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**Shaurya Tiwari**

Vidhigya Indore Aspire 2 Years  
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Delhi Public School, Indore

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**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

1. **No clarification on the Question paper can be sought. Answer the questions as they are.**
2. There are 120 multiple choice objective type questions. Answer **ALL** the questions.
3. Each question carries **ONE** mark. **Total marks are 120.**
4. There will be **negative marking. 0.25 marks** will be deducted for every wrong answer.
5. Candidates have to indicate the most appropriate answer by darkening one of the four responses provided, with **BLACK/BLUE BALL POINT PEN** in the **OMR** Answer Sheet.

**Example :** For the question, "Where is the Taj Mahal located ?" the correct answer is (b).

(a) Kolkata (b) Agra (c) Bhopal (d) Delhi

**Right Method**

**Wrong Methods**


6. Answering the question by any method other than the method indicated above shall be considered wrong answer.
7. More than one response to a question shall be counted as wrong answer.
8. The candidate shall not write anything on the OMR Answer Sheet other than the details required and, in the spaces, provide for.
9. After the examination is over, the candidate can carry the test booklet along with candidate's copy of the OMR, after handing over the original OMR to the invigilator.
10. The use of any unfair means by any candidate shall result in the cancellation of his/her candidature.
11. Impersonation is an offence and the candidate, apart from disqualification, may have to face criminal prosecution.
12. **Electronic gadgets like mobile phones, pagers or calculators etc. are strictly not permitted inside the Test Centre/Hall.**
13. The candidates shall not leave the hall before the end of the test.

Section	Subject	Q. No.	Total Questions
Section A:	English Language	Q.1 to 24	24
Section B:	Current Affairs with GK	Q.25 to 52	28
Section C:	Legal Reasoning	Q.53 to 84	32
Section D:	Logical Reasoning	Q.85 to 108	24
Section E:	Quantitative Techniques	Q.109 to 120	12

**Section A – English**
**Passage – I**

The judgment of the Supreme Court, upholding the abrogation of Article 370, is a massive legal victory for the Narendra Modi government's approach to Jammu and Kashmir: No procedural niceties, historical promises, or legal complexities should stand in the way of its version of the relationship between Jammu and Kashmir and the Indian Union. How people assess this judgment will be determined by how our political history turns. Was the Modi government's move another chapter in the betrayal of Jammu and Kashmir on which the SC has now put its seal of approval? Does the SC's position establish potentially dangerous precedents for the rest of federalism as well as faith in its authority? Or, will this be the final and full integration of the state into India's constitutional scheme, an improvement on the half measures that characterized the situation before the abrogation of 370? Will the sullen silence in the Valley be interpreted as a final victory? Or will it, as Justice Kaul's unprecedented and heartfelt plea observed, offer an opportunity to set Kashmir on the path of truth and reconciliation?

The experience of Jammu and Kashmir is marked by a tragic paradox. The formalities of treaties, law, legality, promises and procedure have been severely litigated. And yet at the same time, there is almost no other place where they have been rendered mostly irrelevant. It has been a history of betrayal, double dealing, suffering and violence. From that fateful day in 1947 when Pakistan-backed mercenaries entered Kashmir, political options and legal process have been playing catch up with constantly altered facts on the ground. Over the years, Article 370, meant to protect the special status of Kashmir and give it more autonomy, ended up doing neither. Successive acts by parties in Kashmir, authoritarian actions of the central government, insurgencies, violence fomented by Pakistan, meant that for significant chunks of Kashmir's history, neither democracy nor human rights were protected. It was also in a political logjam — it could neither endure its condition, nor did it possess the means to overcome it. Kashmir's special status, while an important aspiration, ended up being as much a source of historical burden as a mode of emancipation. Kashmir's identity was eviscerated as the Pandits were forced to leave. Usually norms have to meet facts halfway. In the case of Kashmir, the facts often become the norms. In 2019, the Government of India, via two Constitutional Orders 272 and 273, abrogated Article 370, and reorganized the state, downgrading the status of Kashmir. The facts changed again. The SC, in this judgment has, once again, obliged and the norm followed.

The Court is quite emphatic that Article 370 was meant to be transitory in nature; that the concurrence of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly was not required. It has also emphatically stated that the whole of the Constitution of India applies to the state. But in doing so, the Court produces its typical conjuring trick.

[Source : https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/](https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/)

1. What is the author's stance on the Supreme Court's judgement upholding the abrogation of Article 370?
  - (a) The author supports the judgement as a decisive step towards the full integration of Jammu and Kashmir.
  - (b) The author criticizes the judgement, considering it a betrayal and potential danger of federalism.
  - (c) The author believes that the judgement opens an opportunity for truth and reconciliation in Kashmir.
  - (d) The author does not express a clear stance on the Supreme Court's judgement.
2. Which of the following statements can be inferred based on the passage?
  - (a) The abrogation of article 370 is widely celebrated.
  - (b) The Supreme Court's judgement disregards the complexities of article 370.
  - (c) The author foresees potential dangers for federalism based on the judgement.
  - (d) The sullen silence in the valley is viewed as a defeat by the author.
3. Which of the following is not relevant to the passage?
  - (a) The role of the Supreme Court in upholding Article 370.
  - (b) The history of Kashmir's special status.
  - (c) The impact of insurgency on Kashmir's identity.
  - (d) The economic development of Jammu and Kashmir.
4. What is the tragic paradox characterizing the experience of Jammu and Kashmir, as mentioned in the passage?
  - (a) Historical stability and transitoriness of laws.
  - (b) Relatively severe laws rendered mostly irrelevant.
  - (c) Authoritarian actions of the government and a model of successful autonomy.
  - (d) A region with harmonious political dealings and abrogation of Article 370.
5. Which of the following is not true based on the passage?
  - (a) Article 370 was considered transitory in nature according to the Supreme Court.
  - (b) The concurrence of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly was not required for the abrogation of Article 370.
  - (c) The Government of India reorganized the state and downgraded the status of Kashmir in 2019.
  - (d) The Supreme Court suggests that the fact often become the norms in case of Kashmir.

**Passage - II**

Kind people, gather round and listen. The jongleur is here! I am the jongleur. I leap and pirouette, and make you laugh. I make fun of those in power, and I show you how puffed up and conceited are the bigshots who go around making wars in which we are the ones who get slaughtered. I reveal them for what they are. I pull out the plug, and ... pssss ... they deflate. Gather round, for now is the time and place that I begin to clown and teach you. I tumble, I sing and I joke! Look how my tongue whirls, almost like a knife. Remember that. But I have not always been ... Well, I would like to tell you how it was that I came to be.

I was not born a jongleur; I didn't suddenly turn up as I am now, with a sudden gust from the skies and, hopla, there I was: 'Good day ... Hello.' No! I am the result of a miracle! A miracle which was carried out on me. Do you believe me? This is how it came about! I was born a peasant.

A peasant? Yes, a real countryman. I was happy, I was sad, I had no land. No! I worked as all of us work in these valleys wherever I could. And one day I came by a mountain, a mountain all of rock. It was nobody's. I found that out. I asked people. 'No! Nobody wants this mountain!'

Well, I went up to its peak and I scratched with my nails and I saw that there was a little bit of earth there, and I saw that there was a little trickle of water coming down. So I began to scratch further. I went down to the river bank, and I wore my fingers to the bone bringing earth up onto this mountain. And my children and my wife were there. My wife is sweet, sweet and fair, with two big round eyes, and a gentle way of walking that reminds you of a heifer as she moves. Oh, she is beautiful! I love her, and it gives me such pleasure to speak of her.

Anyway, I carried earth up in my own hands, and the grass grew so fast! Pfff ...! It grew of its own accord. You've no idea how beautiful it was! It was like gold dust! I would stick in my hoe, and pfff ... a tree sprang forth. That earth was a miracle! A marvel! There were poplars, oaks and other trees everywhere. I sowed them when the moon was right; I knew what had to be done, and there, sweet, fine, handsome crops grew. There was chicory, thistles, beans, turnips, there was everything. For me, for us!

Oh, how happy I was! We used to dance, and then it would rain for days on end, and then the sun would blaze, and I would come, and go, and the moons were always right, and there was never too much wind, or too much mist. It was beautiful, beautiful! It was our land. This set of terraces was really beautiful. Every day I built another one. It was like the tower of Babel, beautiful, with all these terraces. It was paradise, paradise on earth! I swear it. And all the peasants used to pass by, saying: 'That's amazing, look what you've managed to bring forth out of this pile of rocks! How stupid that I never thought of that!'

[Source : https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/literature/1997/fo/prose/](https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/literature/1997/fo/prose/)

6. Which of the following best describes the jongleur's perspective on his existence?

- (a) The jongleur believes he was born with innate talents.
- (b) The jongleur attributes his existence to a miraculous event.
- (c) The jongleur claims to be a self-made individual.
- (d) The jongleur acknowledges the influence of external forces.

7. What does the term "jongleur" mean in the passage?

- (a) A dancer
- (b) A musician
- (c) A magician
- (d) A storyteller

8. What does the jongleur mean when he says, "I pull out the plug, and ... pssss ... they deflate."?

- (a) He literally deflates balloons.
- (b) He exposes the flaws of powerful people, deflating their arrogance.
- (c) He performs a trick with a plug and balloon.
- (d) He critiques the art of balloon-making.

9. What does the idiom, "wore my fingers to the bone" mean according to the passage?

- (a) Protecting hands from injury.
- (b) Engaging in meticulous handcrafting.
- (c) Working hard to the point of exhaustion.
- (d) Wearing gloves excessively.

10. According to the passage, how did the speaker transform the mountain into fertile land?

- (a) By buying the land from the locals.
- (b) By bringing earth from the plains and sowing seeds.
- (c) By cultivating the land with his hard work.
- (d) By praying and working for a miracle.

*Passage – III*

Thou, whose exterior semblance doth belie  
 Thy soul's immensity;  
 Thou best philosopher, who yet dost keep  
 Thy heritage, thou eye among the blind,  
 That, deaf and silent, read'st the eternal deep,  
 Haunted for ever by the eternal Mind,—  
 Mighty Prophet! Seer blest!  
 On whom those truths rest  
 Which we are toiling all our lives to find,  
 In darkness lost, the darkness of the grave;  
 Thou, over whom thy Immortality  
 Broods like the day, a master o'er a slave,  
 A Presence which is not to be put by;  
 To whom the grave  
 Is but a lonely bed, without the sense of sight  
 Of day or the warm light,  
 A place of thoughts where we in waiting lie;  
 Thou little child, yet glorious in the might  
 Of heaven-born freedom on thy being's height,  
 Why with such earnest pains dost thou provoke  
 The years to bring the inevitable yoke,  
 Thus blindly with thy blessedness at strife?  
 Full soon thy soul shall have her earthly freight,

And custom lie upon thee with a weight  
 Heavy as frost, and deep almost as life!  
 O joy! that in our embers  
 Is something that doth live,  
 That Nature yet remembers  
 What was so fugitive!  
 The thought of our past years in me doth breed  
 Perpetual benediction: not indeed  
 For that which is most worthy to be blest,  
 Delight and liberty, the simple creed  
 Of Childhood, whether busy or at rest,  
 With new-fledged hope still fluttering in his breast:—  
 —Not for these I raise  
 The song of thanks and praise;  
 But for those obstinate questionings  
 Of sense and outward things,  
 Fallings from us, vanishings,  
 Blank misgivings of a creature  
 Moving about in worlds not realized,  
 High instincts, before which our mortal nature  
 Did tremble like a guilty thing surprised:  
 But for those first affections.

**11.** What does the speaker express joy for in the passage?

- (a) The inevitable yoke that comes with maturity.
- (b) The simple creed of Childhood with delight and liberty.
- (c) The heavy weight of custom lying upon the little child.
- (d) The earthly freight and burden that the soul carries.

**12.** What is the central theme of the passage?

- (a) The inevitability of earthly burdens and the weight of custom.
- (b) The perpetual benediction of past years and the joy of childhood.
- (c) The struggles and misgivings of a creature in unrealized worlds.
- (d) The haunting presence of the eternal mind over mortal nature.

**13.** What does the speaker imply by the term 'fugitive' in the passage?

- (a) Something fleeting and transient.
- (b) Something burdensome and heavy.
- (c) Something inevitable and unavoidable.
- (d) Something haunting and persistent.

**14.** In the line, "Thou, whose exterior semblance doth belie Thy soul's immensity," what does the speaker convey about the person addressed?

