

Diversity and Democratic Rights

- Apart from language and regions, people also identify themselves with gender, caste, tribe, physical appearance, religion etc. In 1968, Olympics were held at Mexico city in which gold and bronze medals were won by the African-Americans named Tommie Smith and John Carlos and the silver was bagged by the white Australian in 200 m race. In the ceremony, Tommie Smith and John Carlos stood on the dias with clenched fists, upraised and heads bowed while the American national anthem was played. They received their medals wearing black socks and no shoes to represent Black Poverty. This they did so to draw the international attention to racial discrimination in the United States. The black-gloved and raised clenched fists were meant to symbolise Black Power. The silver medalist, white Australian athlete, Peter Norman, wore human rights badge on his shirt to show his support to the two Americans.
- **The consequences of their action**
The International Olympics Association held Carlos and Smith guilty of violating the Olympic spirit by making a political statement. Their medals were taken back. But their action did succeed in getting international attention for the Civil Rights Movement in the US.
- **Social differences** are mostly based on accident of birth. At the same time, some differences are based on our choices.
- Every social difference does not lead to social divisions. Social differences divide similar people from one another but they also unite different people. People belonging to different social groups share differences and similarities cutting across the boundaries of their groups. e.g.
 - It is common for people belonging to the same religion to feel that they do not belong to the same community because their caste or society is different. It is also possible for the people from different religions to have same caste and feel close to each other.
 - Rich and poor persons from the same family often do not have close relations with each other for they feel they are very different.
 - Thus, it can be said that we all have more than one identity and can belong to more than one group.
- **Overlapping differences**
 - It happens when some social difference overlaps with other difference.
 - Situations of this kind produce social divisions, when one kind of social difference becomes more important than the other and people start feeling that they belong to different communities.
 - Overlapping differences create possibilities of deep social divisions and tensions.
- **Cross-cutting differences**
 - If social differences cross-cut one another, it is difficult to pit group of people against the other.
 - It means those groups that share a common interest on the issue are likely to be on different sides on a different issue.
 - Cross-cut social differences are easier to accommodate.
- Social division of one kind or another exist in most countries. India is a vast country with many communities and Belgium is a small country with many differences. Even the countries like Germany and Sweden that were once very homogeneous, are undergoing rapid changes with migrants in their countries. They bring with them different cultures and tend to form a different social community. In this way, most of the countries are multicultural.
- The combination of politics and social divisions is very dangerous. Democracy involves competition among various political parties. Their competitions are likely to divide any society. If they start competing in terms of some existing social divisions, it can make social divisions into political divisions and lead to conflict, violence or even disintegration of a country. Hence, politics and social divisions must not be allowed to mix.
Social divisions also affect voting in most countries. People from one community tend to prefer one party more than others. In a democracy, as people have options of voting and can choose any party according to their wish, political parties try to influence and impress the voters by making promises and discussing their plans of growth for the country. The political parties might also exploit other types of social divisions, existing in the society, for their own benefit. Still, all the social divisions do not always lead to disintegration.
- **Three determinants.** There are three factors which are crucial in deciding the outcome of politics of social divisions:
 - The outcome depends on how people perceive their identities. If they perceive their identities in singular and exclusive terms, it becomes difficult to accommodate. It is much easier, if people see that their identities are multiple and are complementary with the national identity.
 - The outcome of politics in social divisions depends how the political leaders raise the demands of any community. It is easier to accommodate demands that are within the constitutional framework and are not at the cost of another community.
 - The outcome of politics in social divisions also depends upon how the government responds to such demands of various social groups. Example— in Belgium and Sri Lanka. If the rulers are willing to share power and accommodate the reasonable demands of minority community, social divisions become less threatening for the country. If the

reasonable demands of a community are suppressed by the government, then it leads to social divisions, which in turn threaten the integrity of the country.

