceroy of India).

1. It relaxed the central control over the provinces by demarcating and separating the central and provincial subjects. However, the structure of government continued to be centralised and unitary.
2. It further divided the provincial subjects into two parts—transferred and reserved. The transferred subjects were to be administered by the governor with the aid of ministers responsible to the legislative Council. The reserved subjects, on the other hand, were to be administered by the governor and his executive council without being responsible to the legislative Council. This dual scheme of governance was known as 'dyarchy'
3. It introduced, for the **first time, bicameralism and direct elections** in the country. Thus, the Indian Legislative Council was replaced by a bicameral legislature consisting of an Upper House (Council of State) and a Lower House (Legislative Assembly). The majority of members of both the Houses were chosen by direct election.
4. It required that the three of the six members of the Viceroy's executive Council (other than the commander-in-chief) were to be Indian.
5. It **extended** the principle of communal representation by providing separate electorates for Sikhs, Indian Christians, Anglo-Indians and Europeans.
6. It **granted franchise** to a limited number of people on the basis of property, tax or education.
7. It created a new office of the High Commissioner for India in London and transferred to him some of the functions hitherto performed by the Secretary of State for India.
8. It provided for the **establishment of a public service commission**. Hence, a Central Public Service Commission was set up in 1926 for recruiting civil servants.
9. It separated, for the **first time, provincial budgets from the Central budget** and authorised the provincial legislatures to enact their budgets.
10. It provided for the appointment of a **statutory commission** to inquire into and report on its working after ten years of its coming into force.

**Think:** Do read Government of India Act, 1935 and Government of India Act, 1909 – Important from Exam perspective

**Source:** Chapter 1 "Historical Background", Indian Polity by Laxmikanth

**Q.4) With regard to the Preamble of the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements**

1. In the event of a conflict between the Preamble and a specific provision of the Constitution the former will prevail.
2. The Preamble is a part of the Constitution.
3. It was held by the Supreme Court as not a part of the Constitution in Berubari Union Case.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

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

**Q.4) Solution (b)**

The Preamble embodies the basic philosophy and fundamental values—political, moral and religious on which the Constitution is based.

**The Preamble cannot override the specific provisions of the Constitution.** In case of any conflict between the two, the latter shall prevail.

**PREAMBLE AS PART OF THE CONSTITUTION**

- One of the controversies about the Preamble is as to whether it is a part of the Constitution or not. In the **Berubari Union case (1960)**, the Supreme Court said that the Preamble shows the general purposes behind the several provisions in the Constitution, and is thus a key to the minds of the makers of the Constitution. Further, where the terms used in any article are ambiguous or capable of more than one meaning, some assistance at interpretation may be taken from the objectives enshrined in the Preamble. Despite this recognition of the significance of the Preamble, the Supreme Court specifically opined that Preamble is not a part of the Constitution.
- In the **Kesavananda Bharati case (1973)**, the Supreme Court rejected the earlier opinion and held that **Preamble is a part of the Constitution**. It observed that the Preamble is of extreme importance and the Constitution should be read and interpreted in the light of the grand and noble vision expressed in the Preamble. In

the LIC of India case (1995) also, the Supreme Court again held that the **Preamble is an integral part of the Constitution.**

**Source:** Chapter 4 “Preamble of the Constitution”, Indian Polity by Laxmikanth

**Q.5) In India, who is constitutionally empowered to act as the final interpreter of the Constitution?**

- a) President
- b) Union Council of Ministers
- c) Parliament
- d) Supreme Court

**Q.5) Solution (d)**

Under Article 13, Judiciary has power to void any provisions of laws, actions of the executive

**Source:** Chapter 3 “Salient Features of Indian Constitution” - Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth

**Q.6) Federalism is a key feature of the Indian constitution. Which of the following statements concerning this is INCORRECT?**

- a) Both Central and state governments have been established by the constitution.
- b) Both governments derive their power from the constitution.
- c) Since the State governments are autonomous political units, the Central government cannot enforce any order on them.
- d) Indian citizens are governed by laws and rules made by both Central and state governments at the same time.

