

UNIT-III

REPORTING OF DIFFERENT NEWS

STRUCTURE

This chapter shall cover the following main points:

- What is Political Reporting?
- Topics Covered Under Political Reporting
- Importance of Political Reporting
- Legislative Reporting
- Role Of a Legislative Reporter
- What is Diplomatic Reporting?
- Journalists Role in Diplomacy
- Direct effects of press on diplomacy:
- Reasons why media is considered important:
- Science Reporting::
- Sports Reporting:
- Economic Reporting:
- Development Reporting
- Gender Reporting:

• LEARNING OBJECTIVES

In this Unit, the students will learn about various types of Reporting. The types of reporting to be covered in this unit are:

- Political reporting:
 - (a) Topics Covered Under Political Reporting
 - (b) Importance of Political Reporting
- Legislative Reporting
 - (a). Role of a Legislative Reporter
- Diplomatic Reporting

(c). It shows the weak points in the system or various departments to get the revolutionary changes.

(d). Political reporters ask burning questions, which makes sure that all the steps taken by any political party are highly calculative.

2. Assure the Ruling Political Party Works in Favor of Citizens

Generally, all government departments and actions are carried on by using the money of the public. These actions affect various factors of a citizen's life, such as:

a). Getting an education b) Getting a driving license c) Paying taxes on income, property, etc.

Thus, the role of political reporting is very crucial. Reports keep a close watch to make sure that the government uses the funds in the right direction and everything is available to the people without any trouble.

3. To Know the Unbiased Truth Behind Political Campaigns

Different political parties run various election campaigns, conduct public meetings for general awareness, hold press conferences about the new legislation, and communicate to the public in multiple ways. The political reporting in journalism takes an important responsibility here. The reporters working in this branch of journalism makes sure that they do not believe and report what is evident in the campaigns. They do the groundwork to identify the facts behind various political campaigns and intentions of different activities. They also raise questions about crucial things. The end report that reaches the public is based on solid facts and unbiased views.

In a nutshell, political reporting plays a vital role in people's lives by providing unbiased political stories to choose the right candidate that works in the public interest.

LEGISLATIVE REPORTING

Legislative Reporting is an essential part of mass media functions and is also a significant feature of Parliamentary Democracy. Both people and the government are benefited from legislature reporting. Parliament or a State Legislature, Vidhan Sabha and Vidhan Parishad are called "legislature". "Legislature" literally means a body that legislates or makes laws.

Legislative reporting involves coverage of day-to-day proceedings of the legislative bodies. This task of reporting involves covering multifarious

activities of legislatures, including the complex process of making laws and debates on subjects of public importance. Besides, this legislative reporting also includes writing for the media about several other features that go into the making of Parliamentary proceedings. The legislative process is reported day in and day out by media.



Role of a Legislative Reporter:

A parliamentary reporter is required to report on each sitting of the parliament. His job is to record every point that is being mentioned in parliament. This requires a great deal of concentration and writing speed. One needs to pin down every relevant word. Also, a strong foothold in the legal system is a must. A parliamentary reporter needs to be aware of the new laws and amendments in the constitution.

The reporter is required to make a final report on his/her observations and present it to the general public without any manipulation or twisting of news. A reporter must stick to the ethics of journalism and should not be biased or hold presumptions on a topic that reflects in his writings.

There are three sessions in a Parliament :

1. Budget
2. Monsoon
3. Winter

In the budget season-specific budgets are made of separate departments such as Railway Budget etc. This season continues for 90 days in which approximately 30 days are allotted to each season.



Things that hold national interest are discussed in the parliament and all the citizens have the right to know as to what is being discussed in the parliament. The immediate amendments that are being passed by the new bill, all of this gets recorded by the parliamentary reporter.

There is a crucial requirement of a new budget for various calamities such as war, disaster, floods. This money comes from Prime Minister Relief Fund or other treasuries. The reporter must be aware of the different alternatives for the supply of money. The reporter must keep a close eye on where is the money going that did not get used from the budget. There have been many cases and instances in which the money has been spent on private usage.

The main agenda of any parliamentary reporter should be to educate the masses and make them aware of what is happening within the parliament.

Reporting the proceedings of a legislature is a highly responsible job. Normally, an experienced reporter is sent to cover parliamentary proceedings. This is to ensure that the reporter has the requisite ability as well as the maturity to take on the task.