- We cannot imagine a life without rights. But when these rights are snatched by someone, people's life becomes hell. This was what happened in Guantanamo Bay. In Guantanamo Bay, about 600 people were put in jail by the US forces from all over the world. They were considered as enemies of the US and linked to the attack on New York on 11th September 2001. Neither the families of the prisoners, nor the governments of their countries were informed about their arrests. They only got to know through the media. Nobody was allowed to meet them. There was no trial before any magistrate in the US; nor could these prisoners approach courts in their own country.
- **Amnesty International** — An international human rights organisation, collected information on the condition of the prisoners in Guantanamo Bay. They reported that
 - The prisoners were being tortured in ways that violated the US laws.
 - They were being denied the treatment that even prisoners of war must get as per international treaties.
 - Many prisoners had tried protesting against these conditions by going on a hunger strike.
 - Prisoners were not released, even after they were officially declared not guilty.An independent inquiry by the UN supported these findings. The UN Secretary General said the prison in Guantanamo Bay should be closed down but the US government refused to accept these pleas.
- Saudi Arabia is ruled by a hereditary king and the people have no role in electing or changing their rulers.
 - The king selects the legislature, the executive and also appoints the judges and can change any of their decisions.
 - Citizens cannot form political parties or any political organisations.
 - Media cannot report anything that the monarch does not like.
 - There is no freedom of religion. Every citizen is required to be Muslim. Non-Muslim residents can follow their religion in private, but not in public.
 - Women are subjected to many public restrictions. The testimony of one man is considered equal to that of two women.
- Kosovo was a province of Yugoslavia before its split.
 - The population was ethnic Albanian but Serbs were in majority.
 - Serb nationalist Milosevic, won the election and became hostile to the Kosovo Albanians.
 - The Serb leaders wanted the ethnic minorities like Albanians, to either leave the country or accept the dominance of the Serbs.
 - Several other countries got involved to stop this massacre.
 - Finally, Milosevic lost power and was tried by an International Court of Justice for crimes against humanity.

- Rights are claims of a person over other fellow beings, over the society and over the government. Rights are reasonable claims of persons recognised by society and sanctioned by law. One cannot have a right that harms or hurts others. The claims we make should be reasonable. They should be such that can be made available to others in an equal measure. Thus, a right comes with an obligation to respect other's rights. Rights acquire meaning only in society. Every society makes certain rules to regulate our conduct. They tell us what is right and what is wrong. That is why, the notion of rights changes from time to time and from society to society. When fellow citizens or the government do not respect these rights, we call it violation or infringement of our rights. In such circumstances, citizens can approach courts to protect their rights.
- Rights are necessary for the very sustenance of a democracy. Rights protect minorities from the oppression of majority. Rights are guarantees which can be used when things go wrong. This usually happens when those in majority want to dominate those in minority.
- The government should protect the citizen's right in such a situation. But sometimes elected governments may not protest or many even attack the rights of their own citizens.
- Some rights, therefore, need to be placed higher than the government.
- In most democracies, the basic rights of the citizen are written down in the constitution.

Rights in the Indian constitution

- In India, like most other democracies in the world, these rights are mentioned in the Constitution. Some rights which are fundamental to our life are given a special status. They are called Fundamental Rights. It talks about securing for all its citizens equality, liberty and justice. Fundamental Rights are an important basic feature of India's Constitution. There are six Fundamental Rights. They are:
 1. **Right to Equality.** It ensures equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws which means that the laws apply in the same manner to all, regardless of a person's status. This is called the rule of law. It means that no person is above the law. There cannot be any distinction between a political leader, government official and an ordinary citizen. The government shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds of religion, caste, ethnicity, sex or place of birth. Every citizen shall have access to public places like shops, restaurants, hotels and cinema halls. There shall be no restriction with regard to the use of wells, tanks, bathing ghats, roads, playgrounds and places of public resorts maintained by government or dedicated to the use of general public. Further, all citizens have equality of opportunity in matters relating to employment or appointment to any position in the government. However, sometimes it is necessary to give special treatment to someone in order to ensure equal opportunity. This is what job reservation do. Our constitution does not regard it as a violation of the Right to Equality. The practice of untouchability has been forbidden in any form.

2. **Right to Freedom.** Freedom means absence of constraints. But one cannot exercise their freedom in such a manner that violates other's Right to Freedom. Accordingly, the government can impose certain reasonable restrictions on our freedoms in the larger interests of the society. Under the Indian Constitution, all citizens have the right to

- **Freedom of speech and expression.** Freedom of speech and expression means the right to express one's own convictions and opinions freely. It gives one freedom to communicate with others, to think differently to criticise the government etc. But one cannot defame others by saying false and mean things that cause damage to a person's reputation.
- **Freedom to hold assembly in a peaceful manner.** Citizens have the freedom to hold meetings, processions, rallies and demonstrations on any issue. But such meetings have to be peaceful.
- **Freedom to form associations and unions.** Citizens also can form associations. For example, workers in a factory can form a workers' union to promote their interests.
- **Move freely throughout the country and reside in any part of the country.** We are free to reside and settle in any part of the Indian territory.
- **Practice any profession, or to carry on any occupation, trade or business.** The same freedom extends to choice of occupations. No one can force you to do or not to do a certain job. Women cannot be told that some kinds of occupations are not for them.
- **Personal liberty.** It means that no person can be killed unless the court has ordered a death sentence. It also means that a government or police officer cannot arrest or detain any citizen unless he has proper legal justification. Even when they do so, they have to follow some rules.

