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Duration of Test : 2 Hours (120 Minutes)

Maximum Marks : 120

1. Separate carbonised Optical Mark Reader (OMR) Response Sheet is supplied along with this Questions Booklet and the carbon copy has to be detached and taken by the candidates.
2. In case of any discrepancy in the question booklet (QB), please request the invigilator for replacement of a fresh packet of QB with OMR. Do not use the previous OMR response Sheet for a fresh booklet so obtained.
3. Candidates will not be given a second blank OMR response Sheet under any circumstance. Hence, OMR response Sheet shall be handled carefully.
4. Answer all questions. No clarification can be sought on the Questions Paper
5. Possession of electronic devices in any form is strictly prohibited in the examination Hall.
6. The use of any unfair means by any candidate shall result in the cancellation of his/her examination.
7. Impersonation is an offense and the candidate, apart from disqualification, will be liable to be prosecuted.
8. The test Paper for Five Year integrated Law Programme is for 120 marks containing 120 multiple Choice Questions.
9. There will be Negative marking for multiple choice objective type questions. 0.25 marks will be deducted for every wrong answer or where candidates have marked more than one response.
10. Use **BLACK/BLUE BALL POINT PEN** only for writing the roll No. and other details on OMR response Sheet.
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12. As the responses cannot be modified/corrected on the OMR Response Sheet, candidates have to take necessary precautions before marking the appropriate circle.
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14. Handle the OMR response Sheet with care. Do not fold.
15. Ensure that invigilator puts his/her signature in the space provided on the OMR response Sheet. Candidate should sign in the space provided on the OMR response Sheet.
16. The candidate should write Question Paper booklet No., and OMR response Sheet No., and sign in the space/column provided in the attendance sheet.
17. Return the Original Page of OMR response Sheet to the invigilator after the examination.
18. The candidate shall not write anything on the OMR response Sheet other than the details required and in the spaces provided for.

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SECTION-A : ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Directions (Q.1-Q.24): Read the passage carefully and answer the questions.

Passage (Q.1-Q.6): If we look in detail at the dozens of Green Deal agendas globally and the UN SDGs, we will find that around two-thirds of them relate not to private goods but to global commons. Given that 85% of our global wealth is privatised already and we have a lot of liquidity on the capital market, we need to look carefully at how we can generate the money we need without privatising the rest of our planet.

The damage we have already caused (species loss, land degradation, climate change) has created massive social and ecological externalities that will increase our future costs. In other words, we have had our lunch and are trying to get away without paying the bill; we forgot to clean up and have left the mess for the Global South, future generations or nature itself to deal with. Now we are starting to experience the negative impact in the form of increased risks, adverse events and shocks. So we have to come up with a strategy that minimises the associated future costs and take a preventive approach similar to those we are familiar with.

Funding, hedging and managing the commons is a fiendishly difficult problem. On the one hand, commons can generate a staggering ROI of 1:15 or higher, if properly implemented; on the other, the public sector is over-indebted in most OECD and developing countries. In addition, the Anthropocene era is marked by uncertainties and asymmetric shocks. This makes it harder to mobilise the trillions of private sector liquidity that we need to fund the necessary global commons. Ensuring our commons means ensuring economic wealth and prosperity.

No taxation scheme currently exists anywhere in the world that is capable of funding our commons, hedging the associated risks and/or steering our economy as a whole towards a greener future. Even if we take stress tests, new ESG taxonomies, standardised accounting, philanthropy and charity into account, these more linear interventions are too slow and too low in volume to awaken this sleeping giant. In this traditional approach, finance still drives our commons. It should be the other way round: our commons should drive finance.

1. Based on the passage, what does the author propose should be the relationship between finance and the commons, and how does this contrast with the current situation?
 - (a) Finance should not be driven by commons, contrasting with the current commons-driven financial strategies.
 - (b) Commons should drive finance, in opposition to the current finance-driven commons approach.
 - (c) Finance and commons should coexist independently to ensure economic stability and growth.
 - (d) The current approach balances finance and commons effectively, needing only minor adjustments.
2. What is the primary concern expressed in the passage regarding the current state of global wealth and its impact on the planet?
 - (a) Global wealth is disproportionately privatized, risking further environmental damage.
 - (b) The concentration of wealth has led to significant species loss and climate change.
 - (c) Liquidity in capital markets is insufficient for addressing global environmental issues.
 - (d) Public sector debt in OECD countries impedes environmental conservation efforts.
3. How does the passage describe the consequences of previous environmental damages, such as species loss and climate change, on future costs and responsibilities?
 - (a) Environmental damages have permanently reduced the global capacity for wealth creation.
 - (b) These damages have led to higher future costs and shifted the burden to the Global South.
 - (c) Past damages have necessitated increased global cooperation for environmental recovery.
 - (d) The damages have increased the immediate financial burden on developed nations.



4. According to the passage, what challenges are associated with funding, hedging, and managing global commons in the context of the Anthropocene era?
 - (a) The public sector's high debt levels in OECD countries impede effective global commons management.
 - (b) The lack of global cooperation hinders the implementation of effective commons management strategies.
 - (c) Insufficient ROI from commons management deters investment from the private sector.
 - (d) The unpredictable nature of the Anthropocene era complicates the mobilization of private sector funds.
5. What does the passage imply about the return on investment (ROI) for properly implemented commons management, and how does this compare to the financial situation of the public sector in OECD and developing countries?
 - (a) Despite a high ROI from commons management, public sector debt limits its implementation.
 - (b) Commons management offers a low ROI, exacerbating the financial strain on the public sector.
 - (c) The ROI on commons management is irrelevant to the financial issues of the public sector.
 - (d) Commons management ROI is high, but it is overshadowed by private sector profitability.
6. Why does the author suggest that current taxation schemes and linear interventions like stress tests and philanthropy are insufficient for funding and managing the commons?
 - (a) They are too complex and bureaucratic, causing delays in implementation and funding.
 - (b) Such schemes focus more on private wealth accumulation than on commons management.
 - (c) They are too slow and low in volume to effectively address the scale of global needs.
 - (d) These methods prioritize developed nations, neglecting the needs of the Global South.

Passage (Q.7-Q.12): Walk down the block of a wealthy neighborhood at night, and you might be surprised by how much you can see. One uncovered window might reveal the glow of a flatscreen TV across from a curved couch; through another, you might glimpse a marble kitchen island and a chandelier. Of course, some of the curtains are closed—but many are flung open, the home's interiors exposed, like you're peering into a showroom.

Uncovered windows have quietly become a fixture of high-end homes across America. The New York Times recently referred to the “obligatory uncurtained windows” of Brooklyn Heights, a rich enclave in New York City, and The Root pointed out that this seemed common among wealthy young white people living in gentrified urban areas. On TikTok, onlookers have been baffled by the trend—and, sometimes, tempted to pry. Although this phenomenon is most visible in cities, the link between wealth and exposed windows extends across the United States. Most people do still close their shades, but Americans who earn more than \$150,000 are almost twice as likely to leave windows uncovered as those making \$20,000 to \$29,000, according to a large 2013 study for the U.S. Department of Energy—nearly 20 percent of the first group compared with just over 10 percent of the second. The line isn't smooth as you slide up and down the income scale, but the overall trend is clear: The choice to draw or not draw the curtains is in part driven by class.

Ditching shades has a lot of upsides regardless of who you are. Uncovered windows bring in natural light, boost well-being, and offer a view of the world outside. The trade-off, of course, is that they also put those inside on display to passersby, and in the summer, they channel heat. For many, the concerns about privacy and finances outweigh the aesthetic and mental health benefits. But for those in the highest income brackets, the calculus is different: People with a big home can more easily get natural light and privacy, and they don't need to worry so much about heating and cooling costs. Slowly, uncovered windows have become a status symbol.

Forgoing curtains wasn't always so appealing. When transparent glass windows emerged in late-18th-century Europe, they sparked fears about prying neighbors and an overabundance of light. Oscar Wilde complained in 1884 that “most modern windows are much too large and glaring.” Curtains were a natural solution, Daniel Jütte, a professor at NYU who discusses the history of windows in his book *Transparency: The Material History of an Idea*, told me. As the 19th-century German architect Richard Lucae argued, they helped create a sense of “seclusion from the exterior world.” Houses without curtains came to be seen as “the epitome of poverty,” as



one 1880s German manual put it. (Aristocrats were perhaps the exception to this, because they lived in houses so large that they could retreat to internal rooms if they didn't want to be seen; privacy was less of a concern for them.)

7. According to the passage, what historical shift in architectural design is associated with the fear of too much exposure and light as noted by Oscar Wilde?
 - (a) The transition from smaller to larger window designs in modern architecture.
 - (b) The emergence of transparent glass windows in late-18th-century Europe.
 - (c) The adoption of uncovered windows as a status symbol in wealthy homes.
 - (d) The development of curtain usage to ensure privacy and light control.

8. The passage suggests a correlation between income level and the likelihood of leaving windows uncovered. What evidence does the author provide to support this assertion?
 - (a) Wealthy young white people in gentrified urban areas often leave windows uncovered.
 - (b) Homeowners in the highest income brackets prefer natural light and view over privacy.
 - (c) Americans earning over \$150,000 are more likely to leave windows uncovered.
 - (d) Aristocrats in large houses historically had less concern for privacy.

9. How does the passage describe the change in perception towards uncovered windows in high-end homes in America over time?
 - (a) High-end homeowners have always embraced uncovered windows as a symbol of status and luxury.
 - (b) Initially, high-end homeowners considered uncovered windows a sign of poverty, but this perception has evolved.
 - (c) High-end homeowners in America have recently started closing their windows to maintain privacy.
 - (d) Uncovered windows have always been associated with high-end homes and their sense of seclusion.

10. Based on the passage, which of the following is true about the primary reasons wealthy homeowners might choose to leave their windows uncovered?
 - (a) Wealthy homeowners prioritize privacy and block outside views to maintain exclusivity.
 - (b) Uncovered windows provide natural light and a connection to the outside world.
 - (c) Wealthy homeowners have no concerns about privacy and are not affected by heating costs.
 - (d) Uncovered windows are preferred by wealthy homeowners due to their aesthetic appeal.

11. The passage mentions a study conducted by the U.S. Department of Energy. What key finding from this study is highlighted in the text?
 - (a) The study found that uncovered windows are more energy-efficient in maintaining indoor temperatures.
 - (b) The study concluded that wealthy homeowners tend to use curtains less frequently than others.
 - (c) The study revealed that homeowners with larger incomes are more likely to invest in energy-saving technologies.
 - (d) The study showed that Americans earning over \$150,000 are almost twice as likely to leave windows uncovered.

12. In the context of the passage, how did the emergence of transparent glass windows in the late-18th-century Europe impact societal norms and practices regarding home privacy?
 - (a) Transparent glass windows led to a greater emphasis on privacy, with homeowners using curtains extensively.
 - (b) Transparent glass windows initially raised privacy concerns but eventually led to more open and exposed homes.
 - (c) The emergence of transparent glass windows had no significant impact on societal norms regarding home privacy.
 - (d) Transparent glass windows were only adopted by the wealthy elite, preserving their privacy.