**Q.6) Solution (c)**

In India, though the State governments are autonomous political units, the Central government can enforce an order on them. For instance, in times of emergency.

**Source:** Chapter 3 “Salient Features of Indian Constitution” - Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth

**Q.7) Which of the following is not a pillar of the Parliamentary democracy in India?**

- a) Universal adult suffrage
- b) Political representatives are accountable to the people
- c) All eligible citizens are allowed to contest elections without discrimination.
- d) Separation of powers

**Q.7) Solution (d)**

Separation of Powers deals with ensuring equitable distribution of power between agencies of state namely Executive, Judiciary and Legislature and can be integral to any kind of Polity and not specifically to Parliamentary democracy

**Source:** Chapter 2 “Making of Constitution of India”, Indian Polity by Laxmikanth

**Q.8) Consider the following with regard to Constituent Assembly of India**

1. It was constituted under the scheme formulated by the Cabinet Mission Plan
2. The Assembly included all important personalities of India at that time, with the exception of M A Jinnah
3. Its members were directly elected by the people of India

**Choose the correct code**

- a) 1 Only
- b) 1 and 2 Only
- c) 3 Only
- d) None of the above

**Q.8) Solution (a)**

The Constituent Assembly was constituted in November 1946 under the scheme formulated by the Cabinet Mission Plan.

The Constituent Assembly was to be a partly elected and partly nominated body. Moreover, the members were to be indirectly elected by the members of the provincial assemblies, who themselves were elected on a limited franchise.

The elections to the Constituent Assembly (for 296 seats allotted to the British Indian Provinces) were held in July–August 1946. The Indian National Congress won 208 seats, the Muslim League 73 seats, and the small groups and independents got the remaining 15 seats.

However, the 93 seats allotted to the princely states were not filled as they decided to stay away from the Constituent Assembly.

Although the Constituent Assembly was not directly elected by the people of India on the basis of adult franchise, the Assembly comprised representatives of all sections of Indian Society—Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Parsis, Anglo-Indians, Indian Christians, SCs, STs including women of all these sections. The Assembly included all important personalities of India at that time, with the exception of Mahatma Gandhi and M A Jinnah.

**Source:** Chapter 2 “Making of Constitution of India”, Indian Polity by Laxmikanth

**Q.9) Consider the following statements**

1. In India, both a citizen by birth as well as a naturalised citizen are eligible for the office of President
2. Parliament has the power to make any provision with respect to the acquisition and termination of citizenship and all other matters relating to citizenship

**Select the correct code**

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

**Q.9) Solution (c)**

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. Parliament shall have the power to make any provision with respect to the acquisition and termination of citizenship and all other matters relating to citizenship (Article 11).

**Source:** Chapter 6 “Citizenship”, Indian Polity by Laxmikanth

**Q.10) The federation as prescribed by Government of India Act, 1935 never came into being because**

- a) The Muslim League did not support federalism; rather they wanted a strong Centre to safeguard their interest.
- b) It was optional for the Indian States to join the federation

- c) The administration of State subjects like agriculture, law and order was under Governor-General.
- d) None of the above

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

The federation as prescribed by Government of India Act, 1935 never came into being because it was optional for the Indian States (or the Princely States) to join the federation. And since the rulers of the Indian States never gave their consent, the Federation as envisaged by the Act of 1935 never came into being.

**Source:** Chapter 1 ' Historical Background', D.D. Basu

**Q.11) Suppose the Parliament of India wants to form a new State X', then which of the following Article should be invoked?**

- a) Article 1
- b) Article 2
- c) Article 3
- d) Article 4

**Q.11) Solution (b)**

Article 2 empowers the Parliament to 'admit into the Union of India, or establish, new states on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit'. Thus, **Article 2** grants two powers to the Parliament: **(a) the power to admit into the Union of India new states; and (b) the power to establish new states.** The first refers to the admission of states which are already in existence while the second refers to the establishment of states which were not in existence before.

Notably, Article 2 relates to the admission or establishment of new states that are not part of the Union of India.