- A person who is arrested and detained in custody will have to be informed of the reasons for such arrest and detention.
- A person who is arrested and detained shall be produced before the nearest magistrate within a period of 24 hours of arrest.
- Such a person has the right to consult a lawyer or engage a lawyer for his defence.

3. **Right against Exploitation.** Every citizen has a right not to be exploited. Our constitution mentions these specific evils and declares them to be illegal:

- The constitution prohibits 'traffic in human beings'. **Traffic** here means selling and buying of human beings, usually women, for immoral purposes.
- It prohibits forced labour or begar in any form. '**Begar**' is a practice where the worker is forced to render service to the 'master' free of charge or at a nominal remuneration. When this practice takes place on a life-long basis, it is called the practice of bonded labour.
- It also prohibits child labour. No one can employ a child, below the age of fourteen, to work in any factory or mine or in any other hazardous work.

4. **Right to Freedom of Religion.** In India, people follow different religions. Therefore, India remained neutral in matters of religion and chose to be a secular country. A secular state or a country is the one that does not establish any one religion as official religion. Every person has a right to profess, practice and propagate the religion he or she believes in. Every religious group or sect is free to manage its religious affairs. But freedom to practice religion does have some limits also

- One cannot sacrifice animals or human beings as offerings to supernatural forces or Gods.
- Religious practices which treat women as inferior or those that infringe women's freedom are not allowed. For example, one cannot force a widowed woman to shave head or wear white clothes.
- A secular state is the one that does not confer any privilege or favour on any particular religion. Nor does it punish or discriminate against people on the basis of religion they follow.
- There shall be no religious instruction in the government educational institutions.
- In educational institutions managed by private bodies, no person shall be compelled to take part in any religious instruction or to attend any religious worship.

5. **Cultural and Educational Rights.** This Fundamental Right is described in the Constitution as:

- Any section of the citizens with a distinct language, or culture have a right to conserve it.
- No citizen shall be denied admission into any educational institution maintained by the State or receiving aid out of State funds on grounds of religion or language.
- All minorities have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.

6. **Right to Constitutional Remedies.** The Fundamental Rights in the constitution are important because they are enforceable. This is called the Right to Constitutional Remedies. It authorises the citizens to approach the Supreme Court or the High Court of a state (court of law), in case of any denial of Fundamental Rights. The Supreme Court and High Court can issue various types of writs to safeguard the Fundamental Rights of a citizen. When any of our rights are violated, we can seek remedy through courts. This is why Dr. Ambedkar called the Right to Constitutional Remedies, 'the heart and soul' of our Constitution. Now any person can go to court against the violation of any of the Fundamental Rights.

- Under the Public Interest Litigation (PIL), any citizen or group of citizens can approach the Supreme Court or a High Court for the protection of public interest against a particular law or action of the government.

• **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)**

- It is an independent commission set up by the law in 1993.
- The Commission is appointed by the President and includes retired judges, officers and eminent citizens.
- But it does not have the burden of deciding court cases.
- It focuses on helping the victims secure their human rights, which include all the rights granted to the citizens by the constitution.

