WBCS (Main) Exam Paper - V Practice Set

Answers with Explanation

- 1. (b) Vice-President is the ex-officio chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
- (a) The Speaker of Lok Sabha presides over the joint sittings of both Houses of Parliament. The joint session of parliament is convened by the President of India.
- 3. (a) The Chairman of the Public Accounts
 Committee (PAC) is appointed by the Speaker
 of Lok Sabha. Since 1967, the chairman of
 the committee is selected from the opposition.
 The term of office of the members is one
 year.
- 4. (d) the powers, which have not been specifically enumerated in the Union List, State List and Concurrent List.
- 5. (d) With the prime minister as the ex-officio Chairman, the Planning Commission has a nominated Deputy chairman, who is given the rank of a full Cabinet Minister. Mr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia is presently the Deputy Chairman of the Commission.
- 6. (c) The Part IV of the Constitution of India contains
 Directive Principles of State Policy covering
 Articles 36-51 that aim at establishing social
 and economic democracy in the country.
- 7. (d) In a parliamentary system, the executive branch derives its democratic legitimacy from and is held accountable to, the legislature; the executive and legislative branches are thus interconnected. In a presidential system, the head of state often is also the head of government, and the executive branch does not derive its democratic legitimacy from the legislature.
- 8. (c) The Constitution empowers the President to summon each House at such intervals that there should not be more than 6-month's gap between the two sessions. Hence the Parliament must meet at least twice a year. In India, the parliament conducts three sessions each year.
- 9. (b) Article 312 provides that an All India Service can be created only if the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) declares, by resolution supported by not less than a two-thirds majority, that it is necessary in the national interest to create one or more such All India Services. When once such a resolution is passed, the Parliament

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- is competent to constitute such an All India Service.
- 10. (d) Article 2 states that the parliament may, by law, admit new states into Union of India or establish new states on terms and conditions its deems fit. Article 3 empowers the parliament to form a new state by separation of a part of territory of an established state or to unite two or more states or parts of states or by uniting any territory to a part of any state.
- 11. (c) The single member constituency system allows a single representative in a legislative body rather than two or more. Because single-member districts are used in conjunction with plurality or majority voting rules, they are also said to foster strong and stable government.
- 12. (a) Presidential Government is a system of government in which the president is constitutionally independent of the legislature. In it, the head of government is also head of state and leads an executive branch that is separate from the legislative branch. The United States, for instance, has a presidential system.
- 13. (b) The Union Ministry of Environment and Forests is also known as 'Green Ministry' as it is responsible for planning, promoting, coordinating, and overseeing the implementation of environmental and forestry programmes in the country. The main activities undertaken by the ministry include conservation and survey of the flora of India and fauna of India, forests and other wilderness areas; prevention and control of pollution; afforestation, and land degradation mitigation. It is responsible for the administration of the national parks of India.
- 14. (b) A key feature of Cabinet is the concept of collective responsibility, which means that the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers are collectively responsible to the House of People. It is because of collective responsibility, the cabinet government is also known as the responsible government.
- 15. (c) Mohammad Hamid Ansari is the only second vicepresident of India to get a second consecutive term after S. Radhakrishnan. He was elected as Vice President of India on 10

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- August 2007 and took office on 11 August 2007. He was re-elected on 7 August 2012.
- 16. (a) Article 110 (3) lays down that "if any question arises whether a Bill is a Money Bill or not, the decision of the Speaker of the House of the People thereon shall be final". This means that once the Speaker has certified a Bill as a Money Bill, its nature cannot be questioned in a court of law, in the Houses of Parliament, or even by the President.
- 17. (a) The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) is formed every year with a strength of not more than 22 members of which 15 are from Lok Sabha, the lower house of the Parliament, and 7 from Rajya Sabha, the upper house of the Parliament. The term of office of the members is one year.
- 18. (c) Ganesh Vasudev Mavalankar served as the first speaker of the Lok Sabha during 15 May 1952 – 13 January 1956. Earlier, he was the President (from 1946 to 1947) of the Central Legislative Assembly, then Speaker of the Constituent Assembly of India. ক্যাভিথাটে Note: Ganesh Vasudeva Mavalankar popularly known as Dadasaheb was then Speaker of the Constituent Assembly of India, and later the first Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the lower house of the Parliament of India. Sumitra Jayant Mahajan is the Speaker of the 16th Lok Sabha (Present). She belongs to Bharatiya Janata Party. In 2014, she got elected to the Lok Sabha for the eighth time, one of three members of the 16th Lok Sabha to do so, and is currently the longest-serving woman member. She has represented the Indore constituency of Madhya Pradesh since 1989.
- administered by the Chief Justice of India and in his absence, the senior most judge of the Supreme Court available. The President is required to make and subscribe in the presence of the Chief Justice of an oath or affirmation that he/she shall protect, preserve and defend the Constitution. গ্যাচিত্র ম Note: Chief Justice of India, i.e. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of India is one who gives oath to the President of India. It is the President that administers oath to the Chief Justice of India too. In a hypothetical situation if anything happens to the Chief Justice of India on the day, the second senior most judges (as acting CJI) can administer oath to the