- (a) The person's appearance accurately reflects the vastness of their soul.
- (b) The person's exterior appearance contradicts the true depth of their soul.
- (c) The person's soul is diminutive despite their imposing appearance.
- (d) The person's soul is immense, matching their outward demeanour.

*Passage – IV*

At the root of the 'reunification' narrative was the idea that these formerly Polish lands were historically Ukrainian and historically tied to Russia. While the Soviets did not initially acknowledge this, narrative depended on the historical role of a shared religious tradition, specifically Eastern Orthodoxy, in forming and sustaining these ties. Soon, however, the Soviets realised that a pragmatic approach to religion could allow them to buttress their claims to western Ukraine. The idea that these lands on the western borderlands ought to be ruled by Russia could be justified with the presence of Orthodox churches.

Thus, beginning in 1939, the Soviet state began the process of formally transferring churches in this region to Moscow's spiritual jurisdiction and re-opening them with Russian Orthodox priests. The perceived successes that came out of this 1939 experiment in the western borderlands laid the groundwork for the Soviet-wide revival of the Russian Orthodox

As the head of the local Communist Party in Lviv in Ukraine explained in his report to his superiors about the status of the forced religious transfer:

Reunification should not be carried out in only a formal fashion, but in a way so reunified priests show their devotion to Orthodoxy and inculcate the believer part of the population with love for their fellow Orthodox – Russians, Ukrainians, and other peoples of the Soviet Union.

Outside of western Ukraine in the decades following the Second World War, the realisation that the instrumentalisation of religion was not working led to a reversal of the tolerant wartime policies. In Stalin's later years and under the leadership of his successor, Khrushchev, many of the reopened sacred spaces were shuttered again. The Council for the Affairs of the Russian Orthodox Church and the Council for the Affairs of Religious Cults found that their requests for funding and personnel were routinely denied. Official clergy came under suspicion, their loyalty to the Soviet state called into doubt. Khrushchev launched renewed campaigns to promote atheism.

But in some places the experiment continued on. In western Ukraine, the Russian Orthodox Church justified its presence as a bulwark against the underground Greek Catholic Church and the associations with anti-Soviet Ukrainian nationalism that came with it. While churches closed across the USSR, Russian Orthodox priests in western Ukraine successfully petitioned for theirs to stay open. By the time the Soviet Union collapsed, 20 per cent of its surviving Russian Orthodox Churches were located in the Galician region of western Ukraine – the epicentre of the religious transfer and a place that had been mostly Catholic before the arrival of Soviet power. The example of western Ukraine demonstrates that, in places where official religion was seen as playing the role the Soviet state wanted it to play, official religion survived – long into the post-war era.

Reflecting on the legacy of this intervention into religious life, it is easy to dismiss the state-formulated Russian Orthodox Church in western Ukraine and other forms of official religious life as purely an imposition. But this ignores the experience of those who found meaning in the official Russian Orthodox Church, who prayed in its chapels, who took Communion from its priests, and who attended the Divine Liturgy – whether reluctantly or not. In trying to instrumentalise religion, in western Ukraine the Soviet state changed how religious institutions were viewed by believers and non-believers alike. The mere presence of an official Russian Orthodox Church associated with the Soviet state created associations between Soviet belonging, Russian imperialism and Ukrainian nationalism that shaped the experiences of believers then, and continue to shape perceptions of religious institutions in today's Ukraine.

**15.** Which of the following is the most apt title of the passage?

- (a) "Religious Tensions in Soviet Ukraine"
- (b) "The impact of Soviet Policies on Churches"
- (c) "Survival of Russian Orthodox Churches in Post-war Era"
- (d) "The Role of religion in the collapse of the Soviet Union"

**16.** What is the main idea of the passage?

- (a) The Soviet state's pragmatic approach to religion in western Ukraine.
- (b) The reversal of tolerant wartime policies on religion in USSR.
- (c) The forced religious transfer in western Ukraine and its impact.
- (d) The collapse of the Soviet Union and its effects on religious institutions.

**17.** Which of the following statements is supported by the passage?

- (a) The Soviet state's approach to religion in western Ukraine was consistent throughout its history.
- (b) In the post-Soviet era, all Russian orthodox Churches survived in western Ukraine.
- (c) The forced religious transfer in 1939 laid in the groundwork for the Soviet-wide revival of the Russian orthodox.
- (d) The council for the Affairs of the Russian Orthodox Church was supportive of religious freedom.

**18.** What can be inferred about the Russian Orthodox Church in western Ukraine during the post-Soviet era?

- (a) The Russian Orthodox Church in western Ukraine was entirely closed down.
- (b) The events in western Ukraine influenced religious policies in other Soviet regions.
- (c) The majority of Russian Orthodox Churches in western Ukraine were located in Galicia.
- (d) The collapse of the Soviet Union had no impact on religious institutions in western Ukraine.

**19.** Which of the following contradicts the information presented in the passage?

- (a) The Soviet state's pragmatic approach to religion in western Ukraine.
- (b) The reversal of tolerant wartime policies on religion in the USSR.
- (c) The forced religious transfer in western Ukraine laid the groundwork for the Soviet-wide revival of the Russian Orthodox.
- (d) Russian Orthodox priests in western Ukraine faced challenges similar to those in other regions.

**Passage - V**

Two months after Israel launched its attack on Gaza following Hamas's October 7 cross-border raid in which some 1,200 Israelis were killed, the tiny Palestinian enclave, with razed buildings, a maze of rubble and unprecedented human suffering, looks battered beyond repair. But the war is far from over. Over 1.7 million of Gaza's 2.3 million people have been forced out of their homes; some 16,000 Palestinians have been killed, and tens of thousands more wounded. Israel has taken over parts of northern Gaza and pushed its population towards the south. And now, the Israeli forces are expanding the offensive towards the south, particularly targeting Khan Younis, a city of 4,00,000 people in normal times that has seen its population more than double since the war. The widening offensive has displaced more Gazans who are now forced into a sliver of territory in Rafah, on the Egyptian border. Israel, which has witnessed mounting international criticism, seems unfazed by the unfolding humanitarian tragedy. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says Israel will continue the war until its goals are met - primarily the dismantling of Hamas.

When Israel stormed the al-Shifa hospital in northern Gaza, its claim was that a Hamas command centre was located in underground bunkers. Weeks after raiding the enclave's largest medical facility, Israel is yet to provide any proof that it was a command centre. Now, the IDF claims that top Hamas leaders, including Yahya Sinwar, are based in southern Gaza. The world did nothing when Israel turned northern Gaza into what the UN called a "graveyard of children". It should not be allowed to repeat the same in the south. The war has already exposed tensions in America's support for Israel's war. Secretary of State Antony Blinken travelled to Israel last week and reportedly told the war cabinet that the conflict should end in days not in months. Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin warned Israel against civilian casualties, saying "if you drive civilians into the arms of the enemy, you replace a tactical victory with a strategic defeat". But these warnings are not enough. The U.S. continues to send aid to Israel and President Joe Biden still refuses to call for a ceasefire. The violence has already triggered regional tensions with Hezbollah firing rockets into Israel and the latter retaliating, and the Houthis of Yemen launching drones and missiles towards Israel, which is mostly being intercepted by American systems. An end to the violence in Gaza has become imperative for regional stability. Israel is unlikely to pause the offensive on its own. But the U.S. and other major regional powers should press Israel and Hamas to restart negotiations to find a lasting ceasefire and the release of hostages.

[Source :https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/e](https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/e)

**20.** What can be accurately inferred from the passage?

- (a) The al-Shifa hospital in northern Gaza was proven to be a Hamas command center.
- (b) The U.S fully supports Israel's offence in Gaza.
- (c) Secretary of state Anthony Blinken supports a prolonged conflict in Gaza.
- (d) The humanitarian tragedy in Gaza necessitates urgent action.

**21.** What is the genre of the passage?

- (a) Historical non-fiction.      (b) Political commentary.      (c) Opinion piece      (d) Political Journal

**22.** Why does the passage suggest that an end to violence is imperative?

- (a) To emphasize Israel's victory in the conflict.
- (b) To prevent further regional tensions and instability.
- (c) To showcase America's unwavering support for Israel.
- (d) To highlight military achievements for Hamas.

**23.** Which of the following arguments is supported by the passage?

- (a) The passage emphasizes the military success of Israel in the conflict.
- (b) The passage highlights the diplomatic efforts of Hamas in seeking ceasefire.
- (c) The passage suggests that regional stability is contingent on ending the violence in Gaza.
- (d) The passage argues for increased military intervention from major powers in the conflict.

**24.** What is the tone displayed by the author in the passage?

- (a) Objective and impartial      (b) Optimistic and hopeful
- (c) Critical and concerned      (d) Indifferent and disinterested

**Section B-Current Affairs with GK****Passage - VI**

The National Games of India encompass a diverse array of disciplines, wherein athletes hailing from various states engage in spirited competition. Initially conceived as a biennial event, the trajectory of these Games has been marked by sporadic occurrences due to logistical and procedural intricacies. The primary impetus behind their inception was the discernment of athletic prowess capable of representing the nation on the esteemed Olympic stage. The foundational efforts driving the National Games were spearheaded by notable figures, including Dorabji Tata, a prominent Indian industrialist, and visionaries such as Harry Crowe Buck, the progenitor of the YMCA College of Physical Education in Chennai (then Madras), alongside Dr. A.G. Noehren, the esteemed director of the aforementioned institution. Their



collective vision sought to unearth and nurture sporting talent that could stand as ambassadors for the country at the global sporting pinnacle. The Games, initially maintaining a biennial cadence, witnessed a deviation from this periodicity after the 25th edition in 1970. A subsequent hiatus ensued, with the subsequent edition materializing nine years later, notably in 1979, hosted in the city of Hyderabad. This intermittent schedule has persisted, reflecting the intricate interplay of logistical challenges and administrative intricacies that have characterized the historical evolution of the National Games in India.

**25.** In which location was the 37th edition of the National Games recently held?

- (a) Goa (b) Gujarat  
(c) Kerala (d) Jharkhand

**26.** Which state secured the top position in the medal tally at the National Games 2023?

- (a) Karnataka (b) Maharashtra  
(c) Kerala (d) Tamil Nadu

**27.** Which water sport was included as a new discipline in the 37th National Games in Goa?

- (a) Rowing (b) Yachting  
(c) Canoeing (d) Sailing

**28.** Which company served as the official sponsor for the 37th National Games?

- (a) Coca-Cola (b) Reliance  
(c) Paytm (d) Amazon

**29.** Where is the 38th National Games scheduled to be held in 2024?

- (a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Uttarakhand  
(c) Maharashtra (d) Tamil Nadu

### Passage – VII

In a strategically calculated manoeuvre designed to bolster domestic demand and reduce reliance on imported natural gas, India has unveiled a multifaceted plan to amalgamate compressed biogas (CBG) with conventional natural gas, as articulated in an official pronouncement by the government. Positioned as a prominent global consumer of oil and gas, India presently procures nearly half of its total gas consumption from external sources, necessitating a concerted effort to mitigate the associated import expenditures. To address this imperative, the Central government has introduced an elaborate roadmap outlining the mandatory incorporation of compressed biogas (CBG) in both the transportation and domestic sectors of the city gas distribution (CGD) realm. This initiative is poised to unfold progressively in delineated phases. The envisioned denouement is a substantial impetus toward amplifying both the production and utilization of CBG, an alternative fuel source that has encountered impediments in gaining widespread acceptance within the national landscape. The core objectives underpinning the Compulsory Blending Obligation (CBO) include the stimulation of CBG demand in the CGD sector, substitution of liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports, foreign exchange savings, promotion of circular economic principles, and the facilitation of achieving the overarching target of net-zero emissions. Such strategic measures align with the larger paradigm of sustainable energy practices and a conscientious commitment to environmental stewardship.

**30.** In which year was the "National Policy on Biofuels" officially notified by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas?

- (a) 2010 (b) 2015  
(c) 2018 (d) 2020

**31.** When does the mandatory blending obligation for Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) start according to the decision?

- (a) FY 2022-2023 (b) FY 2023-2024  
(c) FY 2024-2025 (d) FY 2025-2026

**32.** What percentage of total CNG/PNG consumption is set for the CBG Blending Obligation (CBO) in FY 2025-26?

- (a) 1% (b) 3%  
(c) 4% (d) 5%

**33.** What is the primary objective of this strategic escalation in mandatory blending percentages?

- (a) To decrease overall energy consumption  
(b) To increase the use of conventional fuels  
(c) To progressively integrate biogas into mainstream energy consumption  
(d) To enhance carbon emissions

**34.** The National Biofuels Coordination Committee (NBCC) has given its approval for the mandatory blending of CBG with compressed natural gas (CNG). Where is the world's first compressed natural gas (CNG) terminal planned to be set up (announced in 2022)?