Passage (Q.13-Q.18): The knowledge society is a human structured organisation based on contemporary developed knowledge and representing new quality of life support systems. It implies the need to fully understand distribution of knowledge, access to information and capability to transfer information into knowledge. The understanding of knowledge is the central challenge when defining a knowledge society. From our present perception of the knowledge society, it is useful to emphasize the role of the knowledge society in the future development of human society. The life support systems are essential pillars of human society development. In this respect the knowledge society represents a new paradigm for future development and it is strongly correlated to sustainable development. For this reason the sustainability paradigm of the knowledge society is a potential frame for human society development leading to social cohesion, economic competitiveness and stability, use of resources and economic development, safeguarding biodiversity and the ecosystem.

The knowledge society is based on the need for knowledge distribution, access to information and capability to transfer information into knowledge. Knowledge distribution is one of the essential requirements of the knowledge society. It has to be based on equity and non-discrimination, justice and solidarity. It implies understanding of knowledge as the central pillar of the knowledge society.

Knowledge is more than information. It requires information processing with the specific aim of obtaining the conceptual understanding of life support systems within a specific cultural system. The global validation of information is immanent to the knowledge society. So, access to the global information pool is the main driving force for the development of knowledge society.

The capacity for information transformation into knowledge is represented by the ability of the cultural system to convert available information into scientific and technological values used in everyday life. It strongly depends on the cultural and social system. The notion “knowledge society” emerged toward the end of the 90s and is particularly used, by some in academic circles, as an alternative to the “information society”.

UNESCO, in particular, has adopted the term “knowledge society”, or its variant, “knowledge societies”, within its institutional policies. There has been a great deal of reflection on the issue, which strives to incorporate a more integral conception that is not only related to the economic dimension. For example, Abdul Waheed Khan (general sub-director of UNESCO for Communication and Information) writes: “Information society is the building block for knowledge societies. Whereas I see the concept of ‘information society’ as linked to the idea of ‘technological innovation’, the concept of ‘knowledge societies’ includes a dimension of social, cultural, economical, political and institutional transformation, and a more pluralistic and developmental perspective. In my view, the concept of ‘knowledge societies’ is preferable to that of the ‘information society’ because it better captures the complexity and dynamism of the changes taking place. (...) the knowledge in question is important not only for economic growth but also for empowering and developing all sectors of society.”

13. What is the primary purpose of emphasizing the role of the knowledge society in future human society development, as mentioned in the passage?
- (a) To highlight the transformation of information into knowledge for economic growth.
 - (b) To illustrate the importance of knowledge in driving social and cultural change.
 - (c) To underscore the significance of knowledge in promoting sustainable development.
 - (d) To demonstrate the necessity of global information access for societal progress.
14. According to the passage, how does the concept of knowledge in a knowledge society differ from mere information?
- (a) Knowledge involves processing information to understand life support systems culturally.
 - (b) Knowledge is the global validation and distribution of information for cultural advancement.
 - (c) Knowledge is primarily used for technological advancements in various cultural systems.
 - (d) Knowledge represents the economic and political transformation through information.



15. The passage suggests several components that are crucial to the development of a knowledge society. Which of these is described as a fundamental requirement?
- Ensuring global access to the vast pool of information available.
 - Establishing equity and non-discrimination in knowledge distribution.
 - Focusing on technological innovation as a basis for societal advancement.
 - Promoting cultural and social systems that foster scientific values.
16. How does the passage characterize the relationship between the knowledge society and sustainable development?
- The knowledge society is a foundation for sustainable development through economic stability.
 - Sustainable development is dependent on the technological innovations of the knowledge society.
 - The knowledge society is intrinsically linked to sustainable development as a new paradigm.
 - Sustainable development acts as a guiding principle for the knowledge society's evolution.
17. In what way does the passage describe the transformation of information into knowledge within a cultural system?
- By integrating technological innovations into cultural practices for societal benefit.
 - Through the application of scientific methods to information within cultural contexts.
 - Through the global validation of information within diverse cultural systems.
 - As a process of obtaining conceptual understanding of life support systems.
18. Based on Abdul Waheed Khan's perspective, as cited in the passage, how does the concept of 'knowledge societies' differ fundamentally from that of the 'information society'?
- Knowledge societies emphasize economic growth, whereas information societies focus on cultural development.
 - Information societies are centered around technological innovation, unlike knowledge societies.
 - Knowledge societies are primarily about global information access, unlike information societies.
 - Information societies prioritize scientific values, whereas knowledge societies value social transformation.

Passage(Q.19-Q.24): As a more standardized international approach to building design emerged, many Indian architects abandoned the vernacular traditions that had been developed over thousands of years to cope with the weather extremes of different regions. The earthen walls and shady verandas of the humid south, and the thick insulating walls and intricate window shades of the hot dry northwest, were swapped for a boxy modern style. Today, buildings in downtown Bangalore often look like those in Ahmedabad, in the north, or Chennai, in the east—or those in Cincinnati, Ohio, or Manchester, England. “In most cities, people have blindly followed the Western model,” says Kuriakose, an architect now based in Chennai. “There was no attempt to look at the local climate. There was no attempt to look at the materials which are available.” In the climate change era, that uniformity is looking like a **gaffe**.

“Inside my mud house, the temperature is 5–6°C cooler [than outside],” says S. Samyuktha, an architect at Earth Building, who divides her time between Coimbatore in south India and Ladakh in the trans-Himalayan region, where vernacular building styles are still prevalent. In the south, cob – where balls of mud are mixed with sand, straw or lime depending on the soil, and layered into walls – is predominantly used. In the north, stone and wood are used, or bamboo in some places. “In the colder north, we try to trap the heat in. In the south, we try to keep the heat out,” explains Samyuktha. “Baker said that walls should breathe. So I avoid plastering and painting. In summer I don’t need an air-conditioner. In winter, it’s warm inside,” he says.

A growing number of sustainability-minded architects are reviving vernacular approaches. And in February the Indian government pledged to revise urban planning guidelines and investments to train planners to better design cities. Progress is slow, though, says Aromar Revi, director of the Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS), a research-focused university. “We need to essentially affect the entire fabric of our cities, from planning to land use, to building, to transportation systems,” he says. “We are only at the start of that conversation.” It wouldn’t

be feasible to replace all the modern materials used in India's buildings with vernacular counterparts. Many skyscrapers will inevitably need steel and concrete. And some traditional features, like sloping roofs and detailed window shades are too expensive for many people to consider when building their homes. Perhaps most importantly: in cities, the high cost of land makes it extremely difficult to find space for verandas and courtyards which allow ventilation for a cooler home. Kuriakose's firm, for example, has found ways to build traditional sloped roofs, which allow water runoff during monsoon seasons and prevent heat absorption, while incorporating concrete in some elements to make them cheaper. In Ahmedabad, the Mahila Housing Trust, a women-led non-profit promoted by SEWA, found a unique home cooling solution for low-income households in India—heat resilient rooftops called Modroofs developed by Hasit Ganatra, the founder of sustainable roofing firm Rematerials. "Modroofs is a signature product of Rematerials, water-proof modular roofs made of paper waste and coconut husk that reduces the temperature of homes and provides a sustainable summer covering or even, alternative to RCC roofs. They are also easily dismantled and reinstalled easily," says a report in The Better India. [Source: <https://time.com/6176998/india-heatwaves-western-architecture/>]

19. What is the central thesis of the extract given above?
- The tedious aping of the west in architectural field has made buildings to be resilient and hard-wearing to temperature variance in India.
 - There has been a mindless imitation of the western architecture in India from past decades decreasing temperature resilience which is changing in the recent times.
 - Indian architectural landscape is riddled with western designs and materials which must be wholly abandoned with the exemplification of traditional architects.
 - Indian architecture has been mindlessly aping the west for the past decades and must be reformed with innovation in form of solely mud-based materials.
20. What does the word "gaffe" does not mean in the context of the passage?
- Impropriety
 - Blunder
 - Indiscretion
 - Correction
21. All of these can be inferred from the passage, except
- Architectural designs can have profound effect on the resilience of the house in extreme weather events.
 - There was little effect of temperature or weather conditions in vernacular architectural adaptations.
 - Local vernacular based designs and materials have become costlier than international uniform materials like concrete.
 - There can be utilization of some local and sustainable materials for low-income households in India.
22. What is the solution offered by the author for low-income households in extremely high temperature cities or places in India?
- They can invest in a thatched slanting roof which can be covered with mud for cooling.
 - They can get a readymade roof installed from an enterprise run primarily by women.
 - They can avail of the subsidies from the Indian government for affording a green concrete roof.
 - They can get a slanting roof installed along with solar panels for running their water coolers.
23. What can be a suitable title for the passage?
- Vernacular Architecture: Key to India's Climate resilience.
 - Western Architecture: Sole Reason for India's woes on Climate.
 - Indian Architecture compared with Western Architecture.
 - Indian Architecture: Glimpses from the glorious past.
24. Which of these is the amalgamation in approach for the modern architects in Indian housing or building landscape as mentioned in the passage?
- Including an Indian traditional feature in western-based architecture design landscape.
 - Making use of modern or western materials like concrete with vernacular design.
 - Using local materials in the western designs for a hybrid model of breathable architecture.
 - Including several features of Indian architecture from the past in sustainable western ones.



SECTION -B : CURRENT AFFAIRS, INCLUDING GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Directions (Q.25-Q.52): Read the information carefully and answer the questions.

Passage (Q.25-Q.30): Oscars 2024

Emma Stone, Emily Blunt, Ryan Gosling and other stars gathered on Sunday to celebrate the best performances in film at the 96th Academy Awards, a ceremony that turned into a toast to blockbuster atomic bomb drama Oppenheimer. It nabbed [a] wins out of 13 nominations. Talk show host Jimmy Kimmel returns for the fourth time to emcee the film industry's highest honors from the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. The live broadcast on ABC starts at 4 p.m. PDT (2300 GMT), an hour earlier than usual. In India, one can watch it on Disney+ Hotstar at 4.30 am IST. As stars began arriving to walk the red carpet, hundreds of pro-Palestinian protesters angered by the Israel-Gaza conflict shouted and slowed traffic in the blocks surrounding the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood.

Oppenheimer, the three-hour drama directed by Christopher Nolan, led the field with 13 nominations. The movie won the prestigious best picture prize, capping its sweep of other major awards this year. [X], the Irish actor who played physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer as he led the race to build the first atomic bomb, won best actor. His main competition, according to awards pundit, was The Holdovers star Paul Giamatti.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com>

25. What has been redacted by [X] in this passage?
(a) Al Pacino (b) Brad Pitt (c) Cillian Murphy (d) Leon Bridges
26. What award did Emma Stone win in Oscar 2024 for her role in the film Poor Things?
(a) Best Director (b) Best Supporting Actor
(c) Best Actress (d) Best Picture
27. Which film dominated the Oscars by winning several awards, including best picture and best director?
(a) Poor Things (b) The Zone of Interest
(c) Oppenheimer (d) Iron Man
28. How many Oscars did the film Oppenheimer win overall?
(a) Four (b) Five (c) Six (d) Seven
29. In which of the following year, the first Academy Awards ceremony was held?
(a) 1926 (b) 1924 (c) 1929 (d) 1927
30. Who out of the following is the current president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences?
(a) Cheryl Boone Isaacs (b) John Bailey
(c) David Rubin (d) Janet Yang

Passage (Q.31-Q.36): Pakistan's 14th president

Asif Ali Zardari has become the 14th President of Pakistan after securing a resounding victory on Saturday. This marks his second term as the country's civilian president, a notable feat in a nation historically prone to military coups.