**Article 3**, on the other hand, relates to the **formation of or changes in the existing states** of the Union of India. In other words, Article 3 deals with the internal re-adjustment inter se of the territories of the constituent states of the Union of India.

**Source:** Chapter 5 "Union and its Territory", Indian Polity by Laxmikanth

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

**Assertion (A) :** The Parliament can redraw the political map of India according to its will

**Reason (R) :** The territorial integrity of any state is not guaranteed by the Constitution

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

- a) Both A and R are True and R is the correct explanation of A
- b) Both A and R are True but R is not the correct explanation of A
- c) A is True and R is False
- d) A is False and R is True

**Q.12) Solution (a)**

It is thus clear that the Constitution authorises the Parliament to form new states or alter the areas, boundaries or names of the existing states without their consent. In other words, the Parliament can redraw the political map of India according to its will. Hence, the territorial integrity or continued existence of any state is not guaranteed by the Constitution. Therefore, India is rightly described as '**an indestructible union of destructible states**'. The Union government can destroy the states whereas the state governments cannot destroy the Union. In USA, on the other hand, the territorial integrity or continued existence of a state is guaranteed by the Constitution. The American Federal government cannot form new states or alter the borders of existing states without the consent of the states concerned. That is why the USA is described as 'an indestructible union of indestructible states.'

**Source:** Chapter 5 "Union and its Territory", Indian Polity by Laxmikanth

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

1. The Preamble is a source of power to the legislature
2. The Preamble was enacted by the Constituent Assembly after the rest of the Constitution was already enacted.

**Select the correct code**

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

**Q.13) Solution (b)**

- 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.
- Like any other part of the Constitution, the Preamble was also enacted by the Constituent Assembly, but, after the rest of the Constitution was already enacted. The reason for inserting the Preamble at the end was to ensure that it was in conformity with the Constitution as adopted by the Constituent Assembly.

**Source:** Chapter 4 “Preamble of the Constitution”, Indian Polity by Laxmikanth

**Q.14) Which of the following provisions of the Constitution reveal the Secular character of the Indian State?**

1. Article 30
2. Article 14
3. Article 29
4. Article 44

**Select the correct code**

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

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

The following provisions of the Constitution reveal the secular character of the Indian State:

- (a) The term ‘secular’ was added to the Preamble of the Indian Constitution by the 42<sup>nd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act of 1976.
- (b) The Preamble secures to all citizens of India liberty of belief, faith and worship.
- (c) The State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or equal protection of the laws (Article 14)
- (d) The State shall not discriminate against any citizen on the ground of religion (Article 15).
- (e) Equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters of public employment (Article 16).

(f) All persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right to freely profess, practice and propagate any religion (Article 25).

(g) Every religious denomination or any of its section shall have the right to manage its religious affairs (Article 26).

(h) No person shall be compelled to pay any taxes for the promotion of a particular religion (Article 27)

(i) No religious instruction shall be provided in any educational institution maintained by the State (Article 28).

(j) Any section of the citizens shall have the right to conserve its distinct language, script or culture (Article 29).

(k) All minorities shall have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice (Article 30).

(l) The State shall endeavour to secure for all the citizens a Uniform Civil Code (Article 44).

The Western concept of secularism connotes a complete separation between the religion (the church) and the state (the politics). This negative concept of secularism is inapplicable in the Indian situation where the society is multireligious. Hence, the Indian Constitution embodies the positive concept of secularism, i.e., giving equal respect to all religions or protecting all religions equally.

Moreover, the Constitution has also abolished the old system of communal representation, that is, reservation of seats in the legislatures on the basis of religion. However, it provides for the temporary reservation of seats for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes to ensure adequate representation to them.

**Source:** Chapter 3 “Salient Features of Indian Constitution” - Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth

**Q.15) Allocation of seats in the Rajya Sabha to the States and the Union territories is mentioned in**

- a) 3<sup>rd</sup> Schedule
- b) 4<sup>th</sup> Schedule
- c) 2<sup>nd</sup> Schedule
- d) 8<sup>th</sup> Schedule

**Q.15) Solution (b)**

2<sup>nd</sup> Schedule- Provisions relating to the emoluments, allowances, privileges of President, Speaker, Judges etc.

