

Current Test 17 Explanation

Question 1

Answer: B

Project Loon

- It was started in 2011 by Alphabet, the parent company of Google. It was a network of **stratospheric** balloons designed to bring Internet connectivity to rural and remote areas.
- They are made of the commonplace plastic polyethylene and are the size of a tennis court.

Question 2

Answer: C

It introduced an economic reservation (10% quota) in jobs and admissions in education institutes for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) by amending Articles 15 and 16. It inserted Article 15 (6) and Article 16 (6).

- It was enacted to promote the welfare of the poor not covered by the 50% reservation policy for SCs, STs and Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC).
- It enables both Centre and the states to provide reservation to the EWS of society.

Question 3

Answer: A

Article 340 of the Indian Constitution

- The President may by order appoint a Commission consisting of such persons as he thinks fit to investigate the conditions of socially and educationally backward classes within the territory of India and the difficulties under which they labour and to make recommendations as to the steps that should be taken by the Union or any State to remove such difficulties.
- A Commission so appointed shall investigate the matters referred to them and present to the President a report setting out the facts as found by them and making such recommendations as they think proper.
- The President shall cause a copy of the report so presented together with a memorandum explaining the action taken thereon to be laid before each House of Parliament.

Question 4

Answer: C

OBC Reservation

- The Kalelkar Commission, set up in 1953, was the first to identify backward classes other than the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) at the national level.
- The Mandal Commission Report, 1980 estimated the OBC population at 52% and classified 1,257 communities as backward. It recommended increasing the existing quotas, which were only for SC/ST, from 22.5% to 49.5% to include the OBCs.
- The central government reserved 27% of seats in union civil posts and services for OBCs [Article 16(4)]. The quotas were subsequently enforced in central government educational institutions [Article 15 (4)]. In 2008, the Supreme Court directed the central government to exclude the creamy layer (advanced sections) among the OBCs.

The 102nd Constitution Amendment Act, 2018 provided constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC), which was previously a statutory body under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

Question 5

Answer: B

The National Health Mission seeks to ensure the achievement of the following indicators:

Reduce Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) to 1/1000 live births

Reduce Infant Mortality rate (IMR) to 25/1000 live births

Reduce Total Fertility Rate (TFR) to 2.1

Prevention and reduction of anaemia in women aged 15–49 years

Prevent and reduce mortality & morbidity from communicable, non- communicable; injuries and emerging diseases

Reduce household out-of-pocket expenditure on total health care expenditure

Reduce annual incidence and mortality from Tuberculosis by half

Reduce the prevalence of Leprosy to <1/10000 population and incidence to zero in all districts

Annual Malaria Incidence to be <1/1000

Less than 1 per cent microfilaria prevalence in all districts

Kala-azar Elimination by 2015, <1 case per 10000 population in all blocks