It is perhaps pertinent here to mention that the knowledge of shorthand is advantageous for reporting prudent proceedings. Legislative reporting often involves taking copious notes of speeches made by ministers and members in both the Houses of Legislature. The exact quotes from what the Prime Minister or a Chief Minister or ministers or members, say in the legislatures are of crucial importance for the quality and credibility of a reporter's dispatch. The reporter who knows shorthand has a clear advantage. However, one should know that a tape-recorder cannot be taken in the press gallery of a legislature.



Information is the lifeblood of journalism services with reporters like veins and arteries, covering from their posts and sending the information back to the concerned person. The diplomatic reports, or cables, as they are more commonly known, keep information flowing and they help co-ordinate activities to prepare the groundwork for decisions.

While reporting remains an intellectual activity requiring good judgment, good cognitive skills, and a good writing style, it, too, has been affected by the Internet. What should be reported? How should diplomats integrate into their cables what has already been published by journalists, bloggers, and other providers of information? What value do diplomatic reports add to the already available information and analysis provided by Wikipedia and blogs, among others? What is the usability of the new generation of artificial intelligence tools for summarising texts?

What is Diplomatic Reporting?



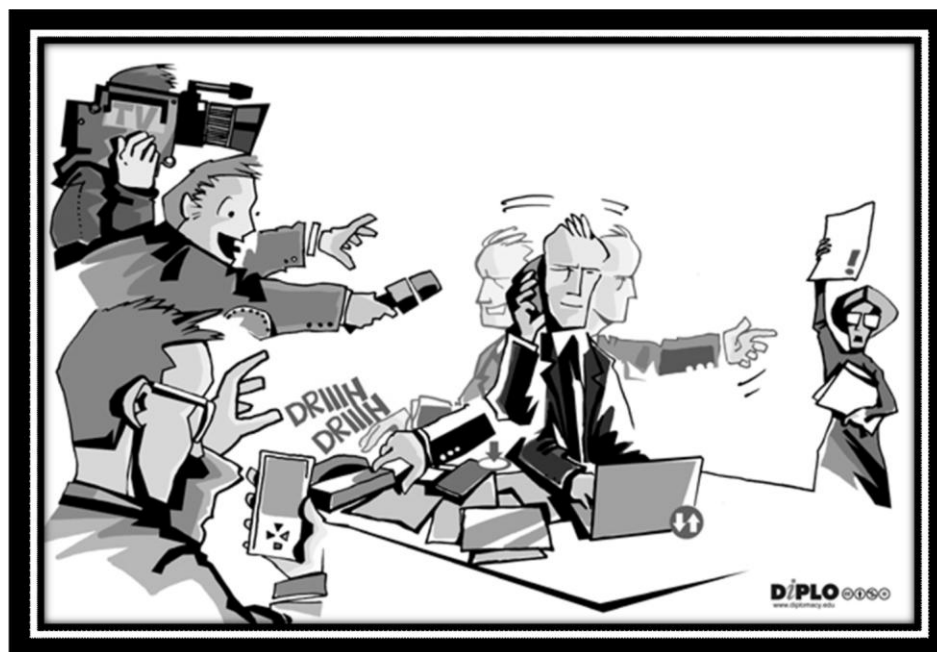
Thousands of reports are written every day. They record meetings, analyze situations, and suggest actions. Since the ancient Egyptian Tal-Amarna diplomacy right up until the present day, diplomatic reports have been at the heart of diplomacy. They very often determine the internal chemistry of diplomatic services. Diplomats try to establish their positions and gain peer-recognition through the quality of their reports.

One way to look at diplomatic reporting is to consider it as one facet of a broader and more general phenomenon - the flow of information. Transmission of the information is a basic human activity that in one form or another takes place all the time and under multiple circumstances. It is a product of instinct combined with need. Like any other method of information flow diplomatic reporting needs to have its recognizable structure. It has to emerge from a clearly defined context. It needs direction and purpose. It should avail itself of whatever means of communication are currently available.

Two contrasting aspects characterize the flow of information in whatever form it is conducted. On the one hand, once information exists there is both the need as well as the natural tendency for it to flow outwards. One may put this in another way. Information cannot exist in isolation. There is the need for a human recipient, as much as a human conveyor, for facts and events to become information. The underlying thrust is therefore for all types of reporting, including diplomatic reporting, to become open and unrestrained.