3<sup>rd</sup> Schedule- Forms of Oaths or Affirmations

4<sup>th</sup> Schedule- Allocation of seats in the Rajya Sabha to the States and the Union territories

8<sup>th</sup> Schedule- Languages recognized by the Constitution

**Source:** Chapter 3 “Salient Features of Indian Constitution” - Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth

**Q.16) Consider the following statements about ‘Juang tribe’**

1. They belong to the Khasic ethnic group
2. Juang tribe is identified as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.16) Solution (b)**

**Explanation**

Juang tribe belongs to the Munda ethnic group and the people of this tribe are found in Keonjhar, Keonjhar, Dhenkanal Angul and Jaipur districts of Odisha. Their current estimated population is 10,000. They live atop Nagda hills and their main occupation is basket weaving. They speak the Juang language, which is accepted as a branch of the greater Austroasiatic language family.

Odisha has 62 tribes, the highest number among all States and Union Territories in the country, accounting for 22.85 per cent of the total population as per 2011 census. As many as 13 of these tribes have been identified as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), living in over 500 habitations of the State but mostly in hamlets inside the forested hills across Odisha.

It was to bring the Juangs into the mainstream that the Juang Development Agency (JDA) was established in 1975, with its headquarters in Gonasika Hills in Keonjhar district. Even after four decades have elapsed, the agency has not been able to go beyond the Juangs of Keonjhar, operating in 35 villages in six gram panchayats of Banspal block of Keonjhar.

**In News**

- Death of 19 Juang children in 3 months atop the Nagada hills in Odisha's Jajpur district has woken up the government to the problem of malnutrition in the tribe.
- The tribe has been deprived of basic facilities such as drinking water, primary health care, electricity, and primary education due to lack of road connectivity.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/The-lost-tribe-of-Odisha/article14553424.ece>

**Q.17) The Quantum Experiments at Space Scale/QUESS, the world's first quantum satellite, which will help it establish 'hack-proof' communications between space and the ground was recently launched by**

- a) National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- b) European Space Agency (ESA)
- c) Russian Federal Space Agency (RFSA or Roscosmos)
- d) None of the above

**Q.17) Solution (d)**

China has launched the world's first satellite dedicated to testing the fundamentals of quantum communication in space.

QUESS is designed to establish 'hack-proof' quantum communications by transmitting uncrackable keys from space to the ground.

Quantum communication boasts ultra-high security as a quantum photon can neither be separated nor duplicated. It is hence impossible to wiretap, intercept or crack the information transmitted through it.

It is nicknamed 'Micius', after a 5th century BC Chinese philosopher and scientist who has been credited as the first one in human history conducting optical experiments.

Source: <http://indianexpress.com/article/technology/science/china-launches-first-quantum-communication-satellite-2978052/>

**Q.18) Which of the following states is the first State in the country to draft its own internal security act?**

- a) Gujarat
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Andhra Pradesh
- d) Chhattisgarh

**Q.18) Solution (b)****Maharashtra Protection of Internal Security Act (MPISA)**

Proposed setting up of Special Security Zones (SSZ) where movement of arms, explosives and inflow of unaccounted funds will be prohibited

Defined Critical Infrastructure Sectors (CIS), and bringing nuclear reactors, dams, major projects, coastal areas under its ambit, with an emphasis on maintaining law and order and combating terrorism, insurgency, caste-related violence and communalism.

The act has also clearly defined the SSZs as having a separate police infrastructure. The zones will also have a command and control system, and separate Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) to be followed by the SSZ police.

Maharashtra is the first State in the country to draft its own internal security act.