- It also includes the rights mentioned in the UN sponsored international treaties that India has signed.
- The NHRC cannot by itself punish the guilty. It makes inquiry into any case of violation of human rights and takes other general steps to promote human rights in the country.
- Like NHRC, there are State Human Rights Commissions in 14 states of the country.
- **Expanding scope of rights.** From time to time, the courts gave judgments to expand the scope of rights. Certain rights like Right to Freedom of Press, Right to Information, and Right to Education are derived from the Fundamental Rights.
 - Now school education has become a right for Indian citizens. The governments are responsible for providing free and compulsory education to all children up to the age of 14 years.
 - Parliament has enacted a law giving the Right to Information to the citizens. This Act was made under the Fundamental Right to Freedom of Thought and Expression. We have a Right to Seek Information from government offices.
 - Recently, the Supreme Court has expanded the meaning of the Right to Life to include the Right to Food. Also, rights are not limited only to Fundamental Rights as enumerated in the Constitution.
- The Right to Property is not a Fundamental Right but it is a constitutional right.
- Right to Vote in elections is an important constitutional right.
- Some international covenants have also contributed to the expansion of rights. Thus, the scope of rights has been expanding and new rights are evolving over time.
- **International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.** It recognises many rights that are not directly a part of the Fundamental Rights in the Indian Constitution. These include:
 - **Right to work:** opportunity to everyone to earn livelihood by working.
 - **Right to safe and healthy working conditions,** fair wages that can provide decent standard of living for the workers and their families.
 - **Right to adequate standard of living** including adequate food, clothing and housing
 - **Right to social security and insurance.**
 - **Right to health:** medical care during illness, special care for women during childbirth and prevention of epidemics.
 - **Right to education:** free and compulsory primary education, equal access to higher education.

Exercise

1

DIRECTIONS : This section contains multiple choice questions. Each question has 4 choices (1), (2), (3) and (4) out of which only one is correct. Choose the correct option.

1. Who among the following led civil-rights movement in US during 1950's and 60's ?
 - (1) Peter Norman
 - (2) Jessy Owen
 - (3) Martin Luther King Jr.
 - (4) John Carlos
2. In which year was the Olympics held in the Mexico City ?
 - (1) 1932
 - (2) 1936
 - (3) 1964
 - (4) 1968
3. Who among the following won gold and silver medals respectively in 200 meters race in Mexico City Olympics in 1968 ?
 - (1) Tomme Smith, John Carlos
 - (2) Peter Norman, Jessie Owen
 - (3) Carl Lewis, F. Benjamin
 - (4) Ben Johnson, Carlos John
4. Who of the following athlete won silver medal in 200 meter race in Olympics - 1968 - Mexico ?
 - (1) Peter Smith
 - (2) Peter Norman
 - (3) Peter Pan
 - (4) Peter Carlos
5. The social difference are usually based on
 - (1) Caste
 - (2) Skin colour
 - (3) Birth
 - (4) Religion
6. The migrants always bring with them their own
 - (1) Religion
 - (2) Culture
 - (3) Civilization
 - (4) Epics
7. Which of the following countries were homogeneous in Europe but due to migration it witnessed rapid cultural changes ?
 - (1) UK - Ireland
 - (2) UK - Sweden
 - (3) Italy - France
 - (4) Germany - Sweden
8. What is Amnesty International?
 - (1) An international human rights organization
 - (2) An environmental organization
 - (3) A sports organization
 - (4) None of these
9. Which type of government exists in Saudi Arabia ?
 - (1) Democracy
 - (2) Autocracy
 - (3) Monarchy
 - (4) None of these
10. Which of the following does not take place when there is a social difference in a society or country ?
 - (1) Economic division
 - (2) Religious division
 - (3) Cultural division
 - (4) Social division
11. Which of the following countries disintegrate on the basis of competition along religious and ethnic lines ?
 - (1) Yugoslavia
 - (2) America
 - (3) Belgium
 - (4) Austria