- (a) Tokyo, Japan (b) Bhavnagar, Gujarat  
(c) Sydney, Australia (d) Stockholm, Sweden

**Passage - VIII**

The Union Government has undertaken the initiative to rename the existing Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs). In a directive addressed to all States and Union Territories, the Union Health Ministry has called for the expeditious completion of the rebranding process. As part of this endeavour, states have been mandated to upload visual documentation, specifically photographs capturing the revamped primary health facilities, onto the AB-HWC portal. Upon the culmination of the rebranding process by the health centers, it is imperative for States to subsequently upload new photographs showcasing the primary health facilities adorned with their updated nomenclature on the AB-HWC portal. Presently, India boasts an extensive network exceeding 1.6 lakh AB-HWCs, poised to deliver comprehensive primary healthcare services, encompassing maternal and child health provisions, alongside the provision of essential drugs and diagnostic services.

- 35.** What is the proposed new name for Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs)?  
 (a) Ayushman Health Hub (b) Arogya Wellness Centers  
 (c) Ayushman Arogya Mandir (d) Health Harmony Temples
- 36.** What is the deadline set for the completion of the rebranding process for health and wellness centers?  
 (a) 2023 (b) 2024  
 (c) 2025 (d) 2026
- 37.** The rebranding initiative emphasizes retaining the National Health Mission (NHM) logo in the renamed centers. Which health missions were subsumed under the National Health Mission (NHM) at its launch?  
 (a) Only National Rural Health Mission  
 (b) Only National Urban Health Mission  
 (c) Both National Rural Health Mission and National Urban Health Mission  
 (d) Neither National Rural Health Mission nor National Urban Health Mission
- 38.** What tagline is suggested for the rebranded Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs)?  
 (a) Health for All (b) Sarve Santu Arogyam  
 (c) Arogyam Parmam Dhanam (d) Care Beyond Boundaries
- 39.** Which date is celebrated as Ayushman Bharat Diwas in India?  
 (a) March 11 (b) April 30  
 (c) November 15 (d) December 10

**Passage - IX**

The annual global toll of nearly 30 lakh worker fatalities, as delineated in a recent report by the International Labour Organization (ILO), underscores the profound impact of work-related accidents and diseases on the global workforce. Strikingly, protracted exposure to extended working hours, defined as 55 hours or more per week, emerged as the predominant precipitant, contributing to the demise of almost 7.45 lakh individuals in the year 2016. Subsequently, exposure to occupational particulate matter, gases, and fumes accounted for a staggering 4.5 lakh deaths, while occupational injuries claimed the lives of 3.63 lakh workers. The report unveils a disconcerting trend in the realm of occupational health, highlighting a noteworthy surge in the incidence of trachea, bronchus, and lung cancers attributable to occupational exposure to chromium. Alarming statistics reveal a twofold increase in the rate of these cancers between the years 2000 and 2016. Furthermore, the insidious impact of asbestos exposure on human health is underscored by a 40% escalation in the prevalence of mesothelioma over the same period. Delving into the intricacies of the data, a discernible uptick of over 37% in the rate of non-melanoma skin cancer is documented, comparing the years 2000 and 2020. This underscores a pressing need for heightened awareness and stringent preventive measures within occupational settings to mitigate the burgeoning risks posed by prolonged exposure to environmental factors. The findings of this comprehensive report serve as an imperative call to action, prompting a re-evaluation of occupational safety protocols and a collective commitment to fostering workplaces that prioritize employee well-being and minimize the insidious toll exacted by occupational hazards.

- 40.** In which year was the International Labour Organization (ILO) established?  
 (a) 1919 (b) 1930 (c) 1946 (d) 1948
- 41.** How many member states are currently involved with the International Labour Organization?  
 (a) 178 (b) 187 (c) 190 (d) 203
- 42.** What is the title of the report to be discussed at the 23rd World Congress on Safety and Health at Work?  
 (a) A Call for Improved Work Environments  
 (b) Safer Workplaces: A Global Imperative  
 (c) A Call for Safer and Healthier Working Environments  
 (d) Enhancing Workplace Safety and Health

43. Which country has not ratified both the ILO Occupational Safety and Health Convention (No. 155) and the Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006 (No. 187)?

- (a) India (b) Brazil (c) USA (d) China

44. Which sectors were identified as the three most hazardous globally in terms of fatal occupational injury rate?

- (a) Mining and Quarrying, Construction, and Utilities  
 (b) Mining and Quarrying, Health care and Transportation  
 (c) Information Technology, Education, and Transportation  
 (d) Manufacturing, Retail, and Hospitality

#### Passage - X

The Supreme Court of India, as the preeminent judicial institution within the nation, contends with a mounting caseload and contends against a labyrinthine structural configuration that poses impediments to its operational efficacy. This quandary precipitates a meticulous exploration of the proposition advocating for the establishment of a distinct Constitution Bench, thereby underscoring the imperative for a comprehensive reconfiguration of the Supreme Court's organizational framework. Antecedent to the country's independence, the judicature witnessed the existence of three distinct Supreme Courts situated in Bombay, Calcutta, and Madras. However, the advent of the Indian High Courts Act of 1861 led to the supplanting of these entities by High Courts, thereby setting the stage for the establishment of the contemporary Supreme Court in 1950. This august institution, conceived in the nascent years of the republic, experienced a gradual amplification in its judicial complement, progressing from a modest cohort of eight judges at its inception in 1950 to a formidable assembly of 34 adjudicators by the year 2019. This expansion is inherently correlated with the escalating expanse of the judicial docket, exemplifying the court's responsive adaptation to the burgeoning demands placed upon it. The judicial architecture of India, inherently hierarchical, delineates a tripartite structure encompassing the Supreme Court at its apical zenith, succeeded by High Courts dispersed across each state, and culminating in District and Subordinate Courts operating at the granular echelons of districts and sub-districts.

45. The Supreme Court of India has three jurisdictions under the Constitution: original, appellate, and advisory. The power of Supreme court to decide disputes between centre and state falls under its which jurisdiction?

- (a) Original (b) Appellate (c) Advisory (d) Both A and C

46. In which year did the Tenth Law Commission propose the division of the Supreme Court into Constitutional and Legal Divisions?

- (a) 1972 (b) 1984 (c) 1988 (d) 1990

47. Which type of cases were the regional benches proposed by the 229th Law Commission Report intended to hear?

- (a) Only constitutional and public law-related cases (b) Only criminal cases  
 (c) Non-constitutional issues (d) Only civil cases

48. What is the prescribed minimum age limit for the appointment of a judge to the Supreme Court?

- (a) No such age limit prescribed (b) 55 Years  
 (c) 60 Years (d) 65 Years

#### Passage - XI

The Silkyara tunnel, an integral component of the esteemed Char Dham Pariyojana (CDP), constitutes a pivotal facet of the government's ambitious endeavour to augment roads in Uttarakhand. The ostensibly avowed objective of this monumental initiative is to facilitate an increased influx of devotees to the sacred shrines of Uttarakhand, thereby concurrently propelling the economic upliftment of the state. Following a protracted and distressing 17-day ordeal, all 41 laborers who found themselves ensnared beneath the collapsed Silkyara-Barkot tunnel in Uttarakhand were successfully extricated. This herculean rescue operation unfolded as a testament to the collective tenacity and determination exhibited by the Indian Army, the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), and local authorities. The incident, which transpired on November 12, witnessed a segment of the tunnel—located between the 205 and 260-meter junctures from the Silkyara entrance—succumb to collapse, thereby entrapping laborers stationed beyond the 260-meter threshold, effectively blocking their exit. Fortuitously, the encapsulated section of the tunnel retains access to both power and water supplies, thereby mitigating some of the immediate challenges faced by the beleaguered workers. While official pronouncements from government authorities have consistently underscored the commitment to conducting a comprehensive investigation to ascertain the causative factors precipitating the collapse, a multiplicity of theories abound in the public discourse. Notably, one conjecture posits that a landslide in the fragile Himalayan terrain may have instigated the structural failure.

49. When was the foundation stone of the Char Dham Project laid?

- (a) 2014 (b) 2015 (c) 2016 (d) 2017

50. What is the Chardham project focused on?

- (a) Developing 900 kilometers of national highways (b) Constructing skyscrapers in pilgrimage sites  
 (c) Developing 500 kilometers of national highways (d) Enhancing railway connectivity

51. The State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), constituted under Section 48 (1) (a) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005. For special category States/UTs (NE States, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu, and Kashmir), what percentage does the Central Government contribute to the SDRF allocation?

- (a) 50% (b) 75% (c) 90% (d) 100%

52. Who is the current Chief Minister of Uttarakhand?

- (a) Pushkar Singh Dhami (b) Tirath Singh Rawat  
 (c) Trivendra Singh Rawat (d) Harish Rawat

### Section C-Legal Reasoning

#### Passage - XII

Under the Indian Penal Code, outraging the modesty of a woman is a punishable offence under Section 354. The section originally read: "Whoever assaults or uses criminal force to any woman, intending to outrage or knowing it to be likely that he will thereby outrage her modesty, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both." In 2013, Section 354 was amended to make the punishment more stringent, and the sentence was changed to not less than one year and up to five years or with fine, or with both. The offence is cognisable, non-bailable (which means that bail is not a right of the accused and is granted on the discretion of the judge), and it can be tried by any magistrate.

The words "assault" and "criminal force" are defined in Sections 351 and 350 of the IPC respectively. Section 351 reads: "Whoever makes any gesture, or any preparation intending or knowing it to be likely that such gesture or preparation will cause any person present to apprehend that he who makes that gesture or preparation is about to use criminal force to that person, is said to commit an assault." Section 350 says: "Whoever intentionally uses force to any person, without that person's consent, in order to the committing of any offence, or intending by the use of such force to cause, or knowing it to be likely that by the use of such force he will cause injury, fear or annoyance to the person to whom the force is used, is said to use criminal force to that other." Pertinently, presence of either 'intention' or knowledge' is vital for the alleged act to fall under the purview of IPC Sections 354, 351, and 350. Offences that are less severe in nature, fall under the purview of Section 509 of the IPC, which deals with "word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman". The main difference between Sections 509 and 354 IPC is that the latter goes beyond the act of outraging the modesty of a woman and involves clear threat of physical harm or assault to the woman.

The Supreme Court in the case of 'Ramkripal vs State of Madhya Pradesh' (2007), noted that although the IPC does not define what constitutes an outrage to female modesty, the "essence of a woman's modesty is her sex". The culpable intention of the accused is the crux of the matter. The reaction of the woman is very relevant, but its absence is not always decisive," the court held. Deeming 'modesty' as a virtue which attaches to a female owing to her sex, the court went on to give examples such as the act of pulling a woman, or removing her saree, coupled with a request for sexual intercourse with the knowledge that her modesty might be outraged is sufficient to constitute the offence even without any deliberate intention. The test of outrage of modesty is whether a reasonable man will think that the act of the offender was intended to or was known to be likely to outrage the modesty of the woman.

**Source:** Extracted (with edits and revisions) from an article titled 'Man who urinated on woman on Air India flight accused of 'outraging her modesty': What is this offence under IPC?' published at The Indian Express, January 13, 2023.

53. Vidhan encounters Vidhi, a fellow student at a party in Delhi. During the party, Vidhan approaches Vidhi and tries to engage in conversation. Vidhi feels uncomfortable and tries to leave. Vidhan, holds her arm and says, "Why are you running away? Let's talk." Vidhi felt threatened and tried to leave again. Vidhan caught hold of her again and requested for sexual intercourse. Vidhi reports the incident to the college authorities, who then involves the police. Vidhan claims he had no intention to outrage Vidhi's modesty and was merely trying to have a conversation. Based on the legal principles in the passage, which of the following statement is most appropriate with regards to Vidhan's guilt under Section 354?

- (a) Yes Vidhan is guilty, because Vidhan used criminal force on Vidhi with knowledge that her modesty might be outraged.  
 (b) Vidhan is not guilty under Section 354, because the act falls under the purview of IPC Section 509, which deals with word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman.  
 (c) Yes Vidhan is guilty, because the act of holding Vidhi's arm and asking her to talk even after her denial constitutes the offense of assault.  
 (d) Vidhan is not guilty under Section 354, because Vidhan did not have the intention or knowledge that his actions would likely outrage Vidhi's modesty.