19. (a) The oath of office to the President is

- President. Similarly, in the absence of the President, the Vice President can administer oath to CJI. Recently, Justice JS Khehar sworn in as the 44th Chief Justice of India.
- 20. (a) According to Article 61 of Indian Constitution, when a President is to be impeached for violation of the Constitution, the charge shall be preferred by either House of Parliament. It adds that no such charge shall be preferred unless:
 - the proposal to prefer such charge is contained in a resolution which has been moved after at least fourteen days' notice in writing signed by not less than one-fourth of the total number of members of the House has been given of their intention to move the resolution and
 - such resolution has been passed by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the total membership of the House.
- 21. (a) The legislature in a democratic country can influence public opinion by focusing attention on public issues. It offers an easy solution to the problem of political obligation. The citizens obey the law, as it rests on their will to obey. The whole process of lawmaking serves to obliterate the distinction between the law-giver and the law-receiver.
- 22. (c) Meira Kumar was the first woman Speaker of Lok Sabha and served from 2009 to 2014. Earlier, she served as a Cabinet Minister in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment of Manmohan Singh's Congress led Government (2004–2009). The current Lok Sabha speaker Ms. Sumitra Mahajan is the second woman to hold the position.
- 23. (d) Chaudhary Charan Singh was the first politician to become a Chief Minister of a state and Prime Minister of India. He held the position of Chief Minister of a state (Uttar Pradesh: April 1967 February 1968 and again in 1970) before becoming the Prime Minister of India in July 1979. Former Karnataka Chief Minister H.D. Deve Gowda was the first Chief Minister of a state (Karnataka) to be elevated to the post of Prime Minister of India while in office in 1996. India's current Prime Minister Narendra Modi also became the Prime Minister while serving as the Chief Minister of Gujarat from October 2001 to May 2014.
- 24. (d) Article 61 of Indian Constitution deals with the procedure for impeachment of the

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- President. It states that when a President is to be impeached for violation of the Constitution, the charge shall be preferred by either House of Parliament. The charges are to be framed in the form of resolution, signed at least by 1/4th members of the total members of the House.
- 25. (a) Article 84 of the Constitution lays down the qualifications for membership of Parliament. As per this article, a member of the Rajya Sabha must be elected by the Legislative Assembly of States and Union territories by means of Single transferable vote through Proportional representation. Rajya Sabha members are elected for a six-year term.
- 26. (b) All appointments to All India Services are made by the President of India. The All India Services comprises Civil Services of India, namely the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), the Indian Police Service (IPS) and the Indian Forest Service (IFS). The members of these services are recruited by the Union government, but their services are placed under various State cadres, and they have the liability to serve both under the State and under the Centre.
- 27. (d) As per Article 94 of Indian constitution, a member holding office as Speaker or Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha may be removed from his office by a resolution of the House of the People passed by a majority of all the then members of the House. The same article states that no resolution for the purpose shall be moved unless at least fourteen days' notice has been of the intention to move the resolution.
- 28. (b) Unitary form is a form of government in which most or all of the governing power resides in a centralized government. The central government is supreme, and the administrative divisions exercise only powers that the central government has delegated to them. It contrasts with a federal system.
- 29. (d) As per Article 85 of Indian constitution, the President shall from time to time summon each House of Parliament to meet at such time and place as he thinks fit, but six months shall not intervene between its lasting sitting in one session and the date appointed for its first sitting in the next session. The same article adds that he may from time to time—
 - prorogue the Houses or either House;
 - dissolve the House of the People