Asif Ali Zardari, serving as the co-chairperson of the Pakistan Peoples Party, emerged as the joint candidate of the ruling alliance comprising the PPP and the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N). His opponent, Mahmood Khan Achakzai, the leader of the Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP), was nominated by



the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party led by incarcerated former Prime Minister Imran Khan and supported by the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC).

President-elect Asif Ali Zardari is set to take the oath of office on Sunday at the President House, with Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Qazi Faez Isa presiding over the ceremony.

The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) highlighted that Zardari's election for a [X] makes him the first civilian president in Pakistan's history to achieve this feat. "Asif Ali Zardari is the first civilian president in the history of Pakistan who was elected for a [X]," the PPP posted on X soon after the election results were announced by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

<https://www.businesstoday.in>

31. What has been redacted by [X] in this passage?
(a) second term (b) third term (c) fourth term (d) first term
32. Who out of the following is the current Prime minister of Pakistan?
(a) Nawaz Sharif (b) Shehbaz Sharif
(c) Imran Khan (d) Tehmina Durrani
33. When does the Pakistan celebrate its Independence Day?
(a) 25 January (b) 1 August (c) 14 August (d) 1 January
34. The Simla Agreement was a peace treaty signed by India and Pakistan on _____.
(a) January 12, 1976 (b) July 12, 1976
(c) January 26, 1972 (d) July 2, 1972
35. The first female Prime Minister of Pakistan was Benazir Bhutto, when did she became the Prime Minister of Pakistan?
(a) 2001 (b) 1999 (c) 1995 (d) 1988
36. Which of the following statement is incorrect?
(a) The first general elections in Pakistan were held in 1970.
(b) Liaqat Ali Khan was the first Prime minister of Pakistan.
(c) The Radcliffe line is a boundary between India & Pakistan.
(d) Pakistan's first constitution was finally implemented in March 1962.

Passage (Q.37-Q.42): India's First Semiconductor Fab

Tata Group aims to begin commercial production from India's first semiconductor fabrication unit by 2026, an aggressive timeline considering the country's long wait to become self-reliant in chips that power technology ranging from smartphones to defence systems.

Tata Electronics Pvt. Ltd's plant in Assam will begin with producing semiconductor chips starting at _____ nanometres, said [X], chairman of Tata Sons, the group's holding company.

The plant will start production by late 2025 or early 2026, serving a variety of sectors including automotive, power, electronics, consumer, and medical, he said.

The unit is among a few semiconductor fabrication projects that India has approved, which includes another plant in Dholera, Gujarat by Tata-PSMC, a partnership between Tata Electronics and Taiwan's Powerchip Semiconductor Manufacturing Corp.



“We have a partner (PSMC) who is very willing and we have assembled a team. So we are looking forward to going live in 2026, and Assam will be done earlier. We may go for commercial production in Assam even in late 2025 or early 2026,” [X] said.

He was speaking on the sidelines of a foundation laying ceremony in Dholera on Wednesday for three semiconductor fabrication units—including the two Tata projects and an outsourced semiconductor assembly and test facility by CG Power and Industrial Solutions Ltd in partnership with Japan’s Renesas Electronics Corp.

<https://www.livemint.com>

37. What has been redacted by [X] in this passage?
(a) N. Chandrasekaran (b) Jagdeesh Basu
(c) Nirendra Rai (d) N. Vinay Kumar
38. What is the estimated total investment for the semiconductor projects?
(a) \$11.5 billion (b) \$1.25 billion (c) ₹11.5 trillion (d) ₹1.25 trillion
39. What is the starting nanometer range for the chips that will be produced in the Assam unit?
(a) 22 nm (b) 28 nm (c) 32 nm (d) 45 nm
40. Consider the following statements:
I. The India Electronics and Semiconductor Association (IESA) is spearheading India's semiconductor and electronics manufacturing industry growth by fostering local and global collaborations and partnerships, upskilling, and supporting startups, MSMEs, and academia.
II. The objective of IESA is to grow the ESDM business segment in India and make India the preferred destination for electronics & semiconductor design & manufacturing.
(a) Only I is correct.
(b) Both I & II are incorrect.
(c) Only II is correct.
(d) Both I & II are correct.
41. Who out of the following is the present Chairman of, India Electronics and Semiconductor Association (IESA)?
(a) Sanjay Gupta (b) Rajdeep Desai (c) Surendra Benerji (d) Alok Mishra
42. Which of the following statement is incorrect?
(a) Ajai Chowdhry, is a co-founder of HCL and a member of the advisory committee of the Indian Semiconductor Mission.
(b) India is separately examining a \$115.25 billion semiconductor fab project by Israel’s Tower Semiconductor.
(c) Tata Electronics Pvt. Ltd’s plant in Assam will begin with producing semiconductor chips starting at 28 nanometres, said chairman of Tata Sons, the group’s holding company.
(d) The total investment for these projects is around ₹1.25 trillion.

Passage (Q.43-Q.48): Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards 2022-23

President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday presented the Sangeet Natak Akademi awards to a [X] artistes from varied fields of performing arts for 2022 and 2023.

She also gave the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship to seven eminent artistes, including one joint fellowship, during a ceremony held at the [a]. The National Academy of Music, Dance and Drama selects eminent personalities in the field of performing arts as Akademi Fellows. Speaking at the award ceremony, Murmu highlighted the role of performing arts in India's cultural heritage. 'Since ancient times, art forms have been given a high place in Indian culture. Keeping Bharat Muni's Natya Shastra at par with the Vedas, it has been called the fifth Veda. The breadth and comprehensiveness of the art form found in his Natyashastra is rare in any other



book in the world,' Murmu said. The president noted that there are many examples when artistes used their art for social welfare.

'Artistes have been challenging stereotypes and prejudices through their art. They have been awakening society through their art. Our arts are the best example of India's soft-power which is why it is part of India's foreign policy,' she added. Murmu also congratulated the recipients of Akademi's Fellowship and Awards and said 'they will continue to enrich the Indian art tradition through various forms and genres of music and drama'.

<https://www.deccanherald.com>

43. what has been redacted by [X] in this passage?
(a) total of 94 (b) total of 96 (c) total of 98 (d) total of 99
44. Consider the following statements:
I. The Akademi Awards are being conferred since 1962. These honours not only symbolize the highest standard of excellence and achievement, but also recognize sustained individual work and contribution.
II. The honour of Akademi Fellow carries a purse money of Rs.3, 00, 000/- (Rupees three lakhs) while the Akademi Award carries a purse money of Rs.1,00,000/- (Rupees one lakh), besides a Tamrapatra and Angavastram.
(a) Only I is correct. (b) Both I & II are correct.
(c) Only II is correct. (d) Both I & II are incorrect.
45. Where was the special investiture ceremony held in March 2024 for conferring the Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards?
(a) Rashtrapati Bhavan (b) Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi
(c) India Gate (d) Red Fort
46. The Akademi Awards are being conferred since which of the following year?
(a) Since 1947 (b) Since 1952 (c) Since 1962 (d) Since 1970
47. What is the purse money for the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship (Akademi Ratna)?
(a) Rs. 5,00,000/- (b) Rs. 2,00,000/- (c) Rs. 3,00,000/- (d) Rs. 4,00,000/-
48. What is the objective of the 'Kala Deeksha' training programmes initiated by the Sangeet Natak Akademi?
(a) Promoting environmental awareness
(b) Reviving endangered art forms
(c) Encouraging scientific research
(d) Supporting rural development

Passage (Q.49-Q.52): Lok Sabha Election 2024

The Election Commission of India announced on Saturday that Lok Sabha elections will be held in 7 phases. Counting for all elections, including by-elections, assembly elections, and general elections, is slated for June 4. The current government's term is ending on June 16.

According to CEC [X], there are 96.8 crore people are eligible to cast a vote in the upcoming polls at over 12 lakh polling stations.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the ruling Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) won 303 seats while Congress got 52 seats.

The BJP-led NDA has expressed confidence for the upcoming polls as well, hoping to win over 400 seats. While Congress boasts of giving a spirited fight.

The Lok Sabha elections will be held in seven phases, starting from April 19. The counting of votes is scheduled for June 4. According to chief election commissioner [X], the subsequent phases will be held on April 26, May 7, May 13, May 20, May 25, and June 1.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com>

49. What has been redacted by [X] in this passage?
- (a) Rajiv Kumar (b) Rajiv Gauba
(c) Ajay Kumar Bhalla (d) Arun Goel
50. When does the National Voters' Day celebrated in India?
- (a) 25th March (b) 25th January (c) 15th January (d) 15th March
51. The "right to vote" is associated with which of the following article of Indian constitution?
- (a) Article 126 (b) Article 226 (c) Article 326 (d) Article 236
52. According to the Indian Constitution, "Right to vote" and to be elected in India is a _____.
- (a) Legal Right (b) Natural Right
(c) Fundamental Right (d) Constitutional Right

SECTION – C: LEGAL REASONING

Directions (Q.53-Q.84): Read the comprehension carefully and answer the questions.

Passage (Q.53-Q.57): Companies Act, 2013 lays down explicit provisions governing the mergers and acquisitions of companies and body corporates, including that with foreign companies. Relevant sections that deal with mergers and acquisitions include sections 230 to 240. Apart from this, the companies should also adhere to the Companies (Compromises, Arrangements, and Amalgamations) Rules, 2016.

This guide covers the key compliances for mergers and acquisitions under the Companies Act, 2013 for the following types of mergers.

- Normal merger and amalgamation (Section 230-232)
- Fast-track merger or amalgamation (Section 233)
- Merger with foreign companies (Section 234)

Section 230 lays down the procedure whereby the company can enter into any compromise or arrangement between creditors and members. In the meeting of creditors and members, the majority of the persons (more than 50% in numbers) representing 3/4th in value (75% in value) of the creditors and members, voting in person or by proxy, shall agree to the merger. If the merger is sanctioned by the national company law tribunal, then an order of sanction shall be issued in Form No. CAA-6 and it shall be binding all the company, creditors, members, liquidator, and contributors.

The following companies can adopt the fast-track merger route under section 233:

- Two or more small companies;
- A holding company and its wholly-owned subsidiary company;
- Two or more start-up companies;
- One or more start-up companies with one or more small companies.

The company shall send a notice of the proposed scheme of merger or amalgamation to the Registrar and Official Liquidators for inviting suggestions and objections. If the registrar or official liquidator does not have objections, the Central Government shall approve the scheme. A foreign company incorporated outside India may merge with an Indian company with the prior approval of RBI under section 234. It shall comply with the requirements of Section 230 to 232 of Companies Act 2013 and related rules.

[Source: <https://www.ascgroup.in/compliances-for-mergers-and-acquisitions-in-india-under-companies-act-2013/>]

53. XYZ Inc., a multinational corporation based in the United States, specializes in technology solutions, while ABC Ltd., an Indian firm, is a well-established player in the software development sector. Recognizing the synergies between their operations, both companies decide to pursue a merger to enhance their global market presence and technological capabilities. XYZ Inc. and ABC Ltd. initiate discussions regarding the potential merger, recognizing the strategic benefits for both entities. Detailed due diligence is conducted to assess the financial, legal, and operational aspects of each company. The RBI is uninvolved in the process. The merger is finalized and all requirements under section 230-232 are met with three fourth of creditors and members voting for the merger and approval of the tribunal. Is the merger valid in light of the passage?
- (a) Yes, because there is the required majority of members and creditors present along with tribunal sanction.
 - (b) No, because there must be prior approval of the central government obtained for the merger.
 - (c) Yes, because both the companies are domestic in nature and all legal requirements are fully complied in this case.
 - (d) No, because there must be prior approval of the RBI for merger of a foreign and Indian company.
54. ABC Holdings Ltd., a publicly traded company based and incorporated in India, operates as a holding company with diversified investments in various sectors. XYZ Solutions Pvt. Ltd., incorporated as a private limited company in India, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of ABC Holdings, specializing in software development and IT services. ABC Holdings identifies strategic benefits in consolidating its operations by merging with XYZ Solutions. Which kind of merger will be most suitable for them in light of the passage?

- (a) It will be normal merger under section 230-232 as both the companies are public in incorporation.
(b) It will be merger with foreign company under section 234 as one of the companies is not domestic.
(c) It will be merger with specific tenets of both section 230 and section 234 as there are two different companies involved.
(d) It will be fast-track merger under section 233 as it is involving a holding and a wholly owned subsidiary.
55. Tech Innovations Pvt. Ltd. and Digital Ventures Ltd., two technology startups operating in complementary sectors, identify synergies that can be realized through a merger. Both startups conduct due diligence to assess the financial, legal, and operational aspects of each other's businesses. The boards of directors of both companies convene meetings to pass resolutions in favor of the merger. Shareholders of each startup approve the merger in a general meeting. They send the notice to official liquidators and Registrar who do not object to the merger. They proceed ahead with the merger scheme of a fast-track merger. Is the process valid in light of the passage?
(a) Yes, because they have met with the requirements about the liquidators and Registrar under section 233.
(b) No, because there is no approval of the National law company Tribunal for the merger.
(c) Yes, because there is meeting of all requirements of fast track merger under section 234.
(d) No, because there is no approval of the central government obtained for the scheme.
56. Alpha Pharmaceuticals Ltd., a well-established pharmaceutical company, and Beta Biotech Ltd., a biotechnology firm, recognize the strategic advantages of merging to create a more diversified and competitive entity in the life sciences sector. The boards of directors of both companies pass resolutions in favor of the merger, initiating the due diligence process. Meetings are convened with the creditors and members of both companies to present the merger proposal. Three-fourths of the creditors in value, considering the outstanding debts of each company, provide majority approval for the merger scheme. Some members voted through other persons acting as their representatives. This is objected to by the members present and voting. Is their objection valid in light of the passage?
(a) Yes, because there must be voting for the merger scheme only by those present in person.
(b) No, because there can be voting done for the merger by the representatives under section 233.
(c) Yes, because there cannot be voting by the representative for a crucial decision like a merger.
(d) No, because there is provision of proxy voting under section 230 for the approval of a merger.
57. Whose approval or sanction is required to be obtained in the normal merger of two Indian companies?
(a) Central Government. (b) Company Law Board.
(c) National Company Law Tribunal. (d) National Company law Appellate Tribunal.

Passage (Q.58-Q.65): The Supreme Court ordered the convicts in the Bilkis Bano case to surrender within two weeks of its order as it held the remission order by the State of Gujarat as invalid. The convicts (who have been found guilty by court) were tried in Maharashtra which would have been the competent State to order the remission.

The Supreme Court spoke of fraudulent measures adopted by the state government to secure the May 2022 order. The Supreme Court bench of Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan said that the state of Gujarat “acted in complicity with the convicts”. The court said that the Gujarat government “acted in tandem” with convict, breached rule of law, usurped power”, reports LiveLaw, Two cases, Best Bakery and Bilkis Bano — were moved out from Gujarat to Maharashtra.

The Times of India reported in 2010, how then chief minister Modi in a “rabble-rousing speech” that transfer of the case outside Gujarat “would be an insult to the state as well as its judiciary.” Turns out that the Supreme Court has noted in 2024, that “it was this very apprehension [of acting in tandem with convicts] which led this Court to transfer the trial out of the State” to Maharashtra. In matters of the when cases were shifted out of Gujarat, it was the Supreme Court which, through hearings and orders over the years, called for “fair and impartial investigation” into the cases of violence in 2002.

Supreme Court verdict comment on BJP and Union government too.



The apex court also noted that if the convicts can “circumvent the consequences of their conviction, peace and tranquility in the society will be reduced to a chimaera.” Gujarat has the same chief minister in office, Bhupendra Patel in May 2022, as it does now. The political dispensation, in effect, is the same.

The Union home ministry had on August 15 last year, cleared the remission. The union government okayed whatever “complicity” with convicts, the Supreme Court has noted in its order. PM Modi, who spoke of crimes against women in Congress-run Rajasthan last year, the Minister for Women and Child Welfare, the BJP Mahila wing, senior women ministers and Home Minister, Amit Shah, also an MP from Ahmedabad are absolutely quiet on this important matter. As The Leaflet revealed last year, the Home Ministry okayed the remission of sentence to the guilty, issuing a letter to that effect on July 11, 2023. The government at the state level and in the centre was one with the convicts on this, arguing for them, never speaking up for the survivor. It took women petitioners, expelled TMC MP, Mahua Moitra, ex-CPI(M) MP, Subhasini Ali, social worker, Revati Laul and Rooprekha Verma to petition the supreme court and move on Bilkis Bano’s behalf.

The fact that it took independent women to fill in for the state, and stand up for the cause of justice for a 21-year old Bilkis Bano in 2002, then five months pregnant, who survived gang rapes, the murder of her three-year old child and eight others in her family, as well as her unborn child, speaks volumes about the state of justice and women’s rights in India today.

[Extracted with edits from The Wire: “Six Things; Bilkis Bano Convicts Being Sent Back to Prison Is a Verdict on Much More” <https://thewire.in/rights/bilkis-bano-order-meaning-womens-rights-modi>]

58. In one such case in Republic of Indika where there was a crime committed of Murder as per the Indian Penal Code, 1860, and 103 accused were in the judicial custody for that very reason; 76 of them had brutally tortured and suffocated 56 victims to death, this was regarded as one of the worst attack by the local media. The Prime Minister, the concerned Chief Minister expressed their sorrow and anger towards these heinous acts. However this was only for the media management, the real actions came after when before even getting the punishment, all 103 of them were released on the remission order of the competent concerned State Government approved by the Union Home Ministry. Decide.
- (a) The order is invalid since the crimes of this nature cannot be forgiven.
 - (b) The order is valid since the State Government is competent to pass such an order of remission.
 - (c) The order is invalid since the State Government cannot pass such an order for the 103 accused.
 - (d) The order is valid since the Union Home Ministry approved the same.
59. There are two States in Indika, one is State A and the other is State B. The murders took place in A. However, there is serious doubt casted by B upon the credibility of A’s investigation into the matter since few ministers of A were also involved in the killings and provided arms and ammunition to the accused persons. The victim’s family approached the Supreme Court and requested for the transfer of the case to B. Decide.
- (a) The State of A is in tandem with the accused persons, hence transfer of trial can be allowed.
 - (b) The State of A is competent to try the accused persons and it would be an insult to A’s judiciary had the case be sent to B.
 - (c) The State of B has the jurisdiction in all such cases where any State is in tandem with the accused persons, hence transfer can be allowed.
 - (d) The State of B does not have the jurisdiction to try the accused persons since the crime took place in A.
60. Which of the following statements can be inferred from the passage regarding the Supreme Court's decision in the Bilkis Bano case?
- (a) The State of Gujarat's remission order was deemed valid by the Supreme Court.
 - (b) The Supreme Court highlighted the potential consequences of allowing convicts to evade the repercussions of their conviction.
 - (c) The Union government supported the Supreme Court's decision to reject the remission order.
 - (d) The State of Gujarat successfully defended its actions, proving no complicity with the convicts in the Bilkis Bano case.



61. In the Bilkis Bano case, the Supreme Court ordered the convicts to surrender, holding the remission order by the State of Gujarat as invalid. The court emphasized the fraudulent measures and complicity of the Gujarat government with the convicts. How does the Supreme Court's observation on the potential consequences of allowing convicts to "circumvent the consequences of their conviction" relate to the broader legal context, as discussed in the passage?
- (a) The State of Gujarat was complicit with the convicts which resulted in the transfer of the trial to the State of Maharashtra.
 - (b) The State of Gujarat was complicit with the convicts and thus as a result of which they were granted the remission.
 - (c) The State of Gujarat was complicit with the convicts and that did not prevent the Court to correct the irregularity in the passing of the order.
 - (d) The State of Maharashtra should have passed the remission order.
62. In the State of Zebra, there exists a state government in the State of Zephyr, which seeks to obtain remission for convicts implicated in a similar case as mentioned in the passage. What legal principles, akin to those underscored in the Bilkis Bano case, might the Supreme Court reference to evaluate the legitimacy of the remission order?
- (a) The Supreme Court's authority to override state remission decisions.
 - (b) The potential complicity of the state government with the convicts.
 - (c) The historical precedent of transferring cases to ensure fair and impartial investigations.
 - (d) The political dispensation in the state government at the time of the remission order.
63. Refer to the previous question for facts- three persons accused of the offence of extortion were arrested in Zephyr for the crime committed in Zephyr only. The Chief Minister of Zephyr in a public rally announced that for a very long period of time the State was trying to catch those three accused persons as they have extorted the money from public officials of the State, and he further stated that no power in the State of Zebra and the world can prevent his government machinery to provide justice to those public officials and since the maximum punishment for extortion is death in Zephyr, he stated that death penalty will be given to the offenders. Advocates representing those accused approached the relevant competent court for transferring of the trial to another State Government in Zebra as the Chief Minister is biased against the accused persons. Decide.
- (a) Zephyr is in favor of the accused, and thus it is a perfect case for the transfer of the trial to another State Government in Zebra.
 - (b) Zebra is not biased against the accused, and thus it is not a case for the transfer of the trial.
 - (c) Zephyr may or may not be biased against the accused, the accused persons have a right to move the case outside of the State for fear of biased prosecution.
 - (d) The passage provides insufficient information regarding the same.
64. Which of the following, if true, most strengthens the Supreme Court's decision to reject the remission order in the Bilkis Bano case?
- (a) Evidence emerges that the State of Gujarat had direct knowledge of the convicts' actions and actively supported their release.
 - (b) Legal experts from various states express unanimous agreement with the Supreme Court's interpretation of remission laws.
 - (c) The State of Maharashtra, where the convicts were tried, acknowledges the Supreme Court's authority in matters of remission.
 - (d) International human rights organizations commend the Supreme Court for its commitment to ensuring justice in cases of human rights violations.



65. In the Bilkis Bano case, what was the Supreme Court's primary concern regarding the potential release of the convicted individuals after completing their trial?
- (a) The political affiliations of the convicted individuals.
 - (b) The potential impact on peace and tranquility in society.
 - (c) The efficiency of the legal procedures during the trial.
 - (d) The financial burden on the State during the trial.

Passage (Q.66-Q.69): Nearly a year after the public outcry over felling of trees in Aarey land near the Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP) in suburban Mumbai, the Maharashtra government has decided to reserve a 600-acre parcel of land out of the sprawling 3,162 acres as a reserved forest.

The government has invoked Section 4 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, which gives them the power to “constitute any land a reserved forest”. This is done by issuing a notification in the Official Gazette. Once notified, the government has to next appoint a forest settlement officer (FSO) “to inquire into and determine the existence, nature and extent of any rights alleged to exist in favour of any person in or over any land comprised within such limits or in or over any forest-produce, and to deal with the same”.

The FSO has to deliberate on the issue along with the dwellers of the land, and only then the process of notifying a land as reserved forest is completed.

There were several protests against the Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Limited (MMRCL’s) decision to construct a car shed for the Rs 32,000 crore underground Colaba-Bandra-Seepz Metro corridor. The MMRCL had overnight cleared the site of over 2,000 trees and it had led to a widespread protest.

The chief minister, in a meeting, announced that the area would be reserved as a forest to safeguard the rights of Adivasis living here. Over 10,000 people live in 27 Adivasi hamlets in this eco-sensitive zone. The area earmarked for the car shed, however, is excluded from the reserved land. The government in its statement has said that the decision on the excluded land will be taken after seeking suggestions and objections from citizens.

66. Kanha-Kisli, a 500 acres area in the state of Madhya Pradesh has been covered under thick forest and is a home to many wild life species. In a way to conserve the area, MP government declared it as forest under Indian Forest Act 1927 and a designated area of 500 acres was demarcated. Raiza group’s 50 acres land which is beside the forest covered area too was demarcated and was declared as forest land without notifying the Raiza group. Raiza group MD brought an action against the government for not complying with the provisions set under law. Decide fate of Raiza Group’s petition.
- (a) Raiza Group will not succeed as the demarcation of land is done by the government and same cannot be challenged under the law.
 - (b) Raiza Group will not succeed as the area required conservation and government took the step in right direction by declaring it as forest land.
 - (c) Raiza Group will succeed as government failed to deliberate the matter with the dweller before declaring it as forest land.
 - (d) Raiza Group will succeed as Raiza group was not given an opportunity to demarcate their land before government took control of the area.



67. After declaring Aarey land as forest area under Forest Act 1927, government of Maharashtra banned any construction in and around the area as well as restriction on cutting of trees. Slum dwellers who have been dependent on forest produce for livelihood were rehabilitated to a different place and were provided marginal jobs to earn their livelihood. Few slum dwellers, who lost their jobs due to ongoing pandemic, started chopping down trees to sell the wood for cremation purpose. Will such activity of the slum dwellers attracts penal action?
- (a) Slum Dwellers will be punished under penal laws for cutting down trees which are conserved under the designated forest area.
 - (b) Slum dwellers will not be punished as there are the actual stakeholders of the land and have been dependent on the produce way before the land was declared as forest area.
 - (c) Slum dwellers indulged in activities which are prohibited under the Forest Act, yet the information given is silent with regard to penal action to be imposed on such illegal activity.
 - (d) Slum Dwellers will not be held liable as forest act safeguards the rights of the dwellers which include right to earn livelihood.
68. How can a government initiate reserving any area as “Reserved forest” or “protected forest” under the Indian Forest Act 1927?
- (a) By seeking permission from the central government
 - (b) By appointing forest settlement officer for the said area
 - (c) By issuing notification in the official gazette and appointing forest settlement officer
 - (d) Upon the recommendation given by the forest settlement officer
69. 60 acres area around Jim Corbett national park is a habitat for Gondi tribes of the state. Aman, an environmental activist wishes to mark the area as reserved forest area for safeguarding the tribes. Can he do so?
- (a) Marking the areas as reserved forest area is a power vested with the government and not the individual.
 - (b) He can invoke section 4 of the Indian Forest Act and place his request to the government.
 - (c) Areas around the national parks cannot be designated as reserved forest areas.
 - (d) Both (a) and (b)

Passage (Q.70-Q.74): Recently, the Supreme Court came down heavily on the Patna High Court for granting bail to a history-sheeter murder accused without citing reasons for the same. It was observed that: "It appears that the High Court has passed the order mechanically and in a most perfunctory manner...has not at all considered the gravity, nature and seriousness of the offences alleged". The top court thus allowed the appeal, quashed the bail granted to the accused and directed him to surrender before the concerned authorities.

Before the apex court, counsel appearing for the appellant said that the High Court order was bad in law as it did not give reasons and ignored the criminal antecedents of the respondent. Counsel for the State supported these arguments and highlighted the serious nature of the offences, including murder, violent rioting etc.

Counsel for the accused submitted that his client was a 70-year-old suffering from several ailments, and that his criminal record was not hidden from the High Court. He added that the trial is almost complete and even in the other cases, he was already out on bail.

The apex court noted that "no reasons whatsoever have been assigned by the High Court while releasing the respondent No.2 on bail."

Citing precedents, the Court highlighted that in bail orders, while courts need not evaluate merits in detail, they "cannot obviate its duty to apply a judicial mind and to record reasons, brief as they may be, for the purpose of deciding whether or not to grant bail." Since the outcome of the application has a significant bearing on the liberty of the accused on one hand as well as the public interest in the due enforcement of criminal justice on the other and the rights of the victims and their families are at stake as well and therefore while granting bail, the Court has to apply a judicial mind and record brief reasons for the purpose of deciding whether or not to grant bail.

<https://www.barandbench.com/news/litigation/patna-high-court-ignored-gravity-nature-seriousness-of-crime-supreme-court-cancels-bail>



70. Ramesh was a habitual pick-pocket. One day while travelling in a crowded metro, he managed to swipe Suresh's wallet from his pant pocket. When Suresh got down on his station, he realised that his wallet had been stolen. He immediately complained to the police officer stationed there and based on video footage, it was identified that Ramesh was the culprit. Suresh pursued criminal action against Ramesh. Before the first hearing, Ramesh applied for bail and the same was granted by the Court considering the petty nature of the offence and the fact that the stolen wallet had been restored. Is the approach of the Court, correct as per the principles mentioned in the passage?
- (a) Yes, because the Court failed to apply its judicial mind and granted bail to Ramesh based on due reasons
 - (b) No, because the Court failed its duty to apply a judicial mind and to record reasons for granting bail
 - (c) No, because the Court has not at all considered the gravity, nature and seriousness of the offences
 - (d) Yes, because the Court applied its judicial mind and granted bail to Ramesh based on due reasons
71. In the previous fact situation, it is subsequently found out that the Court did not mention the reasons for granting bail to Ramesh, even though it had objective criteria in mind while doing so. Based on the principles mentioned in the passage, can Suresh use this as a ground to challenge the bail order?
- (a) Yes, because accepting the bail order has a significant bearing on public interest in the due enforcement of criminal justice
 - (b) Yes, because the Court obviated its duty to apply a judicial mind and to record reasons in the bail order
 - (c) No, because the Court did not obviate its duty to apply a judicial mind and to record reasons because it had objective criteria in mind
 - (d) No, because accepting the bail order had a significant bearing on the liberty of Ramesh
72. P filed a criminal complaint against her husband Q under the Dowry Prohibition Act. Q was subsequently arrested and applied for bail. The District Court perused the material on record and granted bail to Q on the grounds that "Q is cooperating in the investigation and the alleged stridhan articles i.e. car and jewellery, have been returned to P's family". Is the bail order good in law?
- (a) Yes, because the Court obviated its duty to apply a judicial mind and to record reasons for the purpose of deciding whether or not to grant bail
 - (b) Yes, because the statement that "Q is cooperating in the investigation and the alleged stridhan articles i.e. car and jewellery, have been returned to P's family" means that reasons were recorded in the bail order
 - (c) No, because the Court did not obviate its duty to apply a judicial mind and to record reasons for the purpose of deciding whether or not to grant bail
 - (d) No, because the statement that "Q is cooperating in the investigation and the alleged stridhan articles i.e. car and jewellery, have been returned to P's family" means that reasons were not recorded in the bail order
73. M was arrested for outraging the modesty of a woman. He subsequently applied for bail and the same was granted by the court for the reason that the Investigating Officer stated on record that there is no custodial interrogation required for M. As a result, he was not required to be in custody for the remainder of the trial. If the said reasons are disclosed in the bail order, will it be valid under the principles outlined in the passage?
- (a) No, because the Investigating Officer stated on record that there is no further requirement of M to be in custody and the same was not disclosed in the bail order
 - (b) No, because the Court disclosed a very brief reason pertaining to the necessity of custodial interrogation and the same is insufficient for granting bail
 - (c) Yes, because the Court disclosed a very brief reason pertaining to the necessity of custodial interrogation and the same is insufficient for granting bail
 - (d) Yes, because the Investigating Officer stated on record that there is no further requirement of M to be in custody and the same was disclosed in the bail order



74. Badmash was taken into police custody for his alleged involvement in cheating elderly people through cyber scams. Badmash was refused bail by the Court but the court gave only a one-line reason for rejecting his bail application. Can Badmash use this as a ground to challenge the rejection of his bail?
- (a) Yes, because the Court gave only a one-line reason for rejecting the bail application which is insufficient in light of the personal liberty ramifications for Badmash
 - (b) No, because the Court has disclosed reasons in rejecting the bail order which shows application of judicial mind
 - (c) No, because the Court gave only a one-line reason for rejecting the bail application which is insufficient in light of the personal liberty ramifications for Badmash
 - (d) Yes, because the Court has not disclosed reasons in rejecting the bail order which shows failure to apply judicial mind

Passage (Q.75-Q.79): In *Govind v. State of Madhya Pradesh*, the constitutionality of the Madhya Pradesh Police Regulations was challenged on the grounds that police visits to a suspect's home (domiciliary visits), monitoring of a suspect's movements, and home picketing were a violation of the fundamental right to free movement under Article 19(1)(d) of the Constitution, and the right to life and personal liberty under Article 21. Govind was a convicted criminal who had been marked for surveillance simply because of his criminal record.

The Supreme Court ruled in that case that mere conviction in a criminal case does not warrant any form of surveillance where there is nothing else that gravely imperils public safety. Domiciliary visits and picketing by the police can only take place where there is a clear case of danger to security. These should not be conducted in cases of routine follow-up after conviction or at the whim of a police officer.

Regulation 856 of the Police Regulations provides that surveillance may include the following measures:

- Periodic enquiries regarding the person's habit, conduct, expenses, income and occupation by the station house officer from the people around the suspect.
- Domiciliary visits at irregular intervals.
- Secret picketing of the house at an occasion when the person is not at home.
- Tracking movement of the person and reporting absences from home.
- Verification of such movements by bad character rolls.
- Collection of all the gathered information in the history sheet.

Section 46(2)(c) of the Police Act, 1888 states that the state government can make rules which are consistent with the act for the purpose of giving effect to the provisions of the act by notifying it to the official Gazette.

75. Ravi who is a resident of Bangalore is a software engineer by profession. He has been several times arrested for petty cyber crimes. In fact an article was also published in a national newspaper both in its online as well offline publication, cautioning to be aware of such cyber frauds. He once was going to visit Mumbai to his aunt for a wedding and therefore the Bangalore police informed the Mumbai police to keep a close look on Ravi as he is capable of being found by other fraud minds here and can get engaged himself in a petty theft. The Mumbai police followed him everywhere and even intercepted his calls and private chats. Would Ravi succeed if he filed a case claiming the Mumbai police violated his fundamental rights?
- (a) Yes, since his actions did not pose a threat to public safety.
 - (b) Yes, since the police are being biased against him and unnecessarily requested Mumbai police to look after Ravi's activity.
 - (c) No, since he had a history of committing criminal offences and he might be engaged in an act that could affect public safety.
 - (d) No, since the police did not visit his home, but only followed him around in public places.



76. Mihir is a member of religion X. He has a large number of followers that believe everything he says. The Supreme Court is going to pronounce a decision that will determine who owns the disputed land, i.e., community X or Y. Just a few days before, Mihir Openly announced that the court would undoubtedly rule in their favour because it is obvious that the majority of the population adheres to religion X, and if the opposite occurred, who knows what dangerous consequences it would bring with it as it would undoubtedly upset the religious sentiments of the community X. The police station deploys two constables outside Mihir's home the night before the Supreme Court judgement; these constables are replaced in shifts, and the police remain outside her home for the whole day of the Supreme Court ruling. Mihir believes that the police have violated his fundamental rights. Will he succeed?
- (a) No, since the day of the Supreme Court judgment was fraught with communal tension.
 - (b) Yes, because he had never previously been convicted of inciting communal rioting.
 - (c) No, because his words indicated the likelihood of a harm to public safety and security.
 - (d) Yes, because neither his organisation, nor Mihir herself, was implicated in an illegal rioting.
77. Which of the following, if true, would be a strong argument opposing the decision in the Govind case?
- (a) The right to privacy is not explicitly provided under the Constitution of India and therefore is not absolute in its entirety.
 - (b) Only the persons with clearest cases of criminal activities should be subjected to the surveillance so as to ensure that the significance of the regulations is maintained.
 - (c) Only after the compelling state interest test is satisfied right to privacy of an individual can be restricted.
 - (d) Surveillance of a person guarantees that they will not conduct an offence against public safety.
78. Dev was a well-known criminal, yet he was never convicted of any crime. Everyone knows that he never commits a crime and instead pays individuals to commit sins for him. The cops were tapping his phone for this reason. Dev challenges the police action on the basis of the Supreme Court judgement in Govind's case. The police maintain that Dev is a known criminal and that the Govind case only covered picketing and domiciliary visits, not phone tapping. Will the cops be successful?
- (a) No, the cops weren't going to visit anybody at home.
 - (b) No, as tapping phones would be considered surveillance.
 - (c) Since Dev is a known felon and the Govind case does not directly address phone tapping, the answer is yes.
 - (d) Considering that their activities are meant to stop a threat to public safety, yes.
79. Pallavi is detained on the grounds that she might have assaulted her spouse severely. Pallavi alleges that because her spouse was violent, she had to strike him in self-defense. In response to a request by her attorneys for her to be freed on bond while awaiting trial, the court allows it with the stipulation that Pallavi must report to the police station closest to her home once a week. Pallavi contends that this circumstance would amount to police monitoring and would violate her fundamental rights. Will she succeed?
- (a) No, since the condition is imposed by the judge, and not the police.
 - (b) No, since requiring her to report to the police station once a week does not constitute surveillance.
 - (c) Yes, since this would effectively amount to surveillance as the police would know her whereabouts.
 - (d) Yes, since she has not even been convicted of the offence she was charged with.

Passage (Q.80-Q.84): Judicial custody means the accused is in custody under the supervision of the Judicial Magistrate. Police custody means that an accused is either locked in the lock-up of the concerned police station or at least in the physical custody of the investigating agency probing the matter. The term 'judicial custody' can be defined as follows: The accused is in the custody and under the purview of a Judicial Magistrate. The accused is lodged in either any of the Central or State prisons as directed by the Judicial Magistrate. The concerned Judicial Magistrate may, if required, detain the accused. During the period of judicial custody, the police may interrogate the accused but only after obtaining due permission from the Court.



Whenever a person is arrested by police or any other investigating agency and if the investigation cannot be completed within 24 hours, the person is required to be produced before the nearest Magistrate. The maximum duration of judicial custody is 90 days. If the charge sheet is not filed within that period, the court normally grants bail to the accused. The rights of the accused should be ensured since the time of the arrest. Article 21 of the Constitution of India guarantees the fundamental right of protection of life and personal liberty. Article 22 of the Constitution of India safeguards an individual against arbitrary arrest and detention. A person should be informed of the reason for his arrest.

Sources: Blog ipleaders <https://blog.ipleaders.in/custody/>

80. Several FIRs were filed against the company Ryzen Stock Broking Ltd by the Directorate of Enforcement for the offence of money laundering. The Managing Director of the company was produced before the Metropolitan Sessions Judge–cum–Special Court and was remanded to judicial custody while the senior police officer interrogated the accused after obtaining due permission from the Commissioner. In the given situation, which of the following statements is correct regarding the act of Interrogation by Police Authorities?
- (a) The act of Police Authorities is invalid because the accused is in custody under the supervision of the Judicial Magistrate the police cannot interrogate the accused.
 - (b) The act of Police Authorities is valid because the police officer interrogated the accused after obtaining due permission.
 - (c) The act of Police Authorities is invalid because the police officer interrogated the accused without obtaining due permission from the court.
 - (d) The act of Police Authorities is valid as the accused is in physical custody of the investigating agency probing the matter.
81. The CBI lodged a first information report against Raghav on a complaint made by SEBI. CBI contended that the appellant entered into India illegally as no endorsement had been made in his passport. After completion of investigation, he was produced before the nearest Magistrate and on 1st April 2022 he was remanded to Judicial custody. A charge sheet was not submitted before the Magistrate. The wife of Accused filed the petition on 1st June 2022 for grant of bail. In a given situation, which of the following statements is correct?
- (a) The accused should be granted bail as if the charge sheet is not filed within 90 days, the court normally grants bail to the accused.
 - (b) The accused should be granted bail as the charge sheet is not filed within the stipulated time period therefore it is a violation of the fundamental right of protection of life and personal liberty.
 - (c) The accused should not grant a bail because the investigation is not completed and the concerned Judicial Magistrate may, if required, detain the accused.
 - (d) The accused should not grant a bail because the investigation agency can still file a chargesheet.
82. On 1st July 2022 an individual K was informed that he was arrested for the abduction of four diamond merchants. He pretended to be sick and was admitted to Hospital for treatment of his illness for 2 hours and then K was again remanded to Police custody. On 4th July 2022 Mr. X challenged the arrest of K and filed allegation on police officials for arbitrary arrest, in given situation, which of the following statements is true?
- (a) An individual arrested and detained in custody should be produced before the nearest magistrate within a period of twenty-four hours of such arrest.
 - (b) The accused arrest was arbitrary as he was not informed with the reason for his arrest and was in custody for more than twenty-four hours of his arrest.
 - (c) The accused's arrest was not arbitrary because he was sick and was admitted to Hospital for treatment of his illness therefore it was not possible to produce him before the nearest magistrate.
 - (d) An individual arrested and detained in custody should be produced before the nearest magistrate within a period of twenty-four hours of such arrest and travel time is included within a period of twenty-four hours.



83. Mr Gherawat was arrested by the Delhi Police and was sent to judicial custody in Tihar Jail. He remained in custody for 4 months without any charge sheet being filed. He died while being in judicial custody in Tihar Jail. Several injury marks were found on his body and he was also found to be alcoholic. The wife of late Mr Gherawat filed the petition before the Court seeking compensation for his death from both the Delhi Police as well as the Tihar Jail authorities. In a given situation, which of the following statements is true?
- (a) There was no violation of the rights of the accused as he was in Judicial custody without any arbitrary detention and was alcoholic.
 - (b) The demand of compensation by the family was totally justified and the Police was violative of Article 21 of the Constitution of India.
 - (c) The demand of compensation by the family was not justified because the person was in Judicial custody without any arbitrary detention.
 - (d) There was violation of the rights of the accused as he was in Police custody and was tortured by the police authorities without chargesheet being filed.
84. Which of the following statements can be inferred from the passage?
- (a) In case if investigation is not completed within the period of ninety days or sixty days, the accused has to be released on bail.
 - (b) It is a travesty of justice to detain without proper police reports.
 - (c) If any individual is in a position so that he/she cannot be produced before the Magistrate without personal suffering and risk to health, they should be given time until they are fit enough to travel.
 - (d) In Police custody the accused is lodged in either of the Central or State prisons.

SECTION D: LOGICAL REASONING

Directions (Q.85-Q.108): Read the passage carefully and answer the questions.

Passage (Q.85-Q.90): The last meeting between External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi, on the sidelines of the G20 Foreign Ministers' meet in Bali, served as a reminder of the curious state of affairs in India's relations with China. That the two Ministers had their second meeting in four months indicates that both sides see value in continued engagement and remain dissatisfied with the current low level of relations. The problem, however, is that the commonalities appear to end there. **Mr. Jaishankar reiterated India's stand, conveyed to China on numerous occasions since the start of the LAC tensions in 2020, that normalcy would not be possible without a resolution of the boundary crisis and full disengagement from all friction areas.** The MEA said the External Affairs Minister called for an early resolution of all outstanding issues, and reiterated the need to sustain the momentum to complete disengagement from all the remaining areas.

It is, however, clear that Beijing does not appear to share that view. On the contrary, recent actions suggest Beijing has no desire to resolve the border row immediately, which India reasonably believes will restore normalcy in relations. Indeed, the official Chinese readout of the Bali talks failed to make a single mention of the LAC crisis, suggesting it is not a priority for Beijing. Instead, it emphasised Beijing's current interest in engaging with India on multilateral groupings such as BRICS and the SCO, which China and Russia see as valuable platforms to counter the West, and to promote, as Mr. Wang put it, "a fairer international order". The Chinese military, meanwhile, has dragged its feet in responding with dates for the 16th round of military talks, marking the longest pause since the talks began. At the last round, that was held as long as four months ago in November last year, both sides failed to achieve a breakthrough to disengage at Patrolling Point 15 in Hot Springs. Depsang and Demchok also remain unresolved. There is little expectation in New Delhi for an imminent breakthrough, particularly with domestic politics in China on edge before the Party Congress this fall when Xi Jinping will begin a third term and the military leadership will also see sweeping changes. The Chinese Foreign Minister, in Bali, said both countries "should push for the early return of bilateral relations to the right track". That aspiration, however, contrasts sharply with Beijing's continued unwillingness to restore the status quo of April 2020. The apparent goal appears to be aimed at testing India's resolve to sustain its forward deployments and to force New Delhi to accept a new normal at the LAC. _____.

85. The author will agree with each of the following except that
- (a) China's attempts to engage with India on BRICS and SCO is its strategy to avoid resolving border issue.
 - (b) Engagement with India on BRICS and SCO will improve the efficacy of these multilateral groupings against the west.
 - (c) The border dispute between China and India is not expected to resolve before the Xi Jinping begins his third term.
 - (d) China's actions on resolution of border dispute with India shows its unwillingness to solve the dispute immediately.
86. Which of the following effectively completes the argument?
- (a) Until then, India should close its diplomatic channels for Chinese officials in a tit for tat move.
 - (b) India cannot indefinitely wait for China to show its willingness to resolve the border dispute amicably.
 - (c) Until those changes, India should engage with China on BRICS and SCO, making its importance felt in South Asia.
 - (d) Until those changes, the stalemate along the borders, and in the relationship, is likely to endure



87. The author is likely to agree with which of the following?
- (a) China wants to keep India off the hook and it was never willing to resolve the border dispute with India.
 - (b) Meeting of S. Jaishankar and Wang Yi on the sidelines of the G20 Foreign Ministers' meet doesn't show China's intention to improve bilateral relations.
 - (c) Chinese engagement with India on SCO and BRICS without resolving border dispute will not make the relations between the two countries normal.
 - (d) Both a) and c)
88. The argument that Beijing's failure to include LAC crisis in its readout of Bali talks shows that border dispute is not a priority for China, depends on which assumption?
- (a) Not so important items are mentioned in Chinese readouts of important talks.
 - (b) Items not mentioned on the Chinese readouts of important talks also represent China's priority.
 - (c) Items that are on China's priority are not missed from Chinese readouts of important talks.
 - (d) China releases readouts of all the bilateral talks it holds with its allies and neighbours.
89. Which of the following is the primary argument of the author?
- (a) India's message to China is loud and clear that without a resolution of the boundary crisis, normalcy in relations would not return.
 - (b) Beijing doesn't seem interested in resolving the border dispute with India to bring the relations between the two back to normal.
 - (c) China will not resolve border dispute with India till its political and military leadership changes are done
 - (d) By protracting the border issue with India, China seems to test India's resolve to sustain its forward deployments.
90. Which of the following highlights logical fallacy in the statement "Mr. Jaishankar reiterated India's stand, conveyed to China on numerous occasions since the start of the LAC tensions in 2020, that normalcy would not be possible without a resolution of the boundary crisis and full disengagement from all friction areas"?
- (a) The assumption the border issue is the whole of India-China relations.
 - (b) The idea that the relations between two countries can improve with border dispute resolution.
 - (c) The assertion that only the actions by China can resolve the border dispute.
 - (d) The evidence that China's attempts to engage with India on BRICS and SCO will not restore normalcy in relationship.

Passage (Q.91-Q.96): Property is probably the biggest business in the world. By one estimate, construction, buying, selling and renting of properties and the imputed benefits to owner-occupier's account for around 15% of rich countries' GDP. The property also makes up around two-thirds of the tangible capital stock in most economies. Most important of all, the property is by far the world's biggest single asset class. Investors have much more money tied up in property than in shares or bonds.

Yet, curiously, there has been much less economic research into the property market than into the stock market, the bond market or the foreign-exchange market. One reason is that until recently much of this property investment was held fairly passively. For most people a home was simply a place to live. For most firms offices were a necessary but relatively unimportant part of their infrastructure. Commercial property made up less than 5% of most institutional investors' portfolios. But now many people, having lost faith in shares, see their home as an investment that will appreciate rapidly in value. Financial institutions are also pushing up the share of commercial property in their portfolios. To both sorts of investor, property seems to offer attractively high returns as well as a safe haven in an increasingly risky world.

Over the past few years, house prices have been booming almost everywhere except Germany and Japan. Since the mid-1990s, house prices in Australia, Britain, Ireland, the Netherlands, Spain and Sweden have all risen by more than 50% in real terms. American house prices are up a more modest 30%, but that is still the biggest real gain over any such period in recorded history. Commercial-property prices in some big cities have also been



looking rather frothy. These property booms have been partly driven by economic fundamentals, but bubble-like symptoms abound. How long can the party last? Estate agents, builders, and many economists and even Jerome Powell, the chairman of America's Federal Reserve, have all insisted that there is no house-price bubble. Rising house prices, the argument goes, are fully justified by low interest rates, rising real incomes, growing populations and a fixed supply of land. But this sounds a little like the "wall of money" argument used to defend inflated share prices in the late 1990s. Prices had to rise, it was said, because the number of shares in which pension funds could invest their billions was limited. Investors mistakenly came to believe that the traditional link between share prices and profits no longer mattered. Home-owners may be making a similar mistake today. It is often argued that property is a much safer investment than shares because a share is just a (possibly worthless) piece of paper, whereas bricks and mortar are something tangible. Yet that tells us nothing about their relative value. Bubbles form when the price of any asset gets out of line with its underlying value. _____.

91. Which of the following is responsible for the way people started thinking about property?
- Housing prices across the globe were rising encouraging them as well to invest in property.
 - People had few investments in property, leading them to buy more of it.
 - It was the biggest single asset class generating massive profits for investors.
 - Change in their opinion about conventional investments avenues, leading them to other avenues.
92. Which of the following logically continues the passage?
- The same price bubbles were also observed in several countries around crude and agri-commodities
 - The fact that in many countries the prices of homes and commercial buildings have rising much faster than rents should be ringing alarm bells.
 - However, despite everything, one should confidently go ahead and continue his/her investments in property.
 - The general rule of thumb is more the prices rise, the more the concern because the investors will always be worried about their investment and money.
93. The author argues that
- Investment in property now is not as attractive as it seemed in the past.
 - Investment in shares is safer than that in property.
 - With 30% rise, housing prices in America are at all-time high.
 - Global rise in the property prices are not completely unjustified.
- Only I and IV
 - Only I, II, and III
 - Only II and III
 - Only II, III, and IV
94. Which of the following effectively strengthens the argument that there is no house-price bubble?
- Record of big investment houses show that they have increased their investments in real estate sector.
 - National migration records of various countries show increasing number of people moving to urban areas.
 - Few people have real demand for residential and commercial property and prefer investments in real estate.
 - The decision to invest in real estate or stocks is a personal choice that depends on your financial situation and risk tolerance.
95. Which of the following is true on the basis of information in the passage?
- Investment in property market is much safer than that in shares because brick and mortar are tangible.
 - Under valuations in share prices forced people to invest in alternative investment avenues.
 - Property prices across the various countries in the world are suitable to invest into the property market.
 - Share prices of companies are not independent of the performance of the companies.
96. Which of the following is the primary argument of the author?
- Loss of faith in shares and other securities have contributed to rise in the prices of real estate.
 - Despite the fact that the property is the world's biggest single asset class, there is little economic research into the property market.
 - Although with changing opinion about property people started investing in it, they should be cautious about further investments in property.



- (d) In many countries, people still have room for investment into the property market as prices have not shot up the roof.

Passage (Q.97-Q.102): Zimbabwean Government replaced the Zimbabwe dollar with the American dollar in 2015. The main reason behind this move was the hyperinflation in the economy. For instance, prices of goods were seen to be increasing three times per day. Zimbabwe used to have a one hundred trillion dollar note. The banking sector was in a state of disarray, as very few people were willing to park their cash in banks. This move was aimed to stabilize this situation and for enhancing consumer and business confidence. Finance and Economic Development Minister Patrick Chinamasa indicated the cost of the demonetisation exercise as \$20 million. This move, in turn, failed leading to unintended consequences such as resentment among people, slowdown in economy and loss of export competitiveness. The general public in Zimbabwe seemed to have lost their trust in the banking system.

On 22nd January, 1991, Russian president, Mikhail Gorbachev declared 50-ruble and 100-ruble notes invalid as of midnight that very day. (Rubble). Of the twenty different currency notes in circulation at that time, the two currency denominations accounted for one-third of the money in circulation. A period of only three days was given to citizens to exchange their old notes for new ones. After this period, note holders would have to appear before special commissions in order to get the worthless currency replaced. The objective stated behind this policy was to combat the parallel economy and shore up the currency's value. Extremely restrictive conditions were imposed on the withdrawal of currency, very much, like the ones seen in India during the 2016 demonetization exercise. This reform failed to restrict inflation. Within three months of the move, inflation rose to as high as 300%. However, it had unintended side-effects as, loss of public confidence in the government and a blow to economic activity. The economic collapse, was combined with political infighting. That In August 1991, President Gorbachev faced a coup attempt which destroyed his authority and led to the Soviet break-up the following year. Several Soviet republics such as Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, and Moldova were severely affected by this move which eventually led to dis-integration of Soviet Union.

On 12 January 1946, the Indian government banned Rs 500, Rs 1000 and Rs 10,000 notes. The government came out with 2 ordinances on this day, which was declared a holiday. The purpose of this move was to curb black economy. First ordinance asked banks to furnish info about currency holdings of various denominations (Rs.100, Rs. 500, Rs. 1,000 and Rs.10,000). Second was about informing public that denominations of Rs. 500 and above were demonetized. A similar action was taken in India's colonial master Britain as well as in, France, Belgium, and some other countries. People were given 10 days for exchange (23 January), which was extended to 9 February, wherein the people had to give explanations on why they could not exchange their currency in first ten days. The then RBI Governor, Chintamani Deshmukh, was not happy in going ahead with this move.

97. Mikhail Gorbachev's attempt to combat parallel economy in Russia was based on which of the following assumptions?
- (a) Parallel economies do exist in all the countries around the world and they harm the primary economy.
 - (b) The period of three days given to exchange the old notes for the new ones wasn't sufficient.
 - (c) The parallel economy can be countered when the government bans the notes majorly in circulation.
 - (d) 50-ruble and 100-ruble note holders may not be able to exchange their old notes for new ones in three days.
98. Which of the following is the author most likely to agree with?
- (a) Ban on currency notes is the most effective way to counter the parallel economy in a country.
 - (b) Mikhail Gorbachev's plan to declare currency notes invalid was very effective.
 - (c) Replacement of Zimbabwe dollar with the American dollar caused hyperinflation in the country.
 - (d) Through the demonetisation exercise, Gorbachev wanted to shore up its currency's value.
99. Answer to which of the following is given in the passage?
- (a) What caused the situation of hyperinflation in the economy of Zimbabwe?
 - (b) How many currency notes were there in circulation in India during 1946 demonetisation?
 - (c) What was the impact of demonetisation exercise on Russian economy?
 - (d) Who all were not happy with demonetisation exercise in India in 1946?



100. Which of the following is the reason for the break-up of Soviet Union?
- (a) 300% rise in inflation triggered loss of public confidence in President Gorbachev.
 - (b) Inability of President Gorbachev to manage control over political rivals.
 - (c) Economic activity in Soviet Union collapsed leading to no confidence in President Gorbachev.
 - (d) only three days was given to citizens to exchange their old notes for new ones
101. Which of the following is incorrect as per the passage?
- (a) Loss of public confidence and a blow to economic activity led to the coup attempt of President Gorbachev.
 - (b) Hyperinflation in Zimbabwe was not arrested after its currency was replaced by American dollar.
 - (c) Replacement of local currency in Zimbabwe with American dollar didn't contribute to export competitiveness of Zimbabwe.
 - (d) RBI Governor, Chintamani Deshmukh, was not happy in going ahead with demonetisation exercise.
102. Which of the following can be concluded from the passage?
- (a) Demonetization of currency notes leads to loss of trust in the ruling administration.
 - (b) It is not possible to tackle inflation in the economy by demonetization of currency notes.
 - (c) The USSR was impacted by monetization more than other countries that were hit by monetization.
 - (d) None of the above.

Passage (Q.103-Q.108): Since the early 1990s, India had been steadily moving towards a low tariff structure. The average tariff declined from 125 per cent in 1990-91 to 13 per cent in 2014-15, according to a study. However, since 2014 there have been around 3,200 tariff increases, with the largest increases occurring in 2018, according to a paper by economist Shoumitro Chatterjee and the former chief economic adviser to the government of India, Arvind Subramanian. These large tariff increases, which can be traced to the government's call for atmanirbharta or self-reliance, have meant that the average tariff rate has risen to around 18 per cent, affecting a sizeable segment of the country's trade basket. India's tariffs are amongst the highest in the world.

In fact, they are not only higher than those of China (7.5 per cent), but also countries like Vietnam (9.6 per cent) and Bangladesh (14.1 per cent) — India's competitors in the China plus one strategy. High tariffs place manufacturers at a disadvantage, affect export competitiveness and hurt consumers.

Alongside this growing protectionism, the targeting of Chinese imports post the Galwan clash is also now being seen as impacting domestic output or loss of competitive advantage in sectors such as electronics and pharmaceuticals — China accounts for a sizeable share of India's imports, especially inputs in key sectors and capital goods. According to a report in this paper, sections within the government have begun raising these issues, favouring a more nuanced approach. This should spur conversations in the government on its approach towards promoting manufacturing and facilitating exports.

Reportedly, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology had also earlier this year pressed for reducing duties on parts including circuit boards, chargers and fully assembled phones. Groups representing cell phone manufacturers had said that the country's high tariff structure is a disincentive to de-risking supply chains beyond China. Seeking to be attractive alternatives for mobile manufacturers, countries like Vietnam, Thailand and Mexico are lowering tariffs on phone components. There are some indications of a rethink on the issue — a day before Union Budget 2024-25, the government announced a reduction in the import duty for components used in the manufacturing of mobile phones from 15 per cent to 10 per cent. This is the right approach. Erecting high tariff walls allows inefficient domestic players to survive, and hurts consumers.

Alongside, the government must press ahead with signing trade agreements. After initially showing some hesitation, it has signed a comprehensive economic partnership agreement with the UAE and an economic



cooperation and trade agreement with Australia. It is currently negotiating agreements with other countries such as the UK. It must pursue similar pacts, including with the European Union.

103. Which of the following, if true, would most seriously weaken the argument that India's high tariffs on imports, including electronics and pharmaceuticals, have led to a loss of competitive advantage in these sectors?
- (a) India's exports in electronics and pharmaceuticals have seen a steady increase over the past five years.
 - (b) The cost of production for electronics and pharmaceuticals within India has significantly decreased due to technological advancements.
 - (c) Many countries have imposed similar or higher tariffs on imports from India, leveling the playing field.
 - (d) Indian manufacturers have invested in domestic production capabilities, eliminating reliance on imported components.
104. What is the effect of India's decision to increase tariffs on imports, as discussed in the passage, on its manufacturing and export sectors?
- (a) It has led to a significant increase in the cost of imported raw materials.
 - (b) It has improved the competitiveness of domestic manufacturers in the global market.
 - (c) It has encouraged foreign investors to invest more in India's manufacturing sector.
 - (d) It has made domestic manufacturers less competitive due to higher production costs.
105. Based on the passage, what can be inferred about the government's stance on trade agreements and its impact on India's trade relationships?
- (a) The government views trade agreements as secondary to its policy of self-reliance.
 - (b) The government is hesitant to enter trade agreements due to fear of trade deficits.
 - (c) The government is actively pursuing trade agreements to enhance export competitiveness.
 - (d) The government prioritizes trade agreements with neighboring countries to boost local trade.
106. What information would be most useful in evaluating the claim that reducing import duties on mobile phone components is a step in the right direction for enhancing India's competitiveness in manufacturing?
- (a) The percentage of mobile phone components currently imported from China.
 - (b) The change in the cost of manufacturing mobile phones in India post-duty reduction.
 - (c) The number of new mobile phone manufacturing units set up in India last year.
 - (d) The overall impact of tariff reductions on India's trade balance with other countries.
107. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the argument that targeting Chinese imports post the Galwan clash has negatively impacted domestic output in key sectors?
- (a) Indian manufacturers have increased their reliance on alternative foreign markets for imports.
 - (b) There has been a noticeable decrease in the production output in electronics and pharmaceuticals.
 - (c) The price of domestic goods in the electronics and pharmaceuticals sectors has decreased.
 - (d) Trade agreements with countries other than China have been successfully negotiated since the clash.
108. Despite the implementation of higher tariffs aimed at promoting self-reliance (Atmanirbharta), how does the scenario described in the passage illustrate a paradox in the context of India's trade strategy and its actual outcomes on competitiveness and consumer prices?
- (a) The tariffs have inadvertently increased the cost of living for the average consumer.
 - (b) The tariffs have led to an unexpected increase in trade deficits with neighboring countries.
 - (c) Despite higher tariffs, domestic manufacturers have become more reliant on foreign components.
 - (d) The tariffs have not significantly improved the market share of domestic manufacturers globally.



SECTION - E : QUANTITATIVE TECHNIQUES

Directions (Q.109-Q.114): Refer to the following information and answer the following questions.

In Harmony Music Academy, 4 types of instruments are being taught: Violin, Drums, Saxophone, and Cello. There are 96 Violins in the academy, and the ratio of Acoustic to Electric Violins is 1:3. There are 36 sets of Drums in the academy, with the ratio of Jazz to Rock Drums being 5:4. The number of Saxophones available in the academy is 64, and the ratio of Alto to Tenor Saxophones is 9:7. There are 40 Cellos in the academy, with the ratio of Standard to Electric Cellos being 7:3.

109. What is the sum of the number of Jazz Drums and Electric Violins available in Harmony Music Academy?
(a) 96 (b) 72 (c) 92 (d) 84
110. What percent of the total Violins in Harmony Music Academy are Acoustic Violins?
(a) 40% (b) 50% (c) 30% (d) 25%
111. What is the ratio between the number of Standard Cellos and the number of Tenor Saxophones?
(a) 1 : 2 (b) 1 : 1 (c) 3 : 2 (d) 4 : 5
112. If the fees for Cello classes are Rs. 1500 per month for Standard Cellos and Rs. 1800 per month for Electric Cellos, and it is known that all cellos are engaged, then find the total amount of fees collected by Harmony Music Academy from the students who joined the cello classes.
(a) Rs. 64800 (b) Rs. 63600 (c) Rs. 68200 (d) Rs. 65400
113. The number of violins in Harmony Music Academy is how much percent more than the number of saxophones in Harmony Music Academy?
(a) 50% (b) 40% (c) 48% (d) 60%
114. If in the next session, Harmony Music Academy buys 16 more Saxophones, but the ratio of Alto to Tenor Saxophones remains the same, then find the difference between the two types of saxophones in the next session.
(a) 40 (b) 10 (c) 20 (d) 30

Direction (Q.115-Q.120): Refer to the following information for the following questions.

A total of 560 participants have participated in one or more of the three events P, Q and R. The number of participants who have participated in all the three events is 50% more than that of the number of participants who have participated in exactly two of the three events. The number of participants who have participated in more than one event is $\frac{5}{9}$ th of the number of participants who have participated in exactly one of the three events. A total of 280, 280 and 320 participants have participated in the events P, Q and R respectively. A total of 144 participants have participated in both the events P and R. The number of participants who have participated in P and Q is 24 more than the number of participants who have participated in Q and R.

115. How many participants have participated in more than one event?
(a) 120 (b) 160 (c) 180 (d) 200
116. How many participants have participated in event R only?
(a) 160 (b) 180 (c) 200 (d) 240
117. If 45% of the participants who have participated in all the three events are women, then find the number of male participants who have participated in all the three events?
(a) 60 (b) 54 (c) 66 (d) 72

118. Approximately what percent of participants have participated only in event Q?
(a) 12% (b) 15% (c) 16.5% (d) 18.5%
119. What is the ratio of the number of participants who have participated in event P but not Q and the number of participants who have participated in event Q but not in R?
(a) 4 : 3 (b) 5 : 6 (c) 8 : 9 (d) 7 : 9
120. What is the average number of participants who participated in exactly one of the events?
(a) 120 (b) 150 (c) 200 (d) 160

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6



Divas
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AIR
9



Nitya
Singhania



Preeyal Sehgal
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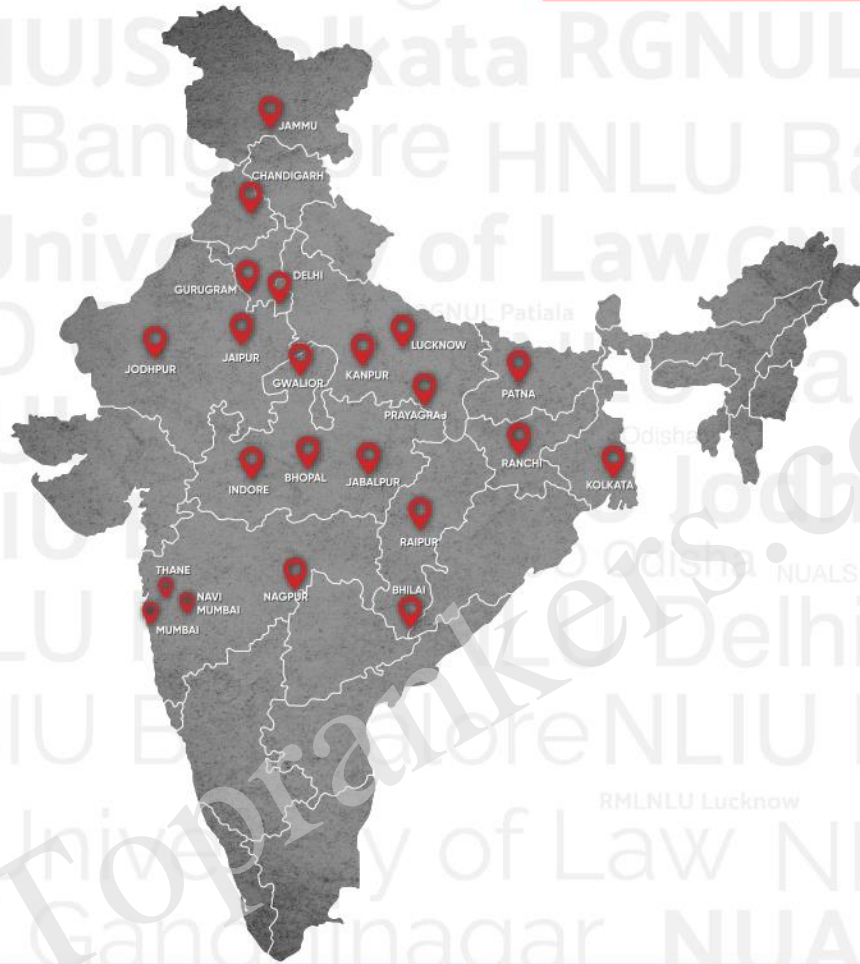


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