12. In many countries of the world, there are parties that focus only on
 - (1) Two communities
 - (2) Four communities
 - (3) Three communities
 - (4) One community
13. Which of the following statements is/are false, choose from the code given below ?
 - A. Rich and poor people from the same community do not keep close relations.
 - B. Rich and poor people from the same community live apart.
 - C. Rich and poor people from same community live together.
 - D. Rich and poor people from same community keep close relations.
 - (1) A, B are false
 - (2) Only D is false
 - (3) C, D are false
 - (4) Only A is false
14. In the United States till mid-1970, the Black's were regarded to be
 - (1) Poor
 - (2) Ugly
 - (3) Enemy
 - (4) Beggar
15. Among the following, which party represents the Protestants in Ireland ?
 - (1) Nationalist Party
 - (2) Unionist Party
 - (3) Communist Party
 - (4) None of these
16. Which of the following countries region does Ireland belongs to ?
 - (1) France
 - (2) United Kingdom
 - (3) United States of America
 - (4) Russia
17. The social group in a country can be formed on the basis of
 - (1) Choice
 - (2) Tendency
 - (3) Purpose
 - (4) Need
18. All athletes at 1968, Mexico Olympics, stood against the
 - (1) Religious discrimination
 - (2) Racial discrimination
 - (3) Physical discrimination
 - (4) Economic discrimination
19. Which of the following is the best way to fight against the diversity in any nation ?
 - (1) Autocracy
 - (2) Democracy
 - (3) Communism
 - (4) Socialism
20. Which of the following parties represents the Catholic in UK ?
 - (1) Unionist Party
 - (2) Nationalist Party
 - (3) Socialist Party
 - (4) None of these
21. Which is/are correct about Saudi Arabia ?
 - (1) The king of Saudi selects the legislative as well as executive
 - (2) Citizen's can't form political parties in Saudi Arabia
 - (3) There is no freedom of religion. Islam is religion of state
 - (4) All the above are correct
22. What are rights ?
 - (1) Rights are reasonable claims of persons recognised by the society and sanctioned by law.
 - (2) Right are absolute claims of an individual
 - (3) Both (1) & (2)
 - (4) None of these
23. Why do we need rights in a democracy ?
 - (1) Rights protect minorities from oppression of majority.
 - (2) Rights are guarantees which can be used when things go wrong.
 - (3) (1) and (2) both are correct
 - (4) None of these
24. How many fundamental rights are given to Indian citizens ?
 - (1) five
 - (2) six
 - (3) seven
 - (4) eight
25. Which comes under Right to Equality?
 - (1) Equality before law
 - (2) Prohibition of discrimination on the basis of caste, religion and race
 - (3) Equal opportunities in the matter of public employment
 - (4) All the above
26. Are reservations to SC, ST and OBC against the right to equality ?
 - (1) Yes, reservation are against right to equality
 - (2) No, reservations are not against right to equality
 - (3) Might be
 - (4) We can't say anything
27. Abolition of untouchability is a
 - (1) Constitutional right only
 - (2) It is a legal right
 - (3) It is a fundamental right
 - (4) None of these
28. Which comes under right to freedom ?
 - (1) Freedom of speech and expression
 - (2) Freedom to form associations and unions
 - (3) Freedom to practice any profession, trade and business
 - (4) All the above
29. Which statement is incorrect ?
 - (1) No person can be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law
 - (2) A person who is arrested and detained should be produced before the court within 24 hours
 - (3) A detained person has the right to consult a lawyer or engage a lawyer
 - (4) Police can arrest anyone without any reason
30. Which is the religion of the Indian State ?
 - (1) Hindu
 - (2) Islam
 - (3) Sikh
 - (4) None of these
31. Bonded labour falls under which fundamental right ?
 - (1) Right to equality
 - (2) Right against exploitation
 - (3) Right to freedom of religion
 - (4) Cultural right
32. Which of the following rights is available under the Indian constitution ?
 - (1) Right to work
 - (2) Right to adequate livelihood
 - (3) Right to protect one's culture
 - (4) Right to privacy

33. Which of the following freedom is not available to Indian citizen ?
 (1) Freedom to criticize the government
 (2) Freedom to participate in armed rebellion
 (3) Freedom to start new religion
 (4) All the above are true
34. When was National Human Rights Commission established?
 (1) 1988 (2) 1990
 (3) 1993 (4) None of these
35. Who issue 'writ' to ensure fundamental rights ?
 (1) Parliament (2) Loka Sabha
 (3) Supreme court (4) None of these
36. Who becomes the chairperson of National Human Right Commission?
 (1) Retired Chief Justice of Supreme Court
 (2) Chief Justice of Supreme Court
 (3) Advocate General
 (4) None of these
37. What does P.I.L. stand for?
 (1) Public Interested Law
 (2) Public Intution league
 (3) Public Interest Litigation
 (4) None of these

Exercise

2

Matching Based MCQ

DIRECTIONS (Qs. 1 and 2) : Match Column-I with Column-II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the columns.