The act has defined internal security as a situation 'posing threat to state within its borders, either caused or provoked, prompted, or proxied by a hostile foreign power, perpetrated even by such groups that use a failed, failing or weak hostile foreign power, causing insurgency, terrorism or any other subversive act targeting innocent citizens, causing animosity between groups, violence, destroy, or attempt to destroy public and private establishments.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/Maharashtra-to-have-own-law-for-internal-security/article14580519.ece>

**Q.19) Consider the following statements**

1. It is dedicated towards Lord Shiva
2. It is also a part of UNESCO World Heritage Site as "Great Living Chola Temples"
3. It is popularly known as 'Big Temple'

**Select the correct code:**

- a) Khajuraho Temple
- b) Angkor Wat Temple

- c) The Konark Sun Temple
- d) Brihadeeswarar Temple

**Q.19) Solution (d)**

Peruvudaiyar Kovil, which is also famous as Brihadeeswarar Temple, Rajarajeswaram and RajaRajeshwara Temple, is located at Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu state of India.

It is one Hindu temple, **which they dedicate towards Lord Shiva**. It is one luminous example of major heights, **which Cholas achieves within Tamil architecture**.

This temple remains as India's largest and Indian architecture's one of greatest glories. It is **also a part of UNESCO World Heritage Site as "Great Living Chola Temples"**.

This great temple is India's one of most prized site for its architecture. It stands in middle of fortified walls added probably in **sixteenth century**.

- There is one temple tower, which people call as Vimana. It is 216 feet or 66 meters high. It is also one among tallest tower in whole world in its kind. Kumbam, Chikharam or Kalasha, which is bulbous, or apex structure on top of temple, people believe that it is made out of a single stone carving.
- There is one statue of a sacred bull or Nandi at entrance of this temple measuring about thirteen feet high and sixteen feet long. It is result of a single rock carving. Entire structure of temple is made of granite, whose nearest source are near Tiruchchirapalli, which is nearly 60 kms to Thanjavur's west, where temple is.

**Built by Raja Raja Chola I in 1010 AD in Thanjavur**, Brihadeeswarar Temple is also popular by name of 'Big Temple' and it turns 1000 years in 2010.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/features/friday-review/dance/a-visit-to-thanjavur-quartets-house/article9031793.ece>

**Q.20) Consider the following statements about 'Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism' (CCIT)**

1. It is proposed by India in 1996 and is now adopted by the UNGA
2. It addresses the issue of Pakistan's alleged support for cross-border terrorism in South Asia