**54.** Vidhyut, a resident of Ranchi, is a frequent customer at a local café where Vidhya works as a waitress. Vidhyut often makes inappropriate comments about Vidhya's appearance but never touches her. One day, Vidhyut leaves a note on the table saying, "You should smile more; it would make you even more attractive." An FIR has been filed against Vidhyut under Section 354 of IPC. The matter was sent for trial to Judicial Magistrate Second Class. Such magistrate after taking into account the facts of the case, convicts Vidhyut for the offence. Vidhyut challenges this by claiming that the case should have been tried by Judicial Magistrate First Class only. In light of the facts mentioned choose the most appropriate option:

- (a) Vidhyut's claim is valid as the offence is a non-bailable offence and therefore should be tried by Judicial Magistrate First Class only.
- (b) Vidhyut's claim is invalid as the offence under Section 354 can be tried by any magistrate.
- (c) Vidhyut's claim is valid as offence under Section 354 is a serious offence and therefore should be tried by Judicial Magistrate First Class only.
- (d) Cannot be adequately determined in light of the information provided in the passage.

**55.** Vidhan, a gym instructor in Indore, is conducting a fitness class attended by both men and women. During the class, he assists participants in correcting their postures. While assisting Vidhisha, he places his hands on her waist to correct her posture for a specific exercise. Vidhisha appreciates this gesture. However, at one instance, in the garb of correcting her posture, he touches her inappropriately. Vidhisha feels uncomfortable and annoyed. She wanted to confront him, but does not say anything at the moment. Later, she files an FIR against him under Section 354. Vidhan challenges this by saying that his acts does not outrage modesty as Vidhisha showed no reaction at the time. Based on the legal principles in the passage, should Vidhan be charged under IPC Section 354 for outraging the modesty of Vidhisha?

- (a) Yes, because Vidhan used criminal force on Vidhisha with the intention to outrage her modesty.
- (b) Yes, because correcting her posture was not required at each and every instance.
- (c) No, because Vidhan had no culpable intention to outrage Vidhisha's modesty; he was merely doing his job as a gym instructor.
- (d) No, because the absence of Vidhisha's immediate reaction makes it less likely that her modesty was outraged.

**56.** Vidhan, has been working as a bus conductor in Delhi since 2014. Ever since he joined he has made inappropriate comments towards female passengers. One day, he goes a step further by intentionally brushing his hand against Vidhi's lower back as she is getting off the bus. Feeling violated, Vidhi immediately reports the incident to the police. The police find that Vidhan had been previously warned for similar behaviour but had not faced any legal consequences until now. They are now considering charging him under the amended IPC Section 354. Based on the legal principles in the passage, should Vidhan be charged under the amended IPC Section 354?

- (a) Yes, because Vidhan used criminal force with the intention to outrage her modesty and his act was committed after 2013, thus falling under the amended IPC Section 354.
- (b) No, because Vidhan's actions were not severe enough to warrant the stringent punishment under the amended IPC Section 354.
- (c) Yes, because the amendment to IPC Section 354 in 2013 was designed to deal with cases like this more severely, and Vidhan had a history of similar behaviour.
- (d) No, because Vidhi did not react immediately, making it less likely that her modesty was outraged.

**57.** Vidur has been accused of committing an offence under Section 354 of the Indian Penal Code. His case has been listed for hearing before Judicial Magistrate First Class. Before the magistrate, Vidur has explained that the accusation against him is invalid and not based on adequate grounds. He has requested the court for bail. The Magistrate after carefully analysing the facts of the case, granted bail to Vidur. In light of the facts mentioned, choose the most appropriate option.

- (a) The magistrate's decision is invalid as the offence under Section 354 is a non-bailable offence and hence bail cannot be granted in any case.
- (b) The magistrate's decision is valid only if it is proved that Vidur was innocent.
- (c) The magistrate decision is invalid as the offence under Section 354 is a serious offence and therefore bail should not be granted.
- (d) The magistrate's decision is valid as even in non-bailable offence, bail can be granted as per the discretion of the judge.

**58.** Which of the following statements can be concluded from the passage?

- (i) Presence of either 'intention' or 'knowledge' is vital for an act to fall under section 354.
  - (ii) Securing a bail seems to be easier under section 509 of IPC compared to section 354 of IPC.
  - (iii) Offence under section 509 is cognisable.
  - (iv) The reaction of women is not always a decisive factor to conclude whether an offence under section 354 has been committed or not.
- (a) (i), (ii) and (iii) only      (b) (ii) and (iv) only      (c) (i) and (iv) only      (d) (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv)

59. Based on the passage, decide:

Assertion (A): Section 354 of IPC punishes individuals who assaults or uses criminal force to any woman, intending to outrage or knowing it to be likely that he will thereby outrage her modesty.

Reason (R): Word, gesture, or act intended to insult the modesty of women, without clear threat of physical harm or assault to the woman is punishable under Section 509 of IPC.

- (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation for A's truthfulness.
- (b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation for A's truthfulness.
- (c) A is true but R is false.
- (d) A is false but R is true.

### Passage - XIII

The Supreme Court recently held that authorised signatory of a company who signs a cheque on its behalf is not the "drawer" of the cheque and hence such signatory is not liable to pay interim compensation under section 143A of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 in a case for dishonour of cheque. As per section 7 of the NI Act, the maker of a bill of exchange or cheque is called the "drawer". The drawer has the liability under section 138 of the Act in a case for dishonour of cheque. If offence under section 138 is committed by a company, section 141 extends liability vicariously to officers of a company. However, proviso to Section 141 excludes liability if the person accused proves that the offence was committed without his knowledge, or that he had exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of such offence. Under section 143A, the trial court has the power to order the drawer to pay interim compensation to the complainant for the pendency of the trial.

The court said that the word 'drawer' in section 143A has a clear and unambiguous meaning. "Therefore there is no need to interpret the word 'drawer' to include authorised signatory", the court held. It is to be noted that person can be held liable under these provisions if it can be shown that he had deeper involvement in the affairs of the company, apart from being an authorised signatory. The court added that sections 143A and 148 of NI Act were enacted in 2018.

The court further reasoned that the Apex Court has consistently excluded signatory of the cheque from the expression "drawer" in section 138. "The expression 'drawer' in section 138 has not been interpreted to include either signatory of the cheque or the signatory director. Despite the expression 'drawer' occurring in section 138, both- signatories of a cheque and in charge director have been held vicariously liable under section 141", the court stated. Further, there is no power under section 141 of the NI Act for the court to direct payment of interim compensation, the court noted. Under section 148 of the NI Act, the appellate court, in an appeal filed by the drawer against conviction under section 138, can direct the drawer to deposit minimum 20% of the fine or compensation awarded by the trial court. Since 'drawer' does not include an 'authorised signatory' in the case of a company, the court held that appellate court cannot direct deposit of the amount in an appeal filed by authorized signatory. The court clarified that appellate court has the power under section 389 of Cr.P.C. to direct deposit of amount in an appeal under section 148 of NIA by persons other than drawer.

**Source:** Extracted (with edits and revisions) from an article titled 'NI Act| Company's Authorized Signatory Not "Drawer" Of Cheque, Not Liable to Pay Interim Compensation under Sec. 143A: Supreme Court', published at Live Law (March 10, 2023)

60. Vidhan Pvt. Ltd., a company based in Indore, issues a cheque of Rs.10 lakh to Vidhyut Enterprises, a supplier based in Delhi. The cheque is signed by Vidhi, the authorized signatory of Vidhan Pvt. Ltd. However, due to insufficient funds, the cheque gets dishonoured. Vidhyut Enterprises files a case against Vidhan Pvt. Ltd. and also against Vidhi, the signatory, under Section 138. Vidhyut Enterprises are also demanding interim compensation under section 143A. Based on the legal principles outlined in the passage, who can be directed to pay the interim compensation?

- (a) Both Vidhan Pvt. Ltd. and Vidhi can be directed to pay the interim compensation
- (b) Only Vidhan Pvt. Ltd. can be directed to pay the interim compensation
- (c) Only Vidhi can be directed to pay the interim compensation.
- (d) Neither Vidhan Pvt. Ltd. nor Vidhi can be directed to pay the interim compensation.

61. Vidhi Industries, a company based in Ranchi, issues a cheque of Rs.15 lakh to Vidhan Traders, a business entity in Delhi. The cheque is signed by Vidhyut, the authorized signatory of Vidhi Industries. Due to discrepancies in the account, the cheque is dishonoured. Vidhan Traders initiates legal proceedings and the trial court convicts Vidhi Industries and Vidhyut under section 138 and imposes a fine of Rs. 20 lakh. Vidhyut, being aggrieved by the decision, files an appeal in 2017. During the appeal proceedings, Vidhan Traders requests the appellate court to direct Vidhi Industries and Vidhyut to deposit 20% of the fine. Based on the legal principles outlined in the passage, does the Appellate court has the power to direct Vidhi Industries and Vidhyut to deposit 20% of the fine in instant case?

- (a) Yes, the appellate court has the power to direct Vidhyut to deposit 20% of the fine as he is the drawer of the cheque.
- (b) No, the appellate court does not have the power to direct Vidhyut to deposit 20% of the fine, but it has the power to direct Vidhi Industries to do so.
- (c) Yes, the appellate court has the power to direct both Vidhi Industries and Vidhyut to deposit 20% of the fine.
- (d) No, neither Vidhi Industries nor Vidhyut can be directed to deposit 20% of the fine by the appellate Court.

**62.** Assume the new provisions of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, are enacted. Vihaan Enterprises, a company based in Indore, issues a cheque of Rs.10 lakh to Vidhyut Suppliers, a business entity in Delhi. The cheque is signed by Vidhi, the authorized signatory of Vihaan Enterprises. Due to insufficient funds, the cheque is dishonoured. Vidhyut Suppliers initiates legal proceedings, and during the trial, they request the court to direct Vidhi to pay interim compensation under section 143A. Based on the legal principles outlined in the passage, can the court direct the parties involved to pay interim compensation?

- (a) Yes, the court can direct Vidhi to pay interim compensation as she is the drawer and the signatory of the cheque.
- (b) No, the court cannot direct Vidhi to pay interim compensation, but it can direct Vihaan Enterprises to do so.
- (c) Yes, both Vihaan Enterprises and Vidhi can be directed to pay interim compensation as Vihaan enterprises can be held vicariously liable for the acts of Vidhi.
- (d) No, neither Vihaan Enterprises nor Vidhi can be directed to pay interim compensation as the trial has not been complete yet.

**63.** In 2018, Vidhan Industries, a company based in Ranchi, is convicted under section 138 for a dishonoured cheque of Rs. 15 lakh issued to Vidhi Traders, a business entity in Delhi. The trial court awards a fine of Rs. 20 lakh to Vidhan Industries. Vikas, the authorized signatory of Vidhan Industries, who had signed the cheque, files an appeal against the conviction. During the appellate proceedings, the court is considering the deposit of a certain amount. Based on the legal principles outlined in the passage, can the appellate court direct Vikas, the authorized signatory, to deposit a certain amount as part of the appeal process?

- (a) Yes, the appellate court can direct Vikas to deposit 20% of the fine awarded by the trial court as per Section 148 of the Negotiable Instruments Act.
- (b) No, the appellate court cannot direct Vikas to deposit any amount as he is not the drawer of the cheque.
- (c) Yes, the appellate court can direct Vikas to deposit an amount under section 389 of Cr.P.C.
- (d) No, only Vidhan Industries can be directed to deposit 20% of the fine, and Vikas is exempt from any deposit as he is merely the signatory of the cheque.

**64.** Vidur is the Managing Director and the authorized signatory of Vidhan Industries. Accordingly, he is responsible for the affairs of the company. Recently, the company entered into a transaction with Vidhi Traders. Vidur as an authorised signatory issued cheque in favour of Vidhi Traders. He had personally assured Vidhi Traders of the cheque's validity. Recently, the cheque was dishonoured due to insufficient funds. Vidhi Traders has filed a case against Vidhan Industries as well Vidur under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881. In light of the facts mentioned, decide upon the liability of Vidur.

- (a) Vidur is not liable under Section 138 as he is not the drawer of the Cheque.
- (b) Vidur is vicariously liable under Section 138 due to his deeper involvement in the affairs of the company.
- (c) Vidur is not liable under Section 138 as he is merely an authorised signatory.
- (d) Vidur is liable for failure to keep up with his personal assurance given to Vidhi Traders.

**65.** Assume in the previous case, additional facts are introduced. Since, Vidur has personally assured Vidhi Traders, he made sure that there was sufficient balance in the account on the day the cheque was required to be presented. However, on the day before the payment a significant transaction was done which reduced the balanced in the account. Vidur was unaware of this transaction. What effect would these additional facts have on the Vidur's liability under Section 138?