1. **Column I** **Column II**
 (A) Right to Property (p) Fundamental Right of India
 (B) Constitutional Remedies (q) Human Rights
 (C) Right to Work (r) Fundamental Right of South Africa
 (D) Right to have Clean Environment (s) Legal right
 (1) $A \rightarrow (p); B \rightarrow (s); C \rightarrow (r); D \rightarrow (q)$
 (2) $A \rightarrow (s); B \rightarrow (p); C \rightarrow (q); D \rightarrow (r)$
 (3) $A \rightarrow (q); B \rightarrow (s); C \rightarrow (r); D \rightarrow (p)$
 (4) $A \rightarrow (r); B \rightarrow (s); C \rightarrow (q); D \rightarrow (p)$
2. **Column-I** **Column-II**
 (A) Right to Equality (p) Freedom of speech and expression
 (B) Right to Constitutional Remedies (q) Prohibition of child labour
 (C) Right to Freedom (r) Writ
 (D) Right Against Exploitation (s) Rule of law
 (1) $A \rightarrow (s); B \rightarrow (r); C \rightarrow (p); D \rightarrow (q)$
 (2) $A \rightarrow (p); B \rightarrow (s); C \rightarrow (r); D \rightarrow (q)$
 (3) $A \rightarrow (q); B \rightarrow (r); C \rightarrow (p); D \rightarrow (s)$
 (4) $A \rightarrow (r); B \rightarrow (p); C \rightarrow (s); D \rightarrow (q)$

Statement Based MCQ

3. With reference to the constitutional remedies, consider the following statements :
 (a) Right to constitutional remedies comes under natural right
 (b) Right to constitutional remedies comes under fundamental rights.
 (c) Right to constitutional remedies comes under legal rights.
 (d) Right to constitutional remedies comes under constitutional rights.

- Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?
 (1) (a) only (2) (b) only
 (3) (c) only (4) (d) only
4. With reference to the fundamental rights, consider the following statements.
 (a) They can never be suspended.
 (b) All of them are not justiciable.
 (c) Fundamental rights ensure the dignity of an individual.
 (d) Right to education is not a fundamental right.
 Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?
 (1) (a) only (2) (b) only
 (3) (c) only (4) (d) only
5. With reference to the fundamental rights, consider the following statements.
 (a) Fundamental rights are superior to ordinary laws.
 (b) Right to Property is a fundamental right.
 Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?
 (1) (a) only (2) (b) only
 (3) Both (a) and (b) (4) Neither (a) and (b)
6. With reference to the social conflicts, consider the following statements.
 (a) There are many social conflicts in India as it is a vast country with many communities.
 (b) Less or no social conflicts in Germany and Sweden as they are homogenous societies.
 Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?
 (1) (a) only (2) (b) only
 (3) Both (a) and (b) (4) Neither (a) and (b)
7. With reference to the social differences consider the following statements—
 (a) Every social differences lead to social division.
 (b) Social differences unite very different people.
 Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?
 (1) (a) only (2) (b) only
 (3) Both (a) and (b) (4) Neither (a) and (b)

8. With reference to the fundamental rights, consider the following statements :
- Indian constitution guarantees fundamental rights to its citizens.
 - Fundamental rights are absolute and never suspended.
- Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?
- (a) only
 - (b) only
 - Both (a) and (b)
 - Neither (a) and (b)
9. With reference to democracy, consider the following statements.
- Effective functioning of the democratic government depends on the quality of the leaders.
 - Effective functioning of the democratic government depends on the quality of the industrialists.
 - Effective functioning of the democratic government depends on the quality of the citizens.
 - Effective functioning of the democratic government depends on the quality of the press
- Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?
- (a) only
 - (b) only
 - (c) only
 - (d) only
10. With reference of democratic government, consider the following statements.
- The two forms of democratic government are Presidential and Parliamentary forms of government.
 - The two forms of democratic government are Unitary and Federal governments.
 - The two forms of democratic government are direct and indirect type of government.
- Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?
- (a) only
 - (b) only
 - (c) only
 - (a) and (c) both

Passage Based MCQ

DIRECTIONS (Qs. 11 and 12) : Read the passage(s) given below and answer the questions that follow.

PASSAGE - 1

All citizens have equality of opportunity in matters relating to employment or appointment to any position in the government. No citizen shall be discriminated against or made ineligible for employment on the grounds mentioned above.

- Equal opportunity to work in government organisation is
 - Social equality
 - Both of above
 - Economic equality
 - None of above
- Reservation given to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward class is—
 - against the right of equality
 - different treatment to every individual
 - confers equality which means that every individual has an equal opportunity to achieve
 - None of the above

Assertion Reason Based MCQ

DIRECTIONS (Qs. 13 to 18) : Following questions consist of two statements, one labelled as the '**Assertion**' and the other as '**Reason**'. You are to examine these two statements carefully and select the answer to these items using the code given below.