- 30. (d) The Contingency Fund of India has been placed at the disposal of the President. He can advance money of this fund to meet unforeseen expenses and recover the same after due authorization 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.
- 31. (b) The Estimates Committee is the largest parliamentary committee, consisting of 30 members who are elected by the Lok Sabha every year from amongst its members. It analyses the expenditure and revenue estimates of various departments and suggests alternative policies in order to bring about efficiency and economy in administration.
- 32. (a) Article 87 of the constitution provides two instances when the President specially addresses both Houses of Parliament. The President of India addresses both the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha at the beginning of the first Session after each general election when the reconstituted lower house meets for the first time. The President also addresses both the houses at beginning of the first session of each year (usually the budget session).
- 33. (a) As per Articles 310 and 311, the gazetted officials of the Union Government are appointed and dismissed in the name of the President. Besides, the President appoints important officials, such as the judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts, election commissioners, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, members of UPSC etc.
- 34. (c) Privilege Motion is concerned with the breach of parliamentary privileges by a minister. It is moved by a member when he feels that a minister has committed a breach of privilege of the House or one or more of its members by withholding facts of a case or by giving wrong or distorted facts. Its purpose is to censure the concerned minister.
- 35. (b) The Legislative Council or the Vidhan Parishad is the Upper Chamber of the State Legislature. As mentioned in the constitution the total membership of the Legislative Council shall not be less than forty and more than one third of the total number of members of the Legislative Assembly of the concerned state. One-third of the members of this House are elected by the Legislative Assembly from amongst persons who are not its members.

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One-third of its members "are elected by the local bodies like Municipalities or District Boards or any other local authority as specified by the law of the Parliament. One-twelfth of the members are elected by graduates of at least three years standing. One-twelfth of the members are elected by teachers of secondary schools having at least three years experience. About one-sixth of the members are nominated by the Governor from among persons possessing special knowledge and experience in the field of art, science, literature, social service and cooperative movement.

- 36. (d) Planning process in India has seen lop-sided development which has been one of the catalysts of regionalism and demand for greater share in resource appropriation. States have been demanding greater autonomy in political as well as economic spheres.
- 37. (b) Members of a Legislative Assembly (Vidhan Sabha) are direct representatives of the people of the particular state as they are directly elected by an electorate consisting of all adult citizens of that state. Its maximum size as outlined in the Constitution of India is not more than 500 members and not less than 60.
- 38. (a) The Vidhan Parishad (or Legislative Council) is the upper house in those states of India that have a bicameral legislature. As of 2011, six (out of twentyeight) states have a Legislative Council: Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh.
- 39. (b) Article 213 of the constitution provides that Governor of the state can promulgate ordinance. The same article states that once an ordinance is passed, it should be placed before Legislative assembly of the state or where there is a legislative council, before both the houses and approved by then within six weeks of their respective dates of reassembly.
- 40. (d) The state has four essential elements. These are: (1) population, (2) territory (land), (3) government, (4) sovereignty (or independence). The first two elements constitute the physical or material basis of the state while the last two form its political and spiritual basis.
- 41. (d) The Governor can use discretionary powers:
 a) If no party gets an absolute majority, the Governor can use his discretion in the selection of the Chief Minister; b) During an emergency he can override the advice of the council of

- ministers. At such times, he acts as an agent of the President and becomes the real ruler of the state; c) He uses his direction in submitting a report to the President regarding the affairs of the state; and d) He can withhold his assent to a bill and send it to the President for his approval.
- 42. (b) The Governor has the power of making ordinances during the recess of the legislature to meet some emergency. A Governor's Ordinance ceases to operate six weeks after the reassembly of the legislature if not disapproved by the state legislature.
- 43. (c) A non-member may be appointed a Minister in the state Government provided he gets a seat in the State Legislature within a period of six months from the date of his appointment. This has been mentioned in Article 164 of the Indian Constitution.
- 44. (d) The Sarkaria Commission examined the scope of the discretion of the Governor in relation to assent to the Bills under Article 200 of the Constitution. It viewed that Article 200 does not provide discretion to the Governor either expressly or by implication. The commission observed that, the scope of Governor's discretion is very limited as is obvious by the fact that the Governor cannot withhold assent to a reconsidered Bill.
- 45. (a) Removal of a Supreme Court or High Court judge is governed by Articles 124 (4) and (5) and 217 (1) (b) and 218 of the Constitution on the ground of proven misbehaviour or incapacity. They can only removed by the Parliament by the procedure establish by Law. So the Governor of a state of even the President is powerless in this regard.
- 46. (d) Right to vote in India is a constitutional right. Article 326 (in Part XV) of the Constitution gives this right. Article 326 of the Constitution provides that the elections to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assembly of every State shall be on the basis of adult suffrage, that is to say, a person should not be less than 21 years of age. The 61st Amendment of the Constitution of India, 1950, in the year 1989 altered the age for the voting right from 21 years to 18 years.
- 47. (b) Postal voting describes the method of voting in an election whereby ballot papers are distributed or returned by post to electors, in contrast to electors voting in person at a polling