- (a) The introduction of these additional facts will extinguish Vidur's liability under Section 138.
- (b) The introduction of these additional facts will strengthen the grounds to hold Vidur liable under Section 138.
- (c) The introduction of these additional facts will have no effects on the grounds to hold Vidur liable under Section 138.
- (d) The introduction of these additional facts will strengthen the grounds to hold Vidur liable under Section 138 as he should be aware about what is happening in the company.

**66.** With regards to payment of interim compensation which of the following statements cannot be concluded from the passage?

- (a) Only the drawer is liable to pay interim compensation under Section 143A of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881.
- (b) The Trial Court can order drawer to pay interim compensation only during the pendency of the trial.
- (c) The Trial Court can direct the drawer to pay minimum 20% of the fine as interim compensation.
- (d) The provisions regarding interim compensation were added to the Negotiable Instruments Act in 2018.

#### *Passage - XIV*

In India, lawyers and legal practitioners are not allowed to advertise their work. Section 49(1) (c) of the Advocates Act, 1961 empowers the Bar Council of India (BCI) to make rules with respect to "the standard of professional conduct and etiquette to be observed by advocates". Rule 36 in Chapter II ("Standards of Professional Conduct and Etiquette") of Part VI ("Rules Governing Advocates") of the BCI Rules published in 1975 prohibits lawyers from advertising their work. The Rule reads: "An advocate practicing in India shall not solicit work or advertise, either directly or indirectly, whether by

circulars, advertisements, touts, personal communications, interviews not warranted by personal relations, furnishing or inspiring newspaper comments or producing his photographs to be published in connection with cases in which he has been engaged or concerned.” Rule 36 also requires that an advocate’s signboard or nameplate “should be of a reasonable size”. The signboard/ nameplate or stationery “should not indicate that he is or has been President or Member of a Bar Council or of any Association or that he has been associated with any person or organisation or with any particular cause or matter or that he specialises in any particular type of work or that he has been a Judge or an Advocate General”. An advocate who violates this rule can face punishment for professional or other misconduct under Section 35 of the Advocates Act. This section empowers the State Bar Council to refer the case to a disciplinary committee that can, after giving the advocate an opportunity to be heard, suspend him for some time, remove his name from the state’s roll of advocates, or reprimand him — or dismiss the complaint altogether.

Following a challenge in the SC to the constitutional validity of Rule 36 in ‘VB Joshi vs Union of India’, the restrictions were somewhat relaxed. In 2008, Rule 36 was amended, and advocates were allowed to provide their names, contact details, post qualification experience, enrolment number, specialisation, and areas of practice on their websites only. A proviso to Rule 36 inserted in 2008 said the rule “will not stand in the way of advocates furnishing website information as prescribed in the Schedule under intimation to and as approved by the Bar Council of India”. With the proliferation of web portals and apps offering legal services on the Internet, legal practitioners have been finding indirect and more subtle ways to advertise themselves. Many of them post about their work on LinkedIn, organise and speak at webinars and seminars, write columns for newspapers, and appear on TV programmes and debates.

Lawyers can legally advertise their services in the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, and the European Union. In the UK: Rule 7 of the Solicitors Code of Conduct 2007, allows lawyers in the UK and Wales to advertise their practice, business or firm as long as it’s not done in a “misleading” or “false” way. Rule 7 reads: “You are generally free to publicize your firm or practice, subject to the requirements of this rule.”

**Source:** Extracted (with edits and revisions) from an article titled ‘Lawyers in India can’t advertise their work — here’s why’, published at India Express (January 24, 2023)

**67.** Vidhan, a young and ambitious lawyer in Delhi, is eager to expand his client base. He learns about the restrictions on advertising under Rule 36 of the Bar Council of India (BCI) Rules. Eager to find a loophole, Vidhan starts a blog where he discusses various legal topics and subtly mentions the cases he has successfully handled. He also shares these blog posts on his LinkedIn profile. His friend, Vidhyut, who is also a lawyer, warns him that this could be considered indirect advertising and could get him into trouble. Vidhan argues that he is merely sharing educational content and not explicitly advertising his services. Could Vidhan’s actions of sharing his legal blog posts on LinkedIn be considered a violation of Rule 36, thereby subjecting him to disciplinary action?

- (a) Yes, because Rule 36 strictly prohibits any form of advertising, whether direct or indirect, and Vidhan’s blog posts could be seen as an indirect form of advertising.
- (b) No, because Rule 36 was amended in 2008 to allow lawyers to provide certain information on their websites, and Vidhan’s blog could be considered a form of a website.
- (c) Yes, but only if Vidhan explicitly mentions that he is seeking clients through his blog posts, thereby making it a direct form of advertising.
- (d) No, because Vidhan is merely sharing educational content and not soliciting work or advertising his services explicitly.

**68.** Vidhi, a seasoned lawyer based in Indore, has a signboard outside her office that indicates she was a former member of the State Bar Council and specializes in criminal law. Her colleague, Vishesh, points out that the information on her signboard might be a violation of Rule 36, which prohibits such indications. Vidhi argues that her achievements are factual and that potential clients have a right to know about her expertise. What could be the potential consequences for Vidhi if her signboard is in violation of Rule 36?

- (a) Vidhi will only face consequences if a client or any other advocate files a formal complaint against her for soliciting work against the rules.
- (b) Vidhi will face no consequences as the information on her signboard is factual and not misleading.
- (c) Vidhi could only be fined by the State Bar Council but will not face any suspension or removal from the state’s roll of advocates as the signboard contains factual information only.
- (d) Vidhi could be suspended for some time, have her name removed from the state’s roll of advocates, or be reprimanded by the State Bar Council’s disciplinary committee.



69. Vidhyut, an Indian lawyer who has recently moved to the United Kingdom, is excited about the more lenient rules on lawyer advertising in the UK. Back in India, he had always adhered to Rule 36, which severely restricted his ability to market his services. In the UK, he starts using various online platforms to advertise his legal services. His friend Vidhisha, also a lawyer but still practicing in India, warns him that his advertising activities in the UK might have repercussions on his standing with the Bar Council of India. Which of the following statements, if true would strengthen Vidhisha's argument?

- (a) That Vidhyut exclusively practices in UK.
- (b) That Vidhyut's advertisement were misleading and violates Rule 7 of the Solicitors Code of Conduct 2007.
- (c) That Vidhyut is practicing both in UK as well as India.
- (d) That Vidhyut frequently visits India.

70. Vidhata, a defense lawyer in Delhi, specialising in criminal law, decides to take advantage of the 2008 amendment to Rule 36 that allows lawyers to provide certain information on their websites. He creates a professional website where he lists his name, contact details, post-qualification experience, enrolment number, specialization, and areas of practice. He also includes testimonials from former clients praising his legal expertise. His competitor, Vishesh, argues that it amounts to violation of Rule 36, even after the 2008 amendment. Vidhata believes that testimonials are merely an extension of listing his areas of practice and specialization. Is Vidhata's inclusion of client testimonials on his professional website in violation of the amended Rule 36?

- (a) No, because testimonials are generally not read by the clients as they don't consider them to be genuine.
- (b) No, because the 2008 amendment allows lawyers to list their specialization and areas of practice, and testimonials are an extension of that.
- (c) Yes, because the 2008 amendment to Rule 36 does not explicitly allow the inclusion of client testimonials on website.
- (d) Yes, but only if the testimonials actually results in actual financial gains in form of increased number of clients.

71. What can be inferred about the changes to Rule 36 in India regarding the advertising practices of legal practitioners?

- (a) Rule 36, after 2008 amendment allows lawyers to freely advertise their services over online platforms.
- (b) Rule 36 was amended to permit lawyers to list specific information on their websites.
- (c) Rule 36 has been completely repealed, allowing unrestricted advertising.
- (d) Rule 36 now mandates that lawyers must advertise only through web portals and apps.

72. What cannot be inferred from the passage about advertising regulations for legal practitioners in India and other countries?

- (a) Rule 36 in India has been amended to allow lawyers to provide specific information on their websites.
- (b) Lawyers in the Australia are free to advertise their services provided they get the approval from the Bar Council of Australia.
- (c) Rule 7 in the UK allows lawyers to advertise as long as it's not done in a misleading or false way.
- (d) Violation of Rule 36 in India can lead to disciplinary action against the advocate.

### Passage - XV

Under the Indian Penal Code (IPC), Sections 292, 293 and 294 deal with the offence of obscenity. One can find a vague definition of what constitutes obscenity in Section 292, which says that any content shall be deemed to be obscene if it is lascivious or appeals to the prurient interest, or if its effect tends to deprave and corrupt persons likely to read, see or hear the content. This section prohibits the sale or publication of any obscene pamphlet, book, paper, painting, and other such materials. Meanwhile, Section 293 criminalises the sale or distribution of obscene objects to anyone who is under the age of 20, or an attempt to do so. Although it is a bailable offence, the maximum punishment for the first conviction is three years of imprisonment and a fine up to Rs 2,000, and for the second conviction seven years with a fine up to Rs 5,000. Section 294 prohibits obscene acts and songs in public spaces. The maximum punishment for the person convicted under this charge is three-month jail and a fine. With the advent of the digital age, laws were made to criminalise obscene conduct on the internet also. Section 67 of the Information Technology Act says that anyone who publishes or transmits or causes to be published or transmitted in the electronic form, any material which is lascivious or appeals to the prurient interest in electronic form can be punished.

With no clear definition in the laws, what can be considered as obscene as per the Indian courts has changed and evolved over the years. Until 2014, the judiciary used the Hicklin test to determine if something is obscene or not. The Hicklin Test was established in English Law after the case of Regina vs Hicklin (1868). According to it, a work can be considered obscene if any portion of it is found to "deprave and corrupt those whose minds are open to such influences". The test was most famously used by the Supreme Court to ban DH Lawrence's Lady Chatterley's Lover in the case of Ranjit D Udeshi vs State Of Maharashtra (1964). However, in 2014, the apex court did away with the Hicklin Test while hearing the case of Aweek Sarkar & Anr vs State Of West Bengal and Anr, which was regarding the publication of a semi-nude picture of Boris Becker and his fiancée. In its judgement, the court said "while judging as to whether a particular

photograph, an article or book is obscene, regard must be given to the contemporary mores and national standards and not the standard of a group of susceptible or sensitive persons". It added that the photograph must be "taken as a whole" and seen with the context of what it wants to convey. Merely because a photograph can be interpreted sexually, it is not necessarily obscene. In 2022, after Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh posted pictures of his nude photo-shoot for the New York-based Paper magazine on social media, police booked him under Sections 292, 293 and 509 of the IPC and Section 67A of the IT Act.

**Source:** Extracted (with edits and revisions) from an article titled 'Urfi Javed Controversy: What are the obscenity laws in India? Published in The Indian Express

**73.** Vidhan, a Delhi-based artist, creates a painting that depicts a couple in a passionate embrace. He argues that the painting is a commentary on the complexities of human relationships. The painting is displayed in a well-known art gallery. Some visitors find the artwork to be a beautiful expression of love, while others consider it obscene. A local women's group leads a huge public outcry and files a complaint against Vidhan, claiming that the painting is obscene and should be removed. Based on the legal principles in the passage, how should the court approach the determination of whether Vidhan's painting is obscene?

- (a) The court should apply the Hicklin Test and see if any portion of the painting tends to "deprave and corrupt those whose minds are open to such influences."
- (b) The court should consider whether the painting appeals to the prurient interest of a group of susceptible or sensitive persons.
- (c) The court should judge the painting based on contemporary mores and national standards, taking the artwork "as a whole" and considering the context in which it was created.
- (d) The court should immediately remove the painting as it has caused a public outcry, thereby making it obscene by default.

**74.** Vidhyut, a Ranchi-based photographer, uploads a series of artistic photos on his personal website. The photos depict various forms of human expression, including some that are sensual. However, a local NGO files a complaint against Vidhyut, alleging that the photos are obscene and violate Section 67 of the Information Technology Act. Vidhyut argues that the photos are a form of artistic expression. Based on the legal principles in the passage, if a dispute arises, what would be the most relevant factor for the court to consider in determining whether Vidhyut's photos violate Section 67 of the Information Technology Act?

- (a) Whether the photos are lascivious or appeal to the prurient interest.
- (b) Whether the photos have been viewed by individuals under the age of 20.
- (c) Whether the photos have a disclaimer stating they are intended for mature audiences.
- (d) Whether the photos have received critical acclaim in the art community.