Code :

- Both A and R are individually true and R is the correct explanation of A:
- Both A and R are individually true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- A is true but R is false
- A is false but R is true.

- Assertion :** Right to Freedom is called heart and soul of our constitution by Dr. Ambedkar
Reason : Right to Freedom ensures a citizen to practice any profession or to carry on any occupation, trade or business.
- Assertion :** President of India and Governors are not an exception to the rule of equality before law.
Reason : Rule of law is the foundation of any democracy, which means that the laws apply in the same manner to all, regardless of a person's status.
- Assertion :** Democracy is the best way to accommodate social diversity.
Reason : Democracy is the form of governance which is elected by people.
- Assertion :** Regional aspirations are natural but should not be encouraged.
Reason : Regionalism goes against the integrity of country.
- Assertion :** Civil Rights Movement in the USA continued till 1975.
Reason : Fundamental rights which ensure dignity of every citizen is borrowed from the US constitution.
- Assertion :** The right of residing in Jammu and Kashmir is confined to the people of Jammu and Kashmir only.
Reason : Right to reside in any part of the country is not a fundamental right.

Correct Definition Based MCQ

- Which of the following correctly explains freedom of speech and expression ?
 - Citizens are free to criticise the government or any of its activities in public.
 - Citizens are not free to criticise the government or any of its activities in public.
 - Citizens are free to criticise the government or any of its activities, but cannot publish their views through a pamphlet, magazine or newspaper.
 - Citizens are free to criticise the government or any of its activity and incite people to rebel against the government.
- Which of the following correctly explains public interest litigation?
 - Any citizen or group of citizen can approach any court for any criminal or civil case.
 - Any citizen or group of citizen can approach the Supreme Court or High Court for the protection of public interest against a particular law or action of the government
 - Constitutional procedure to change any fundamental right
 - None of the above

Feature Based MCQ

21. On the basis of the following features, identify the fundamental right.
 - I. A person who is arrested and detained in custody will have to be informed of the reasons for such arrest and detention.
 - II. A person who is arrested and detained shall be produced before the nearest magistrate within a period of 24 hours of arrest
 - III. Such a person has the right to consult a lawyer or engage a lawyer for his defence
 - (1) Right to equality
 - (2) Right to personal liberty
 - (3) Right to freedom
 - (4) Right against exploitation
22. On the basis of the following features, identify the constitutional provision.
 - I. They are necessary for all round development of an individual's personality
 - II. They need them to live and act democratically.
 - III. The executive and the legislature cannot override them
 - IV. This constitutional provision is borrowed from USA
 - (1) Fundamental duties
 - (2) Directive principle
 - (3) Fundamental rights
 - (4) Citizenship
23. On the basis of the following features, identify the fundamental right.
 - I. This right makes other fundamental rights effective
 - II. Dr. Ambedkar called this right as "the heart and soul" of our constitution.
 - III. By this right, we directly approach the Supreme Court or the High Court of a state
 - (1) Right to equality
 - (2) Right to constitutional remedies
 - (3) Right to freedom
 - (4) Right against exploitation