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station or electronically via an electronic voting system. In the United Kingdom, absent voting was first introduced for the immediate postwar period in 1918 for servicemen and others prevented 'by reason of the nature of their occupation from voting at a poll' by the Representation of the People Act 1918. Armed forces still serving overseas at the end of World War I were allowed to vote by post, and permanent arrangements were made for proxy voting by servicemen. The Representation of the People Act 1945 again made temporary provision for postal voting by service voters.

- 48. (c) The Finance Commission makes recommendations to the President regarding the principles governing the grants-in-aid of the revenues of the States out of the Consolidated Fund of India and with regard to article 275- the sums to be paid to the States which are in need of assistance by way of grants-in-aid of their revenues for purposes other than those specified in the provisos to clause (1) of that article.
- 49. (c) The National Development Council (NDC) or the Rashtriya Vikas Parishad is the apex body for decision making and deliberations on development matters in India, presided over by the Prime Minister. It was set up on August 6, 1952 to strengthen and mobilize the effort and resources of the nation in support of the Plan, to promote common economic policies in all vital spheres, and to ensure the balanced and rapid development of all parts of the country. The Council comprises the Prime Minister, the Union Cabinet Ministers, Chief Ministers of all States or their substitutes, representatives of the union territories and the members of the Commissions. It is an extraconstitutional and non-statutory body. Its status is advisory to planning commission but not binding. र्थाणिक अंगि
- 50. (a) Functions of the Finance Commission can be explicitly stated as: distribution of net proceeds of taxes between Centre and the States, to be divided as per their respective contributions to the taxes; determine factors governing Grants-in Aid to the states and the magnitude of the same and work with the State Finance Commissions and suggest measures to augment the Consolidated Fund of the States so as to provide additional resources to Panchayats and Municipalities in the state.

- 51. (b) A progressive tax is a tax in which the tax rate increases as the taxable amount increases. Progressive taxes are imposed in an attempt to reduce the tax incidence of people with a lower ability to pay, as such taxes shift the incidence increasingly to those with a higher ability-to-pay. It reduces tax burdens on people who can least afford to pay them and is, thus, considered as effective in reducing economic inequalities.
- 52. (a) MUDRA (Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency) is a public sector finance institution that provides loans at low rates to micro-finance institutions and non-banking financial institutions which then provide credit to MSMEs. It was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 8 April 2015.
- 53. (c) In the largest ever change in the percentage of devolution, the 14thFinance Commission (FFC) recommended that the States' share in the net proceeds of the Union tax revenues be 42%. The recommendation of tax devolution at 42% is a huge jump from the 32% recommended by the 13thFinance Commission.
- 54. (a) Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) were set up as government sponsored, regional based rural lending institutions under the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976. Every RRB is owned by three entities with their respective shares as follows: Central Government (50%); State government (15%); Sponsor bank (35%). Each Regional Rural Bank is sponsored by a Public-Sector Bank.
- 55. (d) Direct tax is a type of tax where the incidence and impact of taxation fall on the same entity. In general, it is a tax imposed on income as distinct from a tax imposed upon a transaction. These are largely taxes on income or wealth. Income tax, corporation tax, property tax, inheritance tax and gift tax are examples of direct tax.
- 56. (c) Himayat is a training-cum-placement programme for unemployed youth in Jammu and Kashmir. Under the program, the youth of the state will be provided short-term training for at least 3 months, in a range of skills for which there is good market demand. The scheme aims to train 1,00,000 youth in 5 years and provide atleast 75% of them with jobs.
- 57. (c) The Economic Survey of India is a flagship annual document of the Ministry of Finance,