The question is the extent to which there are limits to this openness, and who decides on these limits. This leads to another, and contradictory, aspect of the issue of information flow. Information is a form of power. Withholding information is a means for one individual or a group of individuals to exercise control over others.

On the whole, technology has been on the side of the moves towards the free flow of information, though it has occasionally also been used for the opposite purposes. The breakthrough came with the invention of printing. One could go back even further, to the invention of writing.



Sometimes media dominates the governing system and there appears a new model of interactions between media and diplomacy, the relationships between journalists and diplomats must be more and more increasingly tighter.

How could journalists help diplomats? This is simple: the diplomats send signals through media, build confidence and advance negotiations, mobilize public support for agreements.

For many times officials used media to communicate with states, to bring to light some documents or secrets, and most often to ask inconvenient questions in public and to put those who attend the conversation in an unpleasant situation.

Direct effects of press on diplomacy:

- (1). Breaking diplomatic deadlocks
- (2). Creating a climate conducive to negotiations, and creating a favorable climate for a contractor to seal a bargain.
- (3). The distinction between the last two effects is significant because media events can be used at the onset of negotiations to build confidence and facilitate negotiations, or at the end of negotiations to mobilize public support for an agreement that has already been achieved

Example: President Obama has a history of using journalists to ask the other world leaders confrontational questions.

Reasons why media is considered important:

(1). Creating an independent media sector, essential to the functioning of a democratic society and a key platform for freedom of expression. Media is important for the working of Democracy and Human Right Objectives.

(2). For increasing governments' accountability towards citizens, often to improve service delivery and state receptiveness, improve the state-citizens relationship, support a democratic decision-making process, or change social norms to lower public tolerance for corruption and poor governance;

(3). For improving debate, dialogue, and tolerance, especially in fragile societies and where conflict exists, to increase the availability of balanced, reliable information.

Scoops And Exclusives and Specialized Reporting

1). **Science Reporting:** It conveys reporting about science to the public. The field typically involves interactions between scientists, journalists, and the public. Modern science journalism dates back to Digdarshan meaning showing the direction. It was an educational monthly magazine started publication in 1818 from Srirampore, Bengal, India. Digdarshan carried articles on different aspects of science, such as plants, steamboats, etc. Digdarshan was available in Bengali.



Aim: A science reporter aims to render very detailed, specific, and often jargon-laden information produced by scientists into a form that non-scientists can understand and appreciate while still communicating the information accurately.

Science reporters often have training in the scientific disciplines that they cover. Some have earned a degree in a scientific field before becoming journalists or exhibited talent in writing about science subjects. However, good preparation for interviews and even deceptively simple questions such

as "What does this mean to the people on the street?" can often help a science journalist develop material that is useful for the intended audience.

Types : There are many different examples of science writing. A few examples include feature writing, risk communication, [blogs](#), science books, scientific journals, and science magazines.

(2). **Sports Reporting :** Sportswriting and reporting are specialized areas like any other reporting fields. It calls for both technical know-how and a good writing style. As a sports reporter, one will have to be conversant with the tactics, rules, and scoring patterns of various sports and games. The reporters will have to nurture good relations with players and coaches alike.



The art of successful sports reporting and writing, and any other specialized work is the art of fully knowing the various popular games and sports. The reporter must endeavor to write a news item or feature on any game or sport to make it appealing to a particular class of readers interested and involved in those games/sports, and to captivate the minds of even those who are not exactly keen or fond of sports.

Even as all sports and games are competitive, so too are the areas of sports writing and reporting. In such a scenario, as a sports reporter, one needs to structure the story around the reader's interest. Reporters will surely win readers in larger numbers if they bring the sports page of the newspaper alive with their report of the action on the playing fields. The reporter needs to be thorough with the facts and should be capable of churning out a report under the pressure of meeting a deadline.

Sports Books: Increasingly, sports journalists have turned to long-form writing, producing popular books on a range of sporting topics, including biographies, history, and investigations. Dan Topolski was the

first recipient of the William Hill Sports Book of the Year award in 1989, which has continued to reward authors for their excellence in sports literature.

Reporting of Different News



Organizations: Most countries have their national association of sports journalists. Many sports also have their clubs and associations for specified journalists. These organizations attempt to maintain the standard of press provision at sports venues, to oversee fair accreditation procedures, and to celebrate high standards of sports journalism.

The International Sports Press Association, AIPS, was founded in 1924 during the Olympic Games in Paris, at the headquarters of the Sporting Club de France, by Frantz Reichel, the press chief of the Paris Games, and the Belgian Victor Boin.



AIPS operates through a system of continental sub-associations and national associations and liaises closely with some of the world's biggest sports federations, including the International Olympic Committee, football's world governing body FIFA, and the IAAF, the international track and field body.

The first statutes of AIPS mentioned these objectives:

- (a) to enhance the cooperation between its member associations in defending sport and the professional interest of their members.
- (b) to strengthen the friendship, solidarity, and common interests between sports journalists of all countries.
- (c) to assure the best possible working conditions for the members\

Female Reporting In Sports: Women have not always been in the sports reporting field. Women such as Jane Chastain and Leslie Visser are considered pioneers in women's sportscasting. Chastain was the first woman to work for a large network (CBS) and the first woman to do play-by-play in the.



Leslie Visser was a sportswriter for *The Boston Globe* before she joined CBS in 1984 as a part-time reporter. She is the only sportscaster in history, male or female, to have worked on the Final Four, NBA Finals, World Series, Monday Night Football, the Super Bowl, the Olympics, and the US Open broadcasts. She has been voted the No. 1 Female Sportscaster of all time.

There has been an ongoing debate as to whether or not female reporters should be allowed in the locker rooms after games. If they are denied access, this gives male reporters a competitive advantage in the field, as they can interview players in the locker room after games. If locker room access is denied to all reporters - male and female - because of this controversy, male journalists would likely resent female reporters for having their access taken away.

It wasn't until 1978 that female sports journalists were allowed to enter locker rooms for interviews. Sports Illustrated reporter, Melissa Ludtke, sued the New York Yankees for not allowing her to interview players in the locker room during the 1977 World Series. A federal judge ruled that this ban violated the Equal Protection Clause in the 14th Amendment.

Some female reporters include Adeline Daley Anita Martini, Tracy Dodds, Mary Garber, Lesley Visser, Marjorie Herrera Lewis, and Sally Jenkins.

(3). Economic Reporting: Business journalism or Economic reporting is the part of journalism that tracks, records, analyzes, and interprets the business, economic and financial activities, and changes that take place in societies. Topics widely cover the entire purview of all commercial activities related to the economy.

This area of journalism provides news and feature articles about people, places, and issues related to the business sector. Most newspapers, magazines, radio, and television-news shows include a business segment. Detailed and in-depth business journalism may appear in publications, radio, and television channels dedicated specifically to business and financial journalism.



Business journalism began as early as the Middle Ages, to help well-known trading families communicate with each other.

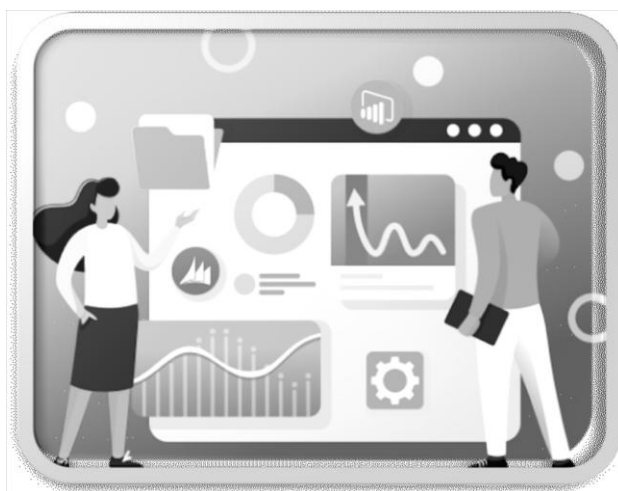
Around 1700, Daniel Defoe--best known for his novels especially *Robinson Crusoe*-- began publishing business and economic news. In 1882 Charles Dow, Edward Jones, and Charles Bergstresser began a wire service that delivered the news to investment houses along Wall Street. And in 1889, *The Wall Street Journal* began publishing. While the famous muckraking journalist Ida Tarbell did not consider herself to be a business reporter, her reporting and writing about the Standard Oil Co. in 1902 provided the template for how thousands of business journalists have

covered companies ever since. Business coverage gained prominence in the 1990s, with wider investment in the stock market. *The Wall Street Journal* is one prominent example of business journalism and is among the United States of America's top newspapers in terms of both circulation and respect for the journalists whose work appears there.

Reporters who work in this branch are classed as "business journalists". Their main task is to gather information about current events related to business. They may also cover processes, trends, consequences, and important people, in business and disseminate their work through all types of mass media.

Business journalism, although common in most industrialized countries, has a very limited role in third-world and developing countries. This leaves citizens of such countries in a very disadvantaged position locally and internationally. Recent efforts to bring business media to these countries have proven to be worthwhile.

(4). **Development Reporting:** Development reporting is somewhat different from routine reporting from court, legislatures, crime, science, and technology or sports. However, it may involve writing our programs and policies resulting in economic change, social programs, and community feelings and reactions to program and change.



India saw a rapid transformation in all walks of life after it adopted a process of planned development through the five-year plans in 1951. People welcomed some of these changes, while many developments have been opposed by them. As development takes place, several new issues come up. Some become controversial and take the shapes of agitation, protests, and dharnas.

A reporter writes on the developmental issues creating awareness. The report should be informative. It should bring awareness among readers, listeners, and viewers about the various plans, schemes, projects, and programs drawn up by the government and different agencies. It should create an atmosphere of understanding the objectives of these schemes and ultimately mobilize and motivate people to participate in the development program and processes.

Participation of the people led to an increase in the production of food, building of new roads, laying of rail tracks, construction of houses, creation of facilities for safe drinking water, electricity, and communication lines. People can take initiative to build more and more hospitals, clinics, primary health centers, schools, colleges, and universities. People's participation can lead to the setting up of cinema halls, radio stations, and television centers.

Necessities like food, clothing and shelter, safe drinking water, medical care, and sanitation are fulfilled through development. The development raises the income and the living standard of people. A reporter needs to show some special skills, preparations, and qualities to be able to do this job successfully. A reporter should have an idea about different development programs and has also to collect information on various projects.

(5). Gender Reporting:

Understanding the role of gender in the newsroom involves tracing a shift from an initial consensus that women's only journalistic role was to write with "a woman's touch" about women, for women readers, to a claim that women should be allowed to produce the same "unmarked" news as men. The claim became that women's forms—women's sections or other materials intended for women audiences—represented professional competition and that women were needed to produce better more ethical journalism. That is, within the newsroom, gender was first dichotomized, rendering the interests of women and men as opposites, and then it claimed to be irrelevant.



Feminist scholars point out that, over time, men have consistently tried to protect their status, jobs, and salaries, and have failed to acknowledge how journalism was set up as a male enclave with “macho” values and a culture that disadvantaged women, especially mothers, with its tradition of long and irregular hours and lack of childcare.

Research on gender and journalism can be divided into two categories: (a) gender “at work” in newsrooms (including opportunities or inequities in jobs, promotions, and salaries) and (b) representations of women.

Scholars often assume that the first issue over-determines the second. On both issues, research shows improvement, but also continuing problems. Now women journalists appear to be well established; the news includes issues associated with women’s quotidian concerns, and it takes women seriously. Yet a variety of gender divides continue to characterize journalism.

Researchers find gendered patterns in coverage, especially in politics and sports. Women television journalists are routinely sexualized, and their high visibility in television broadcasting—through explicit scrutiny of their bodies, hairstyles, clothing, and voices—is countered by their invisibility in management.

Gendered double standards continue to determine the promotion of women to key decision-making and governance positions in print and broadcast news organizations. Moreover, women are far from enjoying equity in the online context.



Women continue to be concentrated in low-status media outlets and beats: they dominate community, small-town, and regional news organizations, and they produce “soft news,” human-interest stories and features. Men still dominate, although they do not monopolize, most of the high-status areas of news production, particularly politics and business, as

well as the lucrative and popular area of sports, a highly gendered and sexist domain.

The most overtly gendered arena is war correspondence. Women who report on war and conflict are judged by very different standards than men. In particular, mothers are condemned when they go off to dangerous conflict areas, although fathers who cover war continue to be largely immune from public criticism. Women war reporters run a high risk of sexual violence and harassment, although women who have been sexually attacked rarely tell their supervisors—probably for fear of being pulled off an assignment.

Countless platforms are now available to citizens to disseminate their views as citizen journalists, including blogs and Twitter; these provide opportunities for challenging gender roles and democratizing relations between men and women. On the other hand, social media threaten the business model of professional journalism; the resulting trend to part-time, freelance and even unpaid work creates a precarious and potentially highly feminized labor force.

SUMMARY

Political reporting in journalism is a branch of journalism, which specifically keeps eye on various political events and issues to cover stories neutrally in the public interest. Political reporting can be done for different channels such as newspapers, radio, television, magazine, digital newswires, etc.

Legislative Reporting is an essential part of mass media functions and is also a significant feature of Parliamentary Democracy. Both people and the government are benefited from legislature reporting. Parliament or a State Legislature, Vidhan Sabha and Vidhan Parishad are called "legislature". "Legislature" literally means a body that legislates or makes laws.

There are three sessions in a Parliament :

1. Budget
2. Monsoon
3. Winter

It conveys reporting about science to the public. The field typically involves interactions between scientists, journalists, and the public.

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Business journalism or Economic reporting is the part of journalism that tracks, records, analyzes, and interprets the business, economic and financial activities, and changes that take place in societies. Topics widely cover the entire purview of all commercial activities related to the economy.

Development reporting is somewhat different from routine reporting from court, legislatures, crime, science, and technology or sports

QUESTIONS

Short answer type Questions:

1. What is Political Reporting? Mention the importance of Political Reporting.
2. What is Legislative Reporting? Explain the role of legislative reporter.
3. Explain Diplomatic Reporting in short. Explain the direct effects of the press on diplomacy:
4. In short, mention why media is considered to be important.
5. Write a few sentences about:
 - (a) Economic Reporting (b) Development Reporting
 - (c) Gender Reporting:

Multiple Choice Questions:

1. _____ is a branch of journalism, which specifically keeps eye on cover stories that are in the public interest.
 - (a) Social Reporting
 - (b) Cultural Reporting
 - (c) Financial Reporting
 - (d) Political Reporting
2. _____ Reporting is an essential part or feature of Parliamentary Democracy.
 - (a) Political
 - (b) Gender

- (c) Social
- (d) Legislative
3. Vidhan Sabha and Vidhan Parishad are part of _____.
- (a) Executive
- (b) Judiciary
- (c) Legislature
- (d) None
4. The term “ Legislature “ means a body that _____
- (a) Practices Laws
- (b) Cancel Laws
- (c) Makes Laws
- (d) None
5. Three sessions of a parliament are Budget , _____ and winter session.
- (a) Summer
- (b) Autumn
- (c) Monsoon
- (d) Dry
6. Prime Minister Relief Fund are used in case of _____
- (a) Festival for bonuses
- (b) Calamities and wars
- (c) Pension
- (d) Bonus for govt employees.
7. A reporter is not allowed to carry a _____ in the press gallery of the parliament.
- (a) Mobile
- (b) Tape recorder
- (c) Magazine
- (d) Newspaper
8. _____ is the lifeblood of journalism services with reporters like veins and arteries, covering from their posts and sending the information back to the concerned person.

- (a) News
 - (b) Money
 - (c) Information
 - (d) None
9. _____conveys reporting about science to the public.
- (a) Scientific
 - (b) Medicine
 - (c) Science
 - (d) Research
10. _____ was the first recipient of the William Hill Sports Book of the Year award in 1989.
- (a) Dan Topolski
 - (b) Dan Williams
 - (c) Dan Michael
 - (d) None
11. The International Sports Press Association, AIPS, was founded in the year_____.
- (a) 1924
 - (b) 1926
 - (c) 1928
 - (d) 1922
12. AIPS Was founded in_____.
- (a) London
 - (b) Paris
 - (c) New York
 - (d) Brisbane
13. _____and Leslie Visser are considered pioneers in women's sportscasting.
- (a) Jane Chastain
 - (b) Martina Hingis
 - (c) Jane Wood
 - (d) Jane Austin
14. Economic Reporting is also called_____.
- (a) Business News

(b) Yellow News

(c) Business Journalism

(d) None

15. Five-year plan for development was started in the year

(a) 1947

(b) 1951

(c) 1949

(d) 1950

ANSWERS

1. (d) 2. (d) 3. (c) 4. (c) 5. (c) 6. (b) 7. (b) 8. (c) 9. (c) 10. (a)
11. (a) 12. (b) 13. (a) 14. (c) 15. (b)