Hints & SOLUTIONS

Exercise 1

1. (3) Martin Luther King Jr. led this movement. He opposed social division based on colour of skin and practiced non-violent methods of civil disobedience against racially discriminatory laws and in US.
2. (4) This Olympic game is famous for its incident of representation of Blacks African-American Athletes of the US against racial discrimination during medal ceremony.
3. (1) These athletes received their medals with socks but without shoes; Smith wore black scarf to show black pride. They were stripped of their medals by Olympic Association but succeeded in gaining international attention for the civil rights.
4. (2) He was an Australian athlete. He showed his support to the two Americans with a human rights badge on his shirt.
5. (3) In all societies, discrimination are based on the basis of birth. The social identity is entirely determined by the birth.
6. (2) It is the natural phenomena. Migrants in any country bring a cultural change in the region where they settled. The best example is of African - Americans in the United States.
7. (4) Germany and Sweden were homogeneous countries. Their identity was based on the language and ethnicity but due to influence of various social-groups from France, Holland and Eastern countries, there were many cultural changes in these nations.
8. (1) Amnesty International is an organization which takes care of human rights in the world.
9. (3) Saudi Arabia is ruled by a hereditary king and the people have no role in electing or changing their rulers.
10. (1) The economic division is not possible, in case of social difference, the groups in society may or may not function according to economic division.
11. (1) Yugoslavia is divided into ethnic lines; The new countries are Slovakia, Slovenia, Croatia and Serbia, on the basis of ethnic identities.
12. (4) There are democracies like Ireland and Sweden, where some political parties focused only for one particular community and plan for their welfare only.
13. (4) It is the general rule in each and every community that social difference on the basis of rich and poor keeps them away from each other.
14. (1) The Blacks in the US till 1970, were deprived of many things; wages and jobs were unavailable to them. So, they lived in slums and lead life of poverty in towns and villages.
15. (2) This party focussed only on the interest of the Protestants in Ireland; it was a great concern to the UK government at London.
16. (2) Region Ireland belongs to United Kingdom.
17. (1) In any country, social groups are formed on the matter of choice. Anybody having same choice can form a social group.
18. (2) All athletes, during final ceremony, showed their anger against the racial discrimination in the US and protested as showing symbolic gesture.
19. (2) In democracy, diversity can be accommodated in many and simple ways. India is one of the best examples of democracy that various diverse features in country.
20. (2) The Catholics were in favour of separate homeland for them in Ireland. Nationalist Party supported their cause but finally in 1998, issue was settled by a peace accord.
21. (4) All the above are correct.
22. (1) Rights are reasonable claims of persons recognised by the society and sanctioned by law.
23. (3) Both statements are correct.
24. (2) Six fundamental rights are given to Indian citizens by constitution.
25. (4) Right to equality consists of so many rights like equality before law, prohibition of discrimination etc.

26. (2) Sometimes reservations are necessary to give special treatment to someone in order to ensure equal opportunity.
 27. (3) Abolition of untouchability is a fundamental right.
 28. (4) Right of freedom contains freedom of speech and expression to form association etc. In practical life, it means absence of interference in our affairs by others.
 29. (4) A person can't be detained by any legal justification.
 30. (4) India is a secular country. It has no official religion.
 31. (2) Right against exploitation prohibits bonded labour.
 32. (3) Cultural rights are fundamental rights which are mentioned in the constitution.
 33. (2) Freedom to participate in armed rebellion is not given by the constitution.
 34. (3) It is an independent commission set up law in 1993.
 35. (3) Supreme court issues special types of orders which are called writs, in case of violation of the fundamental rights.
 36. (1) It is a convention that retired Chief Justice of Supreme Court becomes chairman of NHRC.
 37. (3) P.I.L. stands for Public Interest Litigation. Under the P.I.L., any citizen or group of citizens can approach the Supreme Court or a High Court, in case of violation of fundamental rights.
6. (1) Social divisions of one kind or another exists in most countries. It does not matter whether the country is small or big.
 7. (2) Every social difference does not lead to social division. Social differences divide similar people from one another, but they also unite very different people. People belonging to different social groups share differences and similarities cutting across the boundaries of their groups.
 8. (1) 9. (3) 10. (1) 11. (1) 12. (3)
 13. (4) Right to constitutional remedies, was called "the heart and soul" of our constitution by Dr. Ambedkar. This fundamental right ensures intervention by Supreme Court or High Court through writs on infringement of any fundamental right by any fellow citizens, private bodies or by the government.
 14. (4) The President of India and Governor of states enjoy some immunity against rule of equality before law as they are not answerable to any court for the exercise and performance of the power and duties of their office. No criminal proceedings, arrest or imprisonment against President or Governor in any court during his term of office. This type of immunity is given for the proper functioning of their duties.
 15. (1)
 16. (4) Regional aspirations are natural and should be respected. It goes against the integrity of the country, but if not respected it can result into dissatisfaction of local people, riots or even civil war.
 17. (2)
 18. (3) Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India but constitution has given special status to it. According to that, property in Jammu and Kashmir can be acquired by their residents only.
 19. (1) 20. (2) 21. (2) 22. (3) 23. (2)

Exercise 2

1. (2) 2. (1) 3. (2)
 4. (3) Fundamental rights are the justiciable rights which ensure the dignity of an individual. They can be suspended in national emergencies. Right to Education is fundamental right.
 5. (1) On violation of fundamental rights, aggrieved person can approach Supreme Court or High Court directly, so it is superior than ordinary law. Previously Right to Property was a fundamental but now it is constitutional right.
19. (1) 20. (2) 21. (2) 22. (3) 23. (2)