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- Government of India. It reviews the developments in the Indian economy over the previous 12 months, summarizes the performance on major development programs, and highlights the policy initiatives of the government and the prospects of the economy.
- 58. (c) The taxing powers of the central government encompass taxes on income (except agricultural income), excise on goods produced (other than alcohol), customs duties, and inter-state sale of goods. The authority to levy a tax is comes from the Constitution which allocates the power to levy various taxes between the Centre and the State.
- 59. (a) Bank Rate refers to the official interest rate at which RBI will provide loans to the banking system which includes commercial/cooperative banks, development banks etc. Such loans are given out either by direct lending or by rediscounting (buying back) the bills of commercial banks and treasury bills. Thus, bank rate is also known as discount rate.
- 60. (c) In a bid to make AIDS prevention a mission, the Employees' State Insurance Corporation of India (ESIC) announced the launch of 'Project Sankalp' for strengthening ESIC's intervention on HIV/AIDS and Family welfare at Mangalore, Karnataka, on 17 August, 2008. It aimed at counselling and treatment to ESIC beneficiaries affected with HIV in the State.
- 61. (c) The Government launched Kutir Jyoti Programme on occasion of Nehru Centenary Year (1988-89) for extending single point light connection to the households of rural poor families below poverty line. These were to include Harijan and tribal families. The programme had come under criticism for rampant increase in transmission & distribution (T&D) losses.
- 62. (b) Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK) was set up in March 1993 to meet credit needs of poor women, particularly in the informal sector, who have little or no access to formal credit institutions. RMK extends microfinance to the poorest and asset less women entrepreneurs for income generating activities.
- 63. (a) Disguised unemployment exists where part of the labour force is either left without work or is working in a redundant manner where worker productivity is essentially zero. It is unemployment that does not affect aggregate output. When more people are engaged in a job

- than actually required, a state of disguised unemployment is created. Disguised, or hidden, unemployment is primarily found in the agricultural and the unorganized sectors of rural India.
- 64. (c) NTPC Limited (previously known as National Thermal Power Corporation Limited) is an Indian PSU Public Sector Undertaking, engaged in the business of generation of electricity and allied activities. NTPC's core business is generation and sale of electricity to stateowned power distribution companies and State Electricity Boards in India.
- 65. (c) The iron and steel industry accounts for the largest investment in Indian economy. The industry has been receiving major government as well as Foreign Direct investments. Some of the major investments in the Indian steel industry are as follows:
 - Tidfore Heavy Equipment Group, the Chinabased infrastructure giant, is looking to enter the Indian market by signing an investment agreement worth US\$ 150 million with Uttam Galva Metallics, to expand its Wardha unit along with South Korean steel major Posco.
 - Arcelor Mittal SA is looking to set up a
 joint venture (JV) factory in India with stateowned Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL),
 to manufacture high-end steel products
 which could be used in defence and satellite
 industries;
 - JSW Group plans to invest around Rs 10,000 crore (US\$ 1.49 billion) at Salboni in West Bengal to set up 1,320 Megawatt (MW) coal-based power plant, 4.8 million tonne cement plant and paints factory over a period of next five to seven years;
 - National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) has planned to invest Rs 40,000 crore (US\$ 5.96 billion) in the next eight years to achieve mining capacity of 75 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA) by FY 2018-19 and 100 MTPA by FY 2021-2' etc.
- 66. (c) The Government of India nationalized 14 major commercial banks in July 1969. This was followed by a second phase of nationalization in 1980, when Government of India acquired the ownership of 6 more banks, thus bringing the total number of nationalised banks to 20.

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67. (d) The economic freedom of a country is calculated using the Economic Freedom Index that focuses on four key aspects of the economic environment over which governments typically exercise policy control:

- Rule of law (property rights, freedom from corruption);
- Government size (fiscal freedom, government spending);
- Regulatory efficiency (business freedom, labour freedom, monetary freedom); and
- Market openness (trade freedom, investment freedom, financial freedom).
- 68. (d) The National Income Unit of the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) is responsible for the estimation of national income. It is responsible for coordination of statistical activities in India, and evolving and maintaining statistical standards. CSO's other works include: conduct of Annual Survey of Industries, Economic Censuses and its follow up surveys, compilation of Consumer Price Indices for Urban Non-Manual Employees, etc.
- 69. (b) The Voluntary Severance Scheme (VSS) is popularly known as Golden Hand Shake. It is a stipulation in an employment agreement which states that the employer will provide a significant severance package if the employee loses their job. A golden handshake is usually provided to top executives for loss of employment through layoffs, firing or even retirement.
- 70. (a) The Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) seeks to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed or underemployed through the setting up of self-employment ventures or provision of wage employment. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme which came into effect on 1 December 1997.
- 71. (d) A scheduled bank, in India, refers to a bank which is listed in the 2nd Schedule of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. Banks not under this Schedule are called non-scheduled banks. Scheduled banks are usually private, foreign, and nationalized banks operating in India.
- 72. (b) Since 1955 the national income estimates are being prepared by Central Statistical Organisation (CSO). The CSO uses different methods like the Product Method, Income Method and Expenditure method for various sectors in the process of estimating the National Income.

- 73. (a) Corporate loans refers to a loan that is given to a company, rather than to a government organization or an individual person. These loans come in form of working capital finance facilities and term loans and are available to corporate bodies engaged in any legal activity with the object of making profit. Such bodies include the sole proprietorship firm, partnership firm, private limited company or a public limited company.
- 74. (d) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) was established on 12 July 1982 by a special act by the parliament and its main focus was to uplift rural India by increasing the credit flow for elevation of agriculture & rural non farm sector. It has been accredited with "matters concerning policy, planning and operations in the field of credit for agriculture and other economic activities in rural areas in India".
- 75. (d) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is known as the Lender of Last Resort. This is because when a commercial bank faces financial crisis and fails to obtain funds from other sources, then the central bank provides them with the financial assistance in the form of credit. This role of the central bank saves the commercial bank from bankruptcy. Thus, the RBI plays the role of guarantor for the commercial banks and maintains a sound banking system in the economy.
- 76. (b) Central Value Added Tax (CENVAT), popularly known as Central Excise Duty, is a duty on the manufacture/production of goods in India. It is an adaptation of VAT, which came into force in the country in 1986 in the form of MODVAT (Modified Value Added Tax). MODVAT was re-named as CENVAT on 1 April 2000.
- 77. (c) The national income of a country can be measured by: (i) Product Method or the Output Method (ii) Income Method, and (iii) Expenditure Method. The output approach focuses on finding the total output of a nation by directly finding the total value of all goods and services a nation produces. The expenditure approach is basically an output accounting method. Under the Income method, national income is measured as a flow of factor incomes.
- 78. (c) IDBI Bank, formerly known as Industrial Development Bank of India, was established

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- in 1 July 1964 by an Act of Parliament to provide credit and other financial facilities for the development of the fledgling Indian industry. It is headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra. It is one of 27 commercial banks owned by the Government of India.
- 79. (b) The PV Narasimha Rao government established the National Renewal Fund (NRF) in February 1992 to provide a social safety net to the workers who were likely to be affected by technological up-gradation and modernisation in the Indian industry. NRF was intended to provide funds for employment generation schemes in the organised and unorganised sectors in order to provide a social safety net for labour.
- 80. (a) One of the important fiscal measures undertaken by governments to check inflation is to cut personal consumption expenditure. It is done by raising the rates of personal, corporate and commodity taxes and even levying new taxes. The government can also reduce unnecessary expenditure on non-development activities in order to curb inflation.
- 81. (c) Qualitative credit (used by the RBI for selective purposes) are: Margin requirements, Consumer Credit Regulation, RBI Guidelines, Rationing of credit, Moral Suasion and Direct Action. The Quantitative Credit measures which control the total quantity of credit are: Bank Rate policy, Open Market Operations, Cash Reserve Ratio and Statutory Liquidity Ratio.
- 82. (b) Increasing returns mean lower costs per unit just as diminishing returns mean higher costs. Thus, the law of increasing return signifies that cost per unit of the marginal or additional output falls with the expansion of an industry. As more and more units of the commodity are produced, the cost per unit goes on steadily falling. Besides, the return is more than proportionate.
- 83. (d) Infosys Technologies became the first Indian company to be listed on the US NASDAQ in March 1999. Infosys was incorporated on July 2, 1981 as a private limited company in India. It became public limited company in June 1992.
- 84. (d) RRBs are jointly owned by the Centre, the State Government concerned and sponsor banks, with the issued capital shared in the ratio 50:15:35, respectively. According to the RRB Act, 1976 the authorised capital of each