**75.** Vidhwan, a musician from Bihar, performs a live concert in a public park. During the concert, he performs a song which is a satire on societal norms prevalent in the society. The song includes lyrics that are ambiguous and can be interpreted as sexually suggestive. A parent attending the concert with their child files a complaint against Vidhwan, claiming that the song was obscene and inappropriate for a public setting, thereby violating Section 294 of the IPC. Based on the legal principles outlined in the passage, what will be the court's likely decision in this case?

- (a) The court will find Vidhwan guilty because the song contained sexually suggestive lyrics.
- (b) The court will find Vidhwan not guilty because after looking at the context behind the song, it is not obscene. The song is a satire on societal norms.
- (c) The court will find Vidhwan guilty because a parent found the song inappropriate for a public setting.
- (d) The court will find Vidhwan not guilty because the song did not explicitly depict any obscene acts.

**76.** Which of the following statements cannot be concluded from the passage?

- i. The Hicklin Test is the current standard used by Indian courts to determine obscenity.
  - ii. Section 294 criminalises the sale or distribution of obscene objects to anyone who is under the age of 20, or an attempt to do so.
  - iii. In its current approach, Supreme Court considers a work obscene if any portion of it is found to "deprave and corrupt those whose minds are open to such influences.
  - iv. The Indian Penal Code provides a clear and detailed definition of what constitutes obscenity.
- (a) (i), (ii) and (iii) only
  - (b) (ii) and (iv) only
  - (c) (i) and (iv) only
  - (d) (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv)

77. Based on the passage, decide:

Assertion (A): Courts while determining if something is obscene or not gives regards to the contemporary mores and national standards and not the standard of a group of susceptible or sensitive persons.

Reason (R): While determining whether a work is obscene or not, it must be taken as a whole and seen with the context of what it wants to convey.

- (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation for A's truthfulness.
- (b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation for A's truthfulness.
- (c) A is true but R is false.
- (d) A is false but R is true.

78. What cannot be concluded from the passage about obscenity laws in India?

- (a) Section 292 of the IPC deals with the sale or publication of any obscene material.
- (b) Section 67 of the Information Technology Act criminalizes obscene conduct only in physical form.
- (c) Section 293 of the IPC criminalizes the sale or distribution of obscene objects to anyone under the age of 20.
- (d) Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh was also booked under Section 509 of the IPC for his nude photo-shoot.

### Passage - XVI

The Supreme Court's recent judgment in *V. Senthil Balaji v. State* unravels two significant dilemmas regarding Section 167 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (CrPC). The Court addressed whether the Enforcement Directorate (ED) can obtain an accused's custody and if such custody is permissible post the initial 15 days of arrest. Affirmatively answering both, the Court essentially empowers the ED to seek custody even if its officers aren't recognized as the police. This judgment further blurs the ED's legal status, allowing it to fluidly adapt its role based on the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) interpretations, leaning towards a rights-restrictive perspective. Section 19 of the PMLA grants the ED officers, the right to arrest, if the officer has reasons to believe (the reason for such belief to be recorded in writing), on the basis of material in his possession, that any person has been guilty of an offence punishable under this Act. Following an arrest, Section 19(3) mandates presenting the arrested individual to a judicial magistrate having jurisdiction within 24 hours. The subsequent trajectory is where the debate ensues. Previous legal precedent, as evidenced in *Gautam Navlakha v. NIA*, bifurcates custody into two types: police and judicial. This understanding implies that only entities defined as either the court or the police can obtain custody. Given this backdrop, if the ED aims for custody, it has to prove its alignment as either police or a court. However, the Supreme Court's previous judgment in *Vijay Madanlal Choudhary vs Union of India* resisted labelling the ED as police, even though it upheld the ED's judicial powers under Section 50 of the PMLA. The court also upheld the constitutionality of Section 50 of the PMLA that confers upon the ED judicial powers of examining witnesses, with lying to the ED punishable with up to seven years in prison under Section 193 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860. On this basis, the court noted that the ED dons a judicial hat at the summoning stage u/s 50.

In *Senthil Balaji*, the Supreme Court, supported by two judges from the Madras high court, did not align the ED as either police or judicial entity. Instead, it interpreted Section 167(2) of CrPC, suggesting the section isn't exclusively grounded in the police-judicial custody binary. The words "police custody" and "judicial custody", as Abhinav has noted, though absent from the body of Section 167(2), are present under both provisos. The structure of Section 167(2) is such that the provisos become determinative of the kinds of custody that can be allowed – this is because while the body empowers the Magistrate to allow "such custody as he thinks fit", proviso (a) states that he can allow custody without the police beyond fifteen days, meaning that he can allow custody with the police only for fifteen days. As discussed above, proviso (b) states that while police custody can only be authorized only through the accused's physical production in court, judicial custody can be authorized through the accused's online production, and proviso (c) states that no second-class Magistrate can authorize police custody.

**Source:** Extracted (with edits and revisions) from an article titled 'Senthil Balaji Case: SC Verdict Cements ED's 'Illegibility' in Law, its Power to Take Custody', published at The Wire (August 29, 2023)

79. Vidhan, a businessman based in Indore, is arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on suspicions of money laundering. Vidhan had been under the ED's radar for a while, with multiple summonses issued to him under Section 50 of the PMLA, compelling him to provide testimonies about his financial activities. After 14 days in police custody, the ED believes there is a need for further interrogation to extract more evidence and decides to seek an extension of his custody. Based on the legal principles outlined in the passage, should the ED be allowed to extend Vidhan's custody?

- (a) Yes, because the ED is essentially equated to the police, thus allowing them custody post the initial 15 days.
- (b) No, because the ED is neither recognized as the police nor a judicial entity, thus lacking the right to extended custody.

(c) Yes, because as per Supreme Court, custody isn't solely based on the police-judicial binary and accordingly ED can be allowed custody beyond the initial period of 15 Days.

(d) No, because Vidhan has already been interrogated on multiple occasions, and the logical purpose for additional custodial interrogation doesn't exist.

**80.** After the discovery of a controversial financial transaction in Ranchi, Vidhit, a financial consultant, is arrested by the ED under the PMLA Act, 2002. During the initial 15 days of his arrest, Vidhit is held in custody by the ED. On the 16th day, the ED, seeking to continue their interrogation, approaches a Magistrate for an extension of Vidhit's custody. Vidhit's legal team argues against this, stating the ED, which is not explicitly categorized as police or a judicial entity, cannot extend the custody beyond the initial 15 days. In light of the above passage, which statement is the most accurate in the present case?

(a) Section 167(2) of CrPC explicitly states that only police and judicial entities can obtain custody, thus barring the ED from any extensions.

(b) The ED is barred from seeking an extension after the 15-day limit because they are neither defined as police nor a judicial entity.

(c) Vidhit's physical production in court is a requisite for any custody extension, regardless of ED's categorization.

(d) The ED can seek an extension as per the decision of the Supreme Court in V. Senthil Balaji Case.

**81.** Vishnu, an overzealous officer of ED, misinterprets a series of complex financial transactions of Vidhya, a renowned businesswoman from Indore, as money laundering transactions. Without solid evidence and investigation, but acting in good faith, he decided to arrest Vidhya under section 19 of PMLA. In the light of the principles outlined in the passage, is Vidhya's arrest justified?

(a) Yes because Section 19 of PMLA empowers the officer of ED to arrest on the basis of suspicion that a person has committed an offence punishable under PMLA

(b) Yes because Vishnu has acted in good faith, the arrest of Vidhya can be justified. Though she can be released later by court of lack of evidence.

(c) No because Section 19 of PMLA empowers ED officer to arrest an individual, only if the officer has reasons to believe on the basis of material in his possession that a person has committed an act punishable under PMLA.

(d) No because the Supreme Court in Senthil Balaji refused to align ED as either police or judicial entity, and hence its officers cannot make arrest.

**82.** Vidur, has been recently apprehended by the Enforcement Directorate in connection with a significant financial fraud investigation. The ED has arrested and detained him in custody at around 10 in the night. He was presented before the Judicial Magistrate by 9 PM next day. However, the Magistrate refused to see the accused late at night and directed the ED authorities to come next day. The ED took the accused next day before the Magistrate. In light of the facts mentioned, choose the most appropriate option:

(a) The requirement of 24 hours has not been complied with.

(b) The requirement of 24 hours has been completed only if the Magistrate has valid jurisdiction.

(c) The requirement of 24 hours has been completed with as the accused was taken to the Magistrate, having jurisdiction, within 24 Hrs.

(d) The requirement of 24 hours has not been completed with as the Magistrate actually saw the accused after 24 Hrs.

**83.** Assume in the previous question, an additional fact is introduced. When Vidur was taken before the Magistrate the next day, the Magistrate found that he does not have the jurisdiction in the present case. What effect would this additional fact have on the outcome of the previous case?

(a) The introduction of this additional fact would strengthen their case.

(b) The introduction of this additional fact would weaken the ED's case.

(c) The introduction of this additional fact would strengthen the ED's case as Vidhan has not been presented before a competent Magistrate.

(d) The introduction of this additional fact would have no effect on ED's case.

**84.** Which of the following statements are true in light of the above passage?

i. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has the ability to seek custody post the initial 15 days of an accused's arrest.

ii. The Supreme Court labelled the ED as police and a judicial entity.

iii. The Supreme Court's judgment empowers the ED to seek custody even though its officers are not recognized as police.

iv. The ED has a right to arrest individuals if its officers has reason to believe that the person has committed any crime.

(a) (i) and (ii) only

(b) (ii) and (iii) only

(c) (i) and (iii) only

(d) (i), (iii) and (iv) only

**Section D-Logical Reasoning**
**Passage - XVII**

The reverberations from the ongoing conflict in West Asia are being felt in markets across the world. On Monday, Indian markets also exhibited weakness, ending the day down 0.7 per cent. Foreign portfolio investors pulled out close to Rs 1,000 crore. Crude oil prices rose around 4 per cent as fears of instability in the region gained traction. While Indian stock markets recovered on Tuesday, continuing conflict in the region is only likely to add to the prevailing uncertainty in global markets already weighed down by tighter financial conditions.

Of particular concern is the implication for crude oil prices. In September, prices were hovering around \$97 per barrel after Saudi Arabia and Russia had announced the extension of their production cuts. Prices had eased thereafter, falling to roughly \$85 before the attack by Hamas. However, on Monday, Brent crude oil was trading at around \$88 a barrel, while on Tuesday prices had edged marginally lower. There is a concern that an escalation in the conflict engulfing the region could push prices higher.

For an oil importing country like India which imports more than 80 per cent of its requirement, higher prices could impact the current account deficit and inflation, and possibly have fiscal implications as well. To put the current prices in perspective, in its latest monetary policy report, the RBI had factored in crude prices at \$85 per barrel for 2023-24. Higher prices could push up inflation above the RBI's estimate of 5.4 per cent for the full year, which is lower than the World Bank's recent estimate of 5.9 per cent. However, it is also possible that retail prices may not see a complete pass through of higher crude oil prices — since May 2022, retail prices of petrol and diesel have remained unchanged — as the burden of higher prices could be borne by the oil marketing companies and the government.

Higher crude oil prices will also have implications for the current account deficit. As per some analysts, the deficit is expected to rise in the second quarter from 1.1 per cent of GDP in the first quarter. To what extent it rises further in the second half of the year will depend on how high prices go and for how long they remain elevated. Alongside, this conflict may also have implications for the recently announced India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor. During this period of acute global uncertainty, policymakers in India must be guided by the objective of preserving macroeconomic stability.

[Source :<https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/editorials/>]

**85.** Given the trends mentioned in the passage, which of the following assumptions is essential for the argument that the current conflict in West Asia could potentially destabilize the macroeconomic environment in India?

- (a) Crude oil prices directly influence India's inflation rate and fiscal policies.
- (b) The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor is the primary determinant of India's macroeconomic health.
- (c) Foreign portfolio investors' sentiments solely govern the performance of the Indian market.
- (d) An escalation in West Asian conflicts invariably results in worldwide market instability.

**86.** Which of the following pieces of information would be most useful in assessing the validity of the claim that retail prices in India may not witness a full pass-through of heightened crude oil prices?

- (a) The elasticity of demand for retail fuel in India concerning global oil price fluctuations.
- (b) The periodicity and magnitude of adjustments in India's fuel taxation policies.
- (c) Strategies employed by Indian oil marketing companies for inventory management during volatile price periods.
- (d) Comparative data on how retail fuel prices in neighbouring countries responded to similar crude oil price spikes.

**87.** Based on the given passage, which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the argument that India's fiscal health could be jeopardized if the current account deficit rises significantly in the latter half of the year?

