1. The Indian government's intention of introducing caste based quotas for the ? Other Backward Classes in centrally funded institutions of higher learning and the prime minister's suggestion to the private sector to ?voluntarily go in for reservation, has once again sparked off a debate on the merits and demerits of caste-based reservations. Unfortunately, the predictable divide between the votaries of ?social justice on one hand and those advocating ?merit on the other seems to have once again camouflaged the real issues. It is necessary to take a holistic and non-partisan view of the issues involved. The hue and cry about ?sacrificing merit is untenable simply because merit is after all a social construct and it cannot be determined objectively in a historically unjust and unequal context. The idea of competitive merit will be worthy of serious attention only in a broadly egalitarian context. But then, caste is not the only obstacle in the way of an egalitarian order. After all, economic conditions, educational opportunities and discrimination on the basis of gender also contribute to the denial of opportunity to express one's true merit and worth. It is interesting to note that in the ongoing debate, one side refuses to see the socially constructed nature of the notion of merit, while the other side refuses to recognise the multiplicity of the mechanisms of exclusion with equal vehemence. The idea of caste-based reservations is justified by the logic of social justice. This implies the conscious attempt to restructure a given social order in such a way that individuals belonging to the traditionally and structurally marginalised social groups get adequate opportunities to actualise their potential and realise their due share in the resources available. In any society, particularly in one as diverse and complex as the Indian society, this is going to be a gigantic exercise and must not be reduced to just one aspect of state policy. Seen in this light, caste-based reservation has to work in tandem with other policies ensuring the elimination of the structures of social marginalization and denial of access. It has to be seen as a means of achieving social justice and not an end in itself. By the same logic it must be assessed and audited from time to time like any other social policy and economic strategy.

What is the phrase 'Sacrificing merit' referring to?

[**A.** Killing merit.](javascript:void%200)

[**B.** Selection on basis of merit.](javascript:void%200)

[**C.** Encouraging reservation](javascript:void%200)

[**D.** None of these](javascript:void%200)

Ans c

What do you mean by the word 'Egalitarian'?

[**A.** Characterized by belief in the equality of all people.](javascript:void%200)

[**B.** Characterized by belief in the inequality of all people.](javascript:void%200)

[**C.** Another word for reservations.](javascript:void%200)

[**D.** Growth](javascript:void%200)

Ans A

What does the statement- and not to convert it into a fetish of â€˜political correctnessâ€™ in the passage imply?

[**A.** Reservation issue should not be converted into a political propaganda.](javascript:void%200)

[**B.** Reservation issue should not be based on caste alone.](javascript:void%200)

[**C.** Reservation issue should be left to the ruling government.](javascript:void%200)

[**D.** None of these.](javascript:void%200)

Ans A

 What is the author most likely to agree with?

[**A.** Caste-based reservation is the answer to India's problems.](javascript:void%200)

[**B.** Gender-based reservation is the answer to India's problems.](javascript:void%200)

[**C.** There is no solution to bridge the gap between privileged and under-privileged.](javascript:void%200)

[**D.** None of these.](javascript:void%200)

Ans d

 What do you mean by the word 'Votaries'?

[**A.** Advocates](javascript:void%200)

[**B.** Types](javascript:void%200)

[**C.** Demerits](javascript:void%200)

[**D.** People](javascript:void%200)

Ans a

What do you infer from the sentence ' The idea of caste-based reservations is justified by the logic of social justice' ?

[**A.** Caste-based reservation will help in providing opportunities to the socially backward classes.](javascript:void%200)

[**B.** Caste-based reservation will lead to social equality amongst all classes.](javascript:void%200)

[**C.** Caste-based reservation will help backward classes actualise their potential.](javascript:void%200)

[**D.** All of these](javascript:void%200)

Ans d

 King Philip recruited many \_\_\_\_\_\_ soldiers and sailors.

[**A.** warlike](javascript:void%200)

[**B.** strong](javascript:void%200)

[**C.** accomplished](javascript:void%200)

[**D.** timid](javascript:void%200)

[**E.** inexperienced](javascript:void%200)

Ans b

 The \_\_\_\_\_\_ Armada set sail on May 9, 1588.

[**A.** complete](javascript:void%200)

[**B.** warlike](javascript:void%200)

[**C.** independent](javascript:void%200)

[**D.** isolated](javascript:void%200)

[**E.** None of these](javascript:void%200)