- such bank is Rs 5 crore and the issued capital, a maximum of Rs 1 crore.
- 85. (b) Monetary policy is the defining function of the central bank of a country. The Reserve Bank of India announces a set of measures of both short-term and structural nature in the two biannual statements on monetary and credit policy. These documents are normally released in April and October of each year.
- 86. (c) Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY) envisages a "Slum Free India" with inclusive and equitable cities in which every citizen has access to basic civic infrastructure and social amenities and decent shelter. It aims to make India slum-free by 2022 by providing people with shelter or housing, free of cost. It was introduced by the Union Ministry of Housing and Alleviation.
- 87. (c) Indira Gandhi was the only woman who took over the Finance portfolio from 1970 to 1971. She presented the Union Budget in these years.
- 88. (c) Dr. Manmohan Singh, the then Union Finance Minister, in his Budget speech for the year 1994-95 introduced the new concept of Service Tax. It was given constitutional status by Chapter VA of the Finance Act, 2003.
- 89. (b) Gross domestic product (GDP) is the market value of all officially recognized final goods and services produced within a country in a year. GDP can be determined in three ways: the production (or output) approach, the income approach, or the expenditure approach.
- 90. (a) The Government of India started the Oil Seeds Production programme in 1986 to harness the best of production, processing and management technologies to accelerate self reliance in oilseeds and vegetable oils. The programme was designed to supplement the efforts of the state governments to increase the production and productivity of groundnut, rapeseed/mustard, soybean, sunflower, Sesamum, castor, safflower, linseed and Niger grown in the states.
- 91. (d) The medium and long term of loans are disbursed to the farmers through Primary Land Development Banks who draw their finances from Central Land Development Banks who in turn draw their finances from NABARD. As for the short term credit, this is disbursed to the farmers through Primary Agricultural Credit Societies who draw their finances from Central Cooperative Banks who in turn draw their finances from the State Cooperative Banks.

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- 92. (b) In India, a new agricultural strategy was initiated in 1966-67. This initiative heralded the introduction of High Yield Variety of wheat to tackle food security and led to the Green Revolution in India.
- 93. (b) Interest payments are the single largest item of expenditure. They account for more than 40% of the total non-development expenditure. These items of expenditure are charged on the Consolidated Fund of India and are not required to be voted by the Lok Sabha.
- 94. (c) Aditya Birla Retail Limited (ABRL), the retail arm of Aditya Birla Group company, operates two store formats-Supermarket and Hypermarket under the brand 'more'. ABRL is the 4th largest supermarket chain in India after Future Group, Reliance Retail and D-Mart.
- 95. (a) In economics, the tragedy of the commons is the depletion of a shared resource by individuals, acting independently and rationally according to each one's self-interest, despite their understanding that depleting the common resource is contrary to the group's long-term best interests. In 1968, ecologist Garrett Hardin explored this social dilemma in "The Tragedy of the Commons", published in the journal Science.
- 96. (b) Special Economic Zone (SEZ) were established in India with the objectives of: (a) Generation of additional economic activity; (b) Promotion of exports of goods and services; (c) Promotion of investment from domestic and foreign sources; (d) Creation of employment opportunities; (e) Development of infrastructure facilities. It aimed to attract larger foreign investments.

- 97. (d) The sixth five year plan had long-term objectives of removal of poverty and the achievement of selfreliance. It also aimed at the achievement of economic and technological self reliance with the help of modernisation.
- 98. (d) The Special Economic Zones Rules are associated with the year 2006, though the policy was announced in 2000. The Special Economic Zones Rules, 2006 came into effect on 10 February 2006. The amendment Rules provided for the simplification of procedures for development, operation, and maintenance of the Special Economic Zones and for setting up and conducting business in SEZ.
- 99. (a) National income is also computed by the expenditure approach wherein the focus is on finding the total output of a nation by finding the total amount of money spent. As per this approach, GDP = C+I+G+(X-M) where, C =household consumption expenditures/personal consumption expenditures; I = gross private domestic investment; G = government consumption and gross investment expenditures; X = gross exports of goods and services; and M = gross imports of goods and services. (X - M) is often written as XN, which stands for "net exports".
- 100.(b) The financial year of Reserve Bank of India is from July to June. The central bank publishes its annual report in August which relates to the financial year. It is the statement of the Board of Directors on the state of the economy, and on the balance sheet of the Reserve Bank. It also presents an assessment and prospects of the Indian economy.

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