- (a) India's external debt obligations are due for repayment in the latter half of the year.
- (b) The RBI has recently exhausted most of its foreign exchange reserves.
- (c) The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor heavily relies on positive trade balances.
- (d) India's domestic consumption is expected to decline in the upcoming months.

**88.** Despite the increase in crude oil prices and potential fiscal implications for India, retail prices of petrol and diesel have remained unchanged since May 2022. Which of the following, if true, would best explain this apparent contradiction based on information from the passage?

- (a) Oil marketing companies have tapped into their strategic reserves to offset the increase in costs.
- (b) India's domestic production of oil increased significantly, reducing reliance on imports.
- (c) The financial hedging strategies employed by the government neutralized the effects of rising oil prices.
- (d) The government and oil marketing companies have jointly implemented fiscal strategies to absorb the extra costs.

**89.** If the recently announced India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor faces challenges due to the ongoing conflict, which of the following can be inferred about the potential economic implications for India based on the passage's overarching theme?

- (a) India's reliance on domestic oil production would diminish the impact of the corridor's challenges.
- (b) An increase in crude oil prices would become the sole determinant of India's fiscal health.

- (c) India would be insulated from any macroeconomic implications due to its strong financial reserves.  
 (d) The prevailing uncertainty in global markets may be exacerbated, potentially affecting India's macroeconomic stability.

**Passage – XVIII**

Russell Page (1906-85) was a brooding, chain-smoking loner who somehow became one of the most glamorous landscape designers of the 20th century. Born in Lincolnshire, England, he spent much of his career in Paris and worked all over the world, travelling to southern Europe, the Americas, Australia and the Middle East. Page designed grand gardens for aristocrats, industrialists and institutions, as well as many small-scale projects for his friends. His only book, *The Education of a Gardener* (1962) – a memoir blending historical and philosophical meditations with practical guidance – is still admired as a masterpiece of garden writing, reissued by New York Review Books (2007) and Vintage Classics (2023).

For all his shimmering success, however, Page is something of an outsider, hard to place in the canon of landscape design. Though he was widely regarded as a great artist, he did not establish his own innovative signature style, and most of his gardens have been remodelled or destroyed. The significance of Page's career seems curiously obscure. 'Where does this man stand in the history of garden making?' Fred Whitsey, the longtime gardening correspondent for *The Daily Telegraph*, asked after Page's death. 'He remains elusive.'

The question of Page's legacy is partly a matter of style. Although he made many different kinds of gardens, he was most famous for highly formal designs in the classical French and Italian traditions. If you have ever looked at pictures of the gardens at Versailles, created by André Le Nôtre for Louis XIV, then you have seen the iconic example of formal design, with its rigid geometries and tightly controlled planting schemes. Most 20th-century English designers, by contrast, favoured looser, more informal landscapes. In recent decades, new kinds of naturalistic gardens, such as those of the Dutch master Piet Oudolf, have won prestigious commissions on both sides of the Atlantic, and now a new movement for 'wild' gardening is designing garden habitats for biodiversity and ecological repair. To contemporary eyes, classical gardens have come to appear rigid, even soulless, in their efforts to control nature. And so Page might simply be seen as an outmoded artist, the last of the great formal designers, left behind by modern times.

- 90.** What assumption underlies the claim that the shift towards naturalistic and 'wild' gardening might render Page's classical designs as appearing rigid and soulless?
- (a) Page's designs inherently lack ecological and biodiversity considerations.  
 (b) Modern garden enthusiasts universally reject classical geometric designs.  
 (c) Page's classical designs are synonymous with rigid control over nature.  
 (d) Aesthetic preferences in garden design have remained constant over time.
- 91.** What can be most reasonably concluded about the reasons why Page's designs, though admired as works of a great artist, have largely been remodelled or destroyed?
- (a) The transient nature of Page's designs precluded their historical preservation.  
 (b) Page's designs, though artistically lauded, subtly misaligned with evolving horticultural paradigms.  
 (c) The stylistic intricacies of Page's designs led to inadvertent dilapidation over time.  
 (d) Page's lack of a definitive signature style engendered a shift towards redesigning.
- 92.** Which information, if true, would most weaken the argument that Page is viewed as an 'outmoded artist' due to the modern preference for naturalistic gardens?
- (a) Contemporary critics extol Page's designs as harmonious integrations of formality.  
 (b) Page's oeuvre reveals intermittent experimentation with biodiverse, ecologically-conscious elements.  
 (c) Historical records attest to Page's influence on several modern naturalistic designers.  
 (d) Recent surveys indicate a burgeoning nostalgia for classical, geometric garden designs.
- 93.** Which piece of evidence, if provided, would most strengthen the claim that Page's career significance remains obscure despite his widespread acclaim?
- (a) Most archives documenting Page's work elude comprehensive academic scrutiny.  
 (b) Page's designs predominantly adorn clandestine estates, inaccessible to public critique.  
 (c) Substantial discourse in landscape design seldom acknowledges Page's contributions.  
 (d) Notable contemporaries rarely cited Page's influence in their seminal creations.
- 94.** The passage presents a paradox that Page, despite being a celebrated landscape designer, did not establish his own signature style. What information would best resolve this paradox?
- (a) Page deliberately adopted diverse styles to showcase his versatility.  
 (b) Page's clients consistently requested replicas of existing garden designs.  
 (c) Page's designs were often modified post-completion by other designers.  
 (d) Page prioritized historical and philosophical elements in his creations.

**Passage – XIX**

In their recent meetings, central banks across much of the developed world have chosen to keep interest rates unchanged. Last week, the European Central Bank chose to hold rates steady after 10 consecutive rate hikes. On Wednesday, the US Federal Reserve voted to maintain the status quo, and on Thursday, the Bank of England chose to keep interest rates unchanged. While the underlying dynamics of these economies do vary, the commentary from these central banks does seem to affirm the widely-held view that interest rates are likely to remain higher for longer as inflation is expected to remain above target for some time.

In the US, the economic momentum has been quite strong. In the third quarter, GDP grew at a seasonally adjusted 4.9 per cent annualised rate, surpassing expectations. The labour market remains tight. Non-farm payrolls in September were above expectations.

And consumer spending has been healthy. While inflation has fallen, it remains well above the Fed's target of 2 per cent. Core inflation, which excludes the volatile food and fuel components, is at 3.7 per cent on an annual basis. In comparison, the Bank of England is rather pessimistic about the prospects of the UK economy. The central bank now expects growth to be "flat" in the third quarter, which is weaker than what it had previously projected.

For the fourth quarter, it projects a growth of only 0.1 per cent. Over the medium term, growth is expected to "remain well below historical averages". Inflation also appears to be more entrenched. In September, it stood at 6.7 per cent. The bank expects it to fall to 4.5 per cent in the first quarter of 2024, and then to 3.1 per cent in the last quarter of 2024.

Inflation is expected to be around the target only by the end of 2025. The situation is similar in the Euro Zone. The ECB has projected inflation at 5.6 per cent this year, declining thereafter to 3.2 per cent by next year. Inflation is expected to trend towards the 2 per cent target by 2025. The central bank also expects growth in the Euro Zone to be subdued at 0.7 per cent this year, rising marginally thereafter to 1 per cent in 2024.

Tighter monetary policy in these economies will have consequences for emerging markets like India. It will impact capital flows, currency, and exports. During this period of considerable economic and geopolitical uncertainty, policymakers in India must be guided by the objective of ensuring macroeconomic stability.

**95.** What assumption underlies the suggestion that maintaining higher interest rates for a longer duration is an appropriate response to inflation remaining above target levels in developed economies?

- (a) Economic agents universally perceive higher interest rates as signals to curb spending.
- (b) Developed economies operate under a homogenous framework of monetary responses to inflation.
- (c) The long-term positive effect on currency value supersedes potential short-term economic slowdowns.
- (d) Elevated interest rates, by curtailing liquidity, exhibit a direct proportionality to inflation control.

**96.** Which piece of information, if true, would most significantly undermine the claim that the economic momentum in the US is robust, as indicated by the growth in GDP and employment?

- (a) The augmentation in GDP is primarily led by unsustainable government expenditure.
- (b) The upsurge in employment is disproportionately in temporary, low-wage occupations.
- (c) The surge in consumer spending is largely fuelled by precarious borrowing practices.
- (d) The increment in non-farm payrolls belies a simultaneous slump in wage growth.

**97.** Based on the details regarding inflation and growth projections in the Euro Zone, what can most logically be concluded about the ECB's stance on long-term economic stabilization?

- (a) The ECB exudes caution, adopting a gradualist approach towards economic recalibration.
- (b) The ECB adheres to a laissez-faire stance, allowing market forces to dictate outcomes.
- (c) The ECB posits aggressive interventions to promptly redress economic disparities.
- (d) The ECB underscores immediate rectification, prioritizing short-term fiscal adjustments.

**98.** What additional data would be most helpful in evaluating the effectiveness of the central banks' decisions to keep interest rates unchanged amidst the variations in economic growth and inflation in their respective regions?

- (a) Details on real estate market fluctuations concurrent with interest rate decisions.
- (b) Data on long-term consumer confidence indices in correspondence with interest rates.
- (c) Information on historical interest rate changes and subsequent economic growth.
- (d) Statistics pertaining to export and import volumes during similar economic conditions.

**99.** The passage indicates that while economic growth in the US has been strong, inflation remains well above the Fed's target. Which of the following, if true, would best resolve the apparent paradox in these economic indicators?

- (a) Rapid technological advancements have driven substantial economic growth.
- (b) An influx of foreign direct investments has triggered the economic boom.
- (c) Widespread supply chain disruptions have led to increased costs of goods.
- (d) A surge in new start-ups has contributed to an economic uptick.

*Passage – XX*

Christ crucified on a fighter jet. Ronald McDonald on the cross. The Madonna in traditional guise, reaching under her robe ..... At the new Museum of Prohibited Art in Barcelona, it is not hard to detect a common theme.

Many objects in the museum focus on religion, but not all. Mockery of macho politicians has a way of bringing out the censors, too. Here is Andy Warhol's Mao Zedong, there a painting of Emiliano Zapata naked on horseback, wearing a pink sombrero and high heels. (The revolutionary Mexican leader's descendants threatened, preposterously, to sue the artist, Fabián Cháirez, for defamation.) The museum's main criterion is that works were banned or censored in some way. Tatxo Benet, a journalist-turned-businessman, founded the museum and collected the art.

Artworks taking on Islam tend to be more restrained than those targeting Christianity. There is a roomful of prayer mats with holes cut in them, where a pair of stiletto heels fits, by Zoulikha Bouabdellah, an artist of Algerian descent. In "Piège à loup" by Amina Benbouchta, a Moroccan artist, a wolf-trap lies on top of an embroidered pillow. Both are elegant commentaries on the status of women in Islamic societies—but in shock value hardly compare with the Virgin Mary pleasuring herself.

That is because the risk of art always depends on context. "Shark" features a sculpture of a nearly naked, trussed Saddam Hussein, arranged horizontally in formaldehyde, like the real shark in a similar work by Damien Hirst, a British artist. In 2006 officials in several European countries declined to show the work out of fear, because of the violence triggered by cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad that had appeared in Danish newspapers. No work depicting the prophet appears in the museum, perhaps for that reason, though a representative of the museum says it may show one in the future.

Indeed one of the museum's strongest points is highlighting the nature of censorship itself. The crudest version of it is a straightforward state ban: policemen rip artwork off walls and lock it away. But some works are attacked by individuals. The painting of the masturbating Madonna, for example, was vandalised at an exhibition in 2019 and still bears the slash of a knife. And many works in the museum were censored by the artists themselves. For example, Francisco Goya withdrew his "Caprichos", viciously satirical etchings, from sale, fearing the unwelcome attention of the Spanish Inquisition.

Sometimes companies and institutions squash free expression. Lego "declined" to send a bulk order of bricks to Ai Weiwei, a Chinese dissident artist, saying it avoided endorsing projects with a political agenda. Instead Mr Ai sourced bricks from supporters, in a triumph over corporate caution. A self-portrait by Chuck Close is the only example of modern cancel culture on display—several women accused him of sexual harassment in 2017, and the National Gallery of Art in Washington subsequently nixed a retrospective of his work.

A sculpture of a Francoist secret policeman sits in the museum's lobby. But visitors will walk away remarking on how censorship is often subtler nowadays.

**100.** To evaluate the effectiveness of the Museum of Prohibited Art's mission to challenge censorship, which of the following pieces of information would be most crucial?