**Which of the following statements is/are correct?**

- a) Only 1

- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

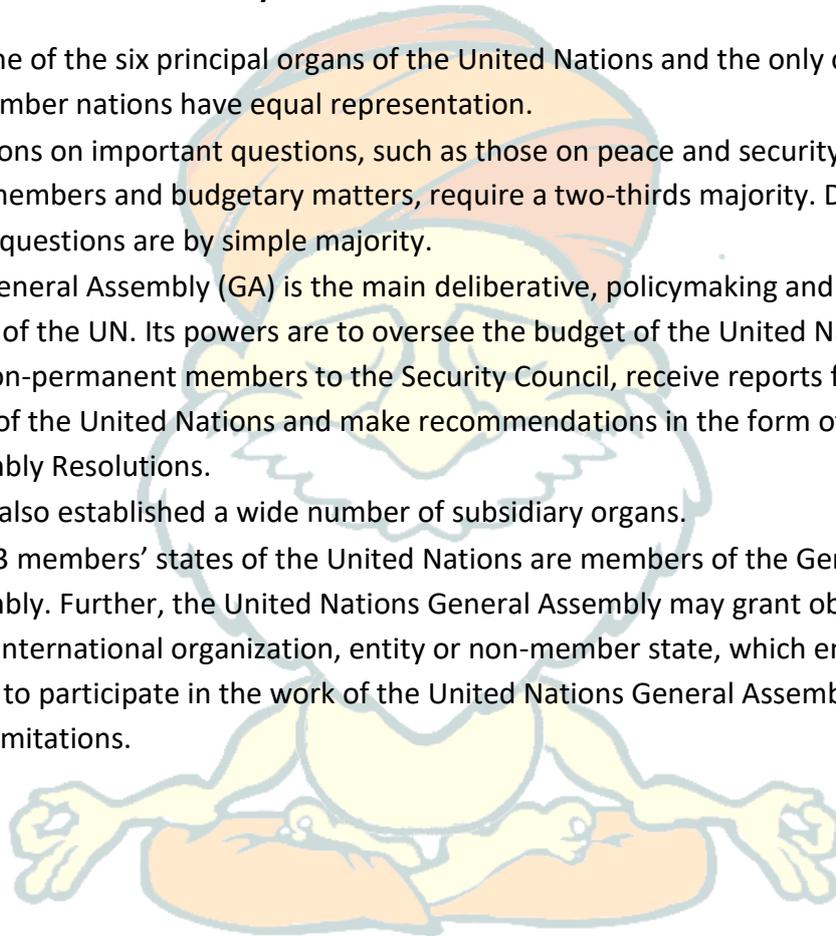
**Q.20) Solution (b)**

It is a draft proposed by India in 1996 that is yet to be adopted by the UNGA

It addresses the issue of Pakistan's alleged support for cross-border terrorism in South Asia

**United Nations General Assembly**

- It is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations and the only one in which all member nations have equal representation.
- Decisions on important questions, such as those on peace and security, admission of new members and budgetary matters, require a two-thirds majority. Decisions on other questions are by simple majority.
- The General Assembly (GA) is the main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the UN. Its powers are to oversee the budget of the United Nations, appoint the non-permanent members to the Security Council, receive reports from other parts of the United Nations and make recommendations in the form of General Assembly Resolutions.
- It has also established a wide number of subsidiary organs.
- All 193 members' states of the United Nations are members of the General Assembly. Further, the United Nations General Assembly may grant observer status to an international organization, entity or non-member state, which entitles the entity to participate in the work of the United Nations General Assembly, though with limitations.



HITTING HURDLES



Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism is a draft proposed by India in 1996, that has yet to be adopted by the UN General assembly



**What does it call for?**

- ➔ **Universal definition of terrorism:** No good terrorist or bad terrorist
- ➔ Ban on all groups regardless of country of operation, cut off access to fund and safe havens
- ➔ Prosecution of all groups, including cross-border groups
- ➔ Amending domestic laws to make cross-border terror an extraditable offence

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**Why has CCIT been blocked?**

- ➔ **US+allies:** Concerns over definitions of terrorism, including acts by US soldiers in international interventions without UN mandate
- ➔ **Latin American countries:** Concerns over international humanitarian laws and HR being ignored
- ➔ **OIC:** Concerns that convention will be used to target Pakistan, and restrict rights of self-determination groups in Palestine, Kashmir etc



**Terror striking every day now -Turkey, Somalia, Afghanistan, Kenya & Bangladesh. Mere condemnation & commiseration @un won't do. Need CCIT**

– Syed Akbaruddin, India's ambassador to UN, on Twitter



Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/india-plans-antiterror-drive-at-nam/article9043899.ece>

Q.21) Consider the following statements about 'Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee'

1. It is established under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
2. It is the apex body for approval of activities involving large scale use of hazardous microorganisms and recombinants

Which of the following statements is/are *incorrect*?

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

**Q.21) Solution (a)**

Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) established under **Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** is the apex body to accord notified under Rules 1989.

For approval of activities involving large scale use of hazardous microorganisms and recombinants in research and industrial production from the environmental angle

The GEAC is also responsible for approval of proposals relating to release of genetically engineered organisms and products into the environment including experimental field trials (Biosafety Research Level trial-I and II known as BRL-I and BRL-II)

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/GM-mustard-moves-closer-to-approval/article14589131.ece>

**Q.22) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?**

Place in news	Country
1. Xi'an	South Korea
2. Ashgabat	Kazakhstan
3. Aleppo	Iraq

Select the correct code:

- a) Only 2
- b) 1 and 2
- c) 2 and 3
- d) None of the above

**Q.22) Solution (d)**

Xi'an - China

Ashgabat - Turkmenistan

Aleppo - Syria