Ans b

2 The economic transformation of India is one of the great business stories of our time. As stifling government regulations have been lifted, entrepreneurship has flourished, and the country has become a high-powered center for information technology and pharmaceuticals. Indian companies like Infosys and Wipro are powerful global players, while Western firms like G.E. and I.B.M. now have major research facilities in India employing thousands. India’s seemingly endless flow of young, motivated engineers, scientists, and managers offering developed-world skills at developing-world wages is held to be putting American jobs at risk, and the country is frequently heralded as “the next economic superpower.”  
But India has run into a surprising hitch on its way to superpower status: its inexhaustible supply of workers is becoming exhausted. Although India has one of the youngest workforces on the planet, the head of Infosys said recently that there was an “acute shortage of skilled manpower,” and a study by Hewitt Associates projects that this year salaries for skilled workers will rise fourteen and a half per cent, a sure sign that demand for skilled labor is outstripping supply.  
How is this possible in a country that every year produces two and a half million college graduates and four hundred thousand engineers? Start with the fact that just ten per cent of Indians get any kind of post-secondary education, compared with some fifty per cent who do in the U.S. Moreover, of that ten per cent, the vast majority go to one of India’s seventeen thousand colleges, many of which are closer to community colleges than to four-year institutions. India does have more than three hundred universities, but a recent survey by the London Times Higher Education Supplement put only two of them among the top hundred in the world. Many Indian graduates therefore enter the workforce with a low level of skills. A current study led by Vivek Wadhwa, of Duke University, has found that if you define “engineer” by U.S. standards, India produces just a hundred and seventy thousand engineers a year, not four hundred thousand. Infosys says that, of 1.3 million applicants for jobs last year, it found only two per cent acceptable.  
There was a time when many economists believed that post-secondary education didn’t have much impact on economic growth. The really important educational gains, they thought, came from giving rudimentary skills to large numbers of people (which India still needs to do—at least thirty per cent of the population is illiterate). They believed that, in economic terms, society got a very low rate of return on its investment in higher education. But lately that assumption has been overturned, and the social rate of return on investment in university education in India has been calculated at an impressive nine or ten per cent. In other words, every dollar India puts into higher education creates value for the economy as a whole. Yet India spends roughly three and a half per cent of its G.D.P. on education, significantly below the percentage spent by the U.S., even though India’s population is much younger, and spending on education should be proportionately higher.  
The irony of the current situation is that India was once considered to be overeducated. In the seventies, as its economy languished, it seemed to be a country with too many engineers and Ph.D.s working as clerks in government offices. Once the Indian business climate loosened up, though, that meant companies could tap a backlog of hundreds of thousands of eager, skilled workers at their disposal. Unfortunately, the educational system did not adjust to the new realities. Between 1985 and 1997, the number of teachers in India actually fell, while the percentage of students enrolled in high school or college rose more slowly than it did in the rest of the world. Even as the need for skilled workers was increasing, India was devoting relatively fewer resources to producing them.  
Since the Second World War, the countries that have made successful leaps from developing to developed status have all poured money, public and private, into education. South Korea now spends a higher percentage of its national income on education than nearly any other country in the world. Taiwan had a system of universal primary education before its phase of hypergrowth began. And, more recently, Ireland’s economic boom was spurred, in part, by an opening up and expansion of primary and secondary schools and increased funding for universities. Education will be all the more important for India’s well-being; the earlier generation of so-called Asian Tigers depended heavily on manufacturing, but India’s focus on services and technology will require a more skilled and educated workforce.  
India has taken tentative steps to remedy its skills famine—the current government has made noises about doubling spending on education, and a host of new colleges and universities have sprung up since the mid-nineties. But India’s impressive economic performance has made the problem seem less urgent than it actually is, and allowed the government to defer difficult choices. (In a country where more than three hundred million people live on a dollar a day, producing college graduates can seem like a low priority.) Ultimately, the Indian government has to pull off a very tough trick, making serious changes at a time when things seem to be going very well. It needs, in other words, a clear sense of everything that can still go wrong. The paradox of the Indian economy today is that the more certain its glowing future seems to be, the less likely that future becomes

**1.**     **Which of these could you infer according to the passage?**

Option 1 : Wages in the Developing countries are less as compared to wages in the developed countries

Option 2 : Wages in the Developing countries are more as compared to wages in the developed countries

Option 3 : Wages in the Developing countries are same as wages in the developed countries

Option 4 : None of these

**2.**     **What does “American jobs” in the last line of the first paragraph of the passage imply?**

Option 1 : Jobs provided by American companies

Option 2 : Jobs held (or to be held) by American people

Option 3 : Jobs open to only American citizens

Option 4 : Jobs provided by the American government

**3.**     **According to the passage, why India does not have enough skilled labour?**

Option 1 : The total amount of young population is low

Option 2 : The total number of colleges are insufficient

Option 3 : Students do not want to study

Option 4 : Maximum universities and colleges do not match global standards.

**4.**     **What can you infer as the meaning of ‘stifling’ from the passage?**

Option 1 : Democratic      Option 2 : Liberal   Option 3 : Impeding          Option 4 : Undemocratic

**5.**     **What is an appropriate title to the passage?**

Option 1 : Growing Indian Economy    Option 2 : Higher education in India

Option 3 : India’s Skill Shortage             Option 4 : Entrepreneurship in India

**6.**     **In the third sentence of the third paragraph of the passage, the phrase “closer to community colleges ” is used. What does it imply?**

Option 1 : Near to community colleges           Option 2 : Like community colleges

Option 3 : Close association to community colleges            Option 4 : None of these

**7.**     **According to the passage, what is the paradox of the Indian economy today?**

a.     The economic progress is impressive, but the poor (earning one dollar per day) are not benefited.

b.     The economic progress is impressive disallowing the government to take tough decisions.

c.      There is not enough skilled workforce and the government does not realize this.

d.     Government is not ready to invest in setting up new universities.

**8.**     **Why are salaries for skilled workers rising?**

Option 1 : Companies are paying hire to lure skilled people to jobs.

Option 2 : American companies are ready to pay higher to skilled workers.

Option 3 : Entrepreneurship is growing in India

Option 4 : There is not enough skilled workers, while the demand for them is high.