- (a) The number of artworks in the museum that have been censored due to political pressure.
- (b) Visitor statistics and their expressed understanding of censorship post-visit.
- (c) The percentage of artworks in the museum previously banned by state authorities.
- (d) The diversity of art forms represented in the museum's collection.

**101.** The argument that the Museum of Prohibited Art could potentially showcase a depiction of the Prophet Muhammad in the future relies on which of the following assumptions?

- (a) Current societal norms will evolve to be more accepting of controversial art depictions.
- (b) The museum has the necessary security measures to protect any such controversial exhibits.
- (c) There exists a potential change in the legal landscape regarding the depiction of religious figures.
- (d) The artistic value of such depictions will supersede any potential cultural or religious offense.

**102.** Which of the following, if true, would most seriously weaken the argument that the self-censorship of Francisco Goya was solely motivated by the fear of the Spanish Inquisition?

- (a) Recent scholarship reveals that Goya's "Caprichos" garnered acclaim from liberal political factions opposed to the Inquisition.
- (b) Goya's private correspondence has been found to express concern about the Inquisition but also artistic dissatisfaction with the "Caprichos".
- (c) Financial ledgers from the period demonstrate that Goya received substantial income from other works, diminishing his reliance on the "Caprichos" sales.
- (d) A critique published shortly before the withdrawal of the "Caprichos" indicates a significant shift in public taste away from the genre of satire.



**103.** The author argues that corporate and institutional actions can also suppress free expression. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen this claim?

- (a) A prominent social media platform intensifies its algorithm to demote content that challenges political norms.
- (b) A major publisher withdraws a controversial book from its release schedule after receiving government advisories.
- (c) An international film festival excludes a documentary from competition due to pressure from high-profile sponsors.
- (d) A university cancels a scheduled lecture series on political activism citing concerns from influential alumni donors.

*Passage - XXI*

According to legend, the first-ever marathon was so exhausting that Pheidippides, the Greek messenger who dashed the 25-odd miles (40-odd km) from the battlefield at Marathon to Athens to bring news of the victory over the Persians, collapsed and died. Over the subsequent 2,500 years, humans have become better at running that distance. Some even choose to do so dressed as rhinos. The very best now complete the modern marathon, all 26.219 miles of it, in a little over two hours. (Pheidippides's time went unrecorded.)

Over the past five years the best times have improved dramatically—and more of the same will no doubt follow at the New York City marathon on November 5th. This can to a large extent be explained by the development of a new generation of hyper-bouncy running shoes—"super-shoes"—that offer athletes greater assistance. Such has been the improvement that some have questioned whether the technology is now too dominant and therefore whether the recent glut of fast times should be scrubbed from the records. This technophobia is misplaced.

The latest examples of bewilderingly quick marathon times were set on the flat roads of Berlin and Chicago. In Germany, Tigst Assefa of Ethiopia clocked 2 hours, 11 minutes, 53 seconds, obliterating the existing women's record by more than two minutes. Eight of the ten fastest times in the history of female marathon-running have been recorded since the start of 2022. Then, in the Windy City, Kenya's Kelvin Kiptum crossed the line at 2:00:35, lowering the men's bar by 34 seconds. A stripling of 23—top marathon-runners are usually older—Mr Kiptum will probably become the first person to break the two-hour mark. And if he does not manage it, one of his contemporaries will. Six of the ten fastest men's times ever have been recorded in the past two years.

There is little doubt that this generation of athletes are breaking records because of their footwear. Both Nike and Adidas have persuaded the governing body, World Athletics, to permit shoes with chunky, foam soles. These act as springs. When their feet compress the super-shoes into the ground, the runners receive more energy as they push off again than they would with regular shoes. In 2017 Nike announced that the new technology allowed athletes in super-shoes to use 4% less energy than they would if wearing a regular shoe.

Those who would like the shoes banned worry that the balance between the runners' ability and the kit they wear has become skewed. (A lesser concern is that records become less comparable with times from previous eras. But unless today's runners race in ancient clodhoppers that will always be the case.) Plainly, though, this is a long way from shoes that matter more than runners. A club runner may set a personal best in a pair of Nike Alphaflys, but she is not going to outrun Ms Assefa shod in regular running shoes. World Athletics, the sport's governing body, insists that all such super-shoes should be available to all athletes in order to be legal, so there is no risk of results being determined by a lack of access to the best equipment. (Some people disingenuously equate super-shoes with doping, even though, unlike many chemicals, technical enhancements typically have no ill effects on their users.)

Part of the appeal of sports is that they show humans on an upward trajectory, becoming stronger, faster and fitter. This matters most in individual sports where competitors race against the clock, but it applies across the board. Technology has always contributed to this. Pristine modern football pitches enable a higher level of skill; bouncier tracks propel athletes along faster. But as the sports industry has sucked in more investment and prize pots have expanded, the incentives to find an edge in performance have grown, whether in kit, diet or game strategy. Sometimes advances have to be reined in—restrictions were placed on cricket-bat technology, for example, to prevent skewing the game in favour of batters; javelins were made less aerodynamic to save spectators from a spearing. But banning super-shoes would be both regressive and difficult to enforce. This is a genie that cannot be returned to its shoebox.

Swimming offers a cautionary tale. At the 2008 Olympics, world records were smashed by swimmers wearing full-body polyurethane suits manufactured by Speedo, which improved buoyancy. Many of the same arguments levelled against the Speedo suits have been heard again in the super-shoe debate. Swimming's governing body, fina, caved in to the critics and banned the suits in 2010. For the next few years swimmers were unable to match the feats of Beijing. But as time passed and improvements were made elsewhere, new performers began to catch up. Now only one of the women's world records set in a Speedo suit still stands. Ms Assefa and Mr Kiptum are astonishing athletes and we should marvel at their feats, not what's on their feet. In the future, their records, too, will be surpassed by ever more impressive achievements.

**104.** The passage suggests that banning super-shoes would be both regressive and difficult to enforce. Which of the following is an assumption that the author most likely relies upon to support this assertion?

- (a) The intrinsic attributes of super-shoes, making them akin to athletic aids, obfuscate clear categorization for prohibition.
- (b) The argument that super-shoes distort fair competition is rooted in a nuanced and historically precedent perspective.
- (c) The logistical intricacies associated with delineating and overseeing the use of super-shoes render prohibition impractical.
- (d) The evolution of sports, marked by the integration of technology, implicitly advocates for the acceptance of super-shoes.

**105.** The passage references the case of full-body polyurethane swimsuits that were banned in 2010. Which of the following questions, if answered, would most help in evaluating the argument that similar bans on super-shoes may eventually be rendered moot by future advancements in athlete performance?

- (a) How pervasive is the influence of sports equipment advancements on the outcomes of competitions?
- (b) To what extent do athletes' physiological augmentations parallel the progression in sports gear technology?
- (c) What is the precedence for technological innovations in sports eventually becoming universal norms?
- (d) How closely do advancements in athlete training methodologies correspond with breakthroughs in sports equipment?

**106.** The author posits that the achievements of athletes like Ms. Assefa and Mr. Kiptum should be celebrated regardless of the technology they use. Which of the following pieces of evidence, if true, would most strengthen the author's argument against banning super-shoes?

- (a) Athletes' records in super-shoes consistently outshine performances in traditional footwear.
- (b) Numerous studies confirm that super-shoes do not compromise the integrity of athletic competition.
- (c) Historical data reveals gradual acceptance of diverse technological enhancements in various sports.
- (d) World Athletics has strictly mandated the equitable availability of super-shoes to all athletes.

**107.** The passage contends that there is little risk of race results being determined by a lack of access to super-shoes, as World Athletics insists that they should be available to all athletes. Which of the following scenarios, if true, would most undermine this claim?

- (a) Super-shoes, despite equal accessibility, exhibit disparate performance across varied terrains.
- (b) Athletes often eschew super-shoes, preferring traditional footwear for comfort and familiarity.
- (c) Discrepancies in distribution logistics lead to unequal availability of super-shoes globally.
- (d) Market competition ensures a proliferation of diverse super-shoe designs with minor distinctions.

**108.** Based on the information in the passage, which of the following can most reasonably be inferred about the relationship between technological advancements in sports equipment and the achievement of record-breaking athletic performances?

- (a) Innovations unequivocally delineate a new epoch, rendering erstwhile benchmarks obsolete.
- (b) Technological progression serves as an ancillary catalyst in the periodic elevation of athletic prowess.
- (c) The augmentation of performance metrics is immutably tethered to the evolution of athletic paraphernalia.
- (d) Athletic accolades, contingent upon technology, undermine the intrinsic merit of sportsmanship.

### Section E-Quantitative Techniques

#### Passage - XXII

**Directions: (109- 112) Study the following information carefully and answer the questions given below.**

During Diwali, four showroom owners named Vidhi, Vidhan, Vidyut, and Vidya sold two different types of electric scooters, Ola and Ather. Vidhi sold 14.28% more Ather scooters than Ola scooters. Vidya sold 20% more Ola scooters than Vidhan sold Ather scooters. Vidhan sold 1200 Ather scooters, which is 25% more than what Vidyut sold. Vidyut sold 16.66% more Ola scooters than Vidya sold Ather scooters. Vidhan sold Ola and Ather scooters in the ratio of 5:6 respectively. The total number of scooters sold by Vidhi and Vidya were 2250 and 1800 respectively.

**109.** The number of Ather scooters sold by Vidya is what percent less or more than the number of Ola scooters sold by Vidhan?

- (a) 36% more
- (b) 64% more
- (c) 36% less
- (d) 64% less

**110.** Find the respective ratio of number of Ola scooters sold by Vidyut to the number of Ather scooters sold by Vidhi?

- (a) 13 : 12
- (b) 7 : 20
- (c) 3 : 8
- (d) 1 : 6

**111.** If price of Ola Scooter is 2 lacs which is 25% more than the price of Ather, then find the difference between revenue generated by selling total Ola scooters and Ather scooters by Vidhan?

- (a) 80 lacs (b) 60 lacs  
(c) 50 lacs (d) 40 lacs

**112.** Find the average number of Ather scooters sold by all the showroom owners?

- (a) 390 (b) 903  
(c) 930 (d) 309

**Passage - XXIII**

**Directions (113 -116):** Study the following information carefully and answer the questions given below.

There are four companies - V1, V2, V3, and V4 - where both male and female employees work. The total number of employees in all four companies is 5400. The total number of employees in V1 and V2 combined is 2500. In company V1, there are 640 male employees, and the ratio of male to female employees is 8:7. The total number of female employees in V1 and V2 together is 1400. Company V3 has 33.33% male employees, with the remaining 660 employees being female. In company V4, 50% of the employees are male and the rest are female.

**113.** Find the ratio of number of males in company V2 to the number of females in company V3?

- (a) 6 : 19 (b) 6 : 13  
(c) 23:33 (d) 13:23

**114.** Number of males in company V4 is approximately how much percent more or less than the number of females in company V2?

- (a) 5.5% (b) 52%  
(c) 87.5% (d) 13.6%

**115.** If salary of each female is 25% more than that of each male and salary of a male is Rs. 24000 per month, then find the total monthly salary of employees of company V4?

- (a) 5.157 cr. (b) 3.325 cr.  
(c) 0.4 cr. (d) 9.82 cr.

**116.** If number of males in V1 is increased by 10% and females in V1 is decreased by 14.28% then find the difference between the number of males and females in V1?

- (a) 242 (b) 224  
(c) 422 (d) 424

**Passage - XXIV**

**Directions (117-120):** Study the following information carefully and answer the questions given below.

A shopkeeper sells three different articles – V1, V2 and V3. He marked article V1 at Rs. 1000. Even after offering a 50% discount, he still managed to make a profit of 25%. Similarly, he marked article V2 at Rs. 1400. Even after offering a 20% discount, he still made a profit of 14.28%. For article V3, he marked it at Rs. 1800. Even after offering a 25% discount, he still made a profit of 25%.

**117.** What is the difference between the cost price of article V1 and the cost price of article V2?

- (a) Rs. 520 (b) Rs. 550  
(c) Rs. 560 (d) Rs. 580

**118.** Find the average cost price of article V1, V2 and V3 together?

- (a) Rs. 802 (b) Rs. 820  
(c) Rs. 280 (d) Rs. 620

**119.** The profit earned on article V3 is approximately what percent more or less than the discount offered on article V2?

- (a) 3.57 % (b) 5.55 %  
(c) 9.27% (d) 11.25 %

**120.** Find the respective ratio between the selling price of article V1 and the selling price of article V2?

- (a) 5:3 (b) 20:17  
(c) 25:56 (d) 17:19

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