## **Class XI Physics NOTES**

## (a) Gravitational forces:

The gravitational force is the force of mutual attraction between any two objects by virtue of their masses.

## Some of the important feature/properties of gravitational forces are:

- 1. Gravitational forces are universal attractive forces, i.e., they exist between microscopic as well as macroscopic objects irrespective of their size, shape, separation and intervening medium.
- 2. These are the weakest forces in nature.
- 3. They operate over very long distance especially when the bodies are massive. For example, rotation of earth around the sun is due to gravitational pull of sun on earth.
- 4. Gravitational forces obey inverse square law, i.e., they vary inversely as the square of the distance between the two bodies.
- 5. Gravitational forces are central forces, i.e., they act along the line joining the centers of two bodies.
- 6. Gravitational forces are conservative forces.
- 7. The field particle of gravitational force is called 'graviton'. The concept of exchange of field particle (gravitons) between two bodies, explain how the two bodies interact from a distance.