

LEGALEDGE TEST SERIES
MOCK COMMON LAW ADMISSION TEST 2024-25
MOCK CLAT 15

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(In Figures)



INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

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.
11. Use **BLACK/BLUE BALL POINT PEN** for shading the circles. Indicate only the most appropriate answer by shading from the options provided. The answer circle should be shaded completely without leaving any space.
12. As the responses cannot be modified/corrected on the OMR Response Sheet, candidates have to take necessary precautions before marking the appropriate circle.
13. The candidate should retain the Admit Card duly Signed by the invigilator, as the same has to be produced at the time of Admission.
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.

CONTENT OF QUESTION PAPER

Subject	Q. No.	Page No.
English Language	01-23	3
Current Affairs and General Knowledge	24-51	9
Legal Reasoning	52-83	13
Logical Reasoning	84-108	23
Quantitative Techniques	109-120	31

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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): Melville's "Bartleby the Scrivener" is among his best-known tales. It's also among the hardest to understand. Critics have debated various versions of the story for decades. **The plot is deceptively simple.** The sixty-year-old Wall Street professional, The Lawyer, employs a copyist who appears to be just like any other, even though The Lawyer is used to oddball copyists. But that's not Bartleby. At first glance, Bartleby's response, "I would prefer not to," seems innocent, but it quickly turns into a catchphrase that is fundamental to the character. As the Attorney notes, it's a type of "passive resistance."

The main source of puzzlement has always been Bartleby's quiet, courteous, but firm refusal to perform even the most routine tasks asked of him. His denial of the Lawyer's requests has been interpreted as a criticism of the American culture at this time, which is becoming more and more materialistic. The location of the lawyer's office on Wall Street is noteworthy; in fact, "Bartleby" is subtitled "A Story of Wall Street." Melville, along with other writers like Edgar Allan Poe, recognized the growing significance of money and its handling in American society at a time when Wall Street was developing into the country's financial center. According to this interpretation, Bartleby's unwavering resistance to complying with requests amounts to a brave stand against economic dominance.

Turkey, Nippers, and Ginger Nut are the only other characters in the tale besides Bartleby and the Lawyer. The two most significant are Turkey and Nippers. It doesn't seem like either of their nicknames truly describes who they are. Turkey doesn't appear to look at all like a turkey, unless his neck is made to resemble a turkey's due to his wrinkled skin, which may turn red during one of his frequent fits. It is possible that Nippers got his nickname because he gets irritable and "nippy" in the morning, but this explanation also seems a bit glib. Melville emphasizes that each character can be easily identified by their function, behavior, or appearance—everyone is just another nameless worker—by refusing to give them real names. This seems to make the characters memorable, but it also makes them feel a little alienated.

Not only do Turkey and Nippers have odd names, but their complementary behaviors also make them resemble characters from fairy tales or nursery rhymes. Turkey works hard in the morning, but Nippers fiddles with his desk and complains about a sick stomach. In the afternoon, Nippers works silently and conscientiously while Turkey, flushed and furious, scribbles on his copies. They relieve each other like guards, as the lawyer notes. They are Wall Street's equivalent of Tweedledee and Tweedledum.

SOURCE: Extracted, edited from <https://journals.openedition.org/jsse/584>

1. Among Melville's most well-known stories, "Bartleby the Scrivener" is also one of the most difficult to understand. Why might this be the case, in your opinion?
 - (a) Bartleby the Scrivener claims that there are many different ways to interpret the tale.
 - (b) The tale of Bartleby the Scrivener is convoluted.
 - (c) The plot of Bartleby the Scrivener ends in suspense.
 - (d) Due to its widespread appeal, Bartleby the Scrivener has inspired many interpreters
2. The passage can be understood as
 - (a) a summary
 - (b) a narrative
 - (c) a reporting
 - (d) an analysis.
3. 'The plot is deceptively simple.' Which of the following literary devices does the author use in the given sentence?
 - (a) Oxymoron
 - (b) Paradox
 - (c) Antithesis
 - (d) Epigram

4. What does the author mean when she says that Bartleby's obstinate refusal to comply with orders amounts to a brave resistance to economic dominance, under this interpretation?
 - (a) Given that Wall Street, which also housed the lawyer's office, represented the growing significance of money and its management in American life, Bartleby is an ally of the country's growing materialism.
 - (b) Given that Wall Street, which also housed the lawyer's office, represented the deescalating significance of money and its management in American life, Bartleby is a critique of the expanding ideologies of American culture.
 - (c) Since Wall Street, which also housed the lawyer's office, represented the growing significance of money and its management in American life, Bartleby serves as an assessor of the growing materialism of American culture.
 - (d) Given that Wall Street, which also housed the lawyer's office, represented the growing significance of money and its management in American life, Bartleby is a critique of the growing materialism of American culture.

5. The following can be deduced about Turkey and Nippers, with the exception of
 - (a) Turkey only resembles a turkey when he gets angry because of his neck.
 - (b) Nippers deserve the moniker "nippy" in the morning.
 - (c) Certain fairy tale characters are evoked by the names Turkey and nippers.
 - (d) Nippers and Turkey are a pair.

6. Which of the following is the central idea of the passage?
 - (a) An account of "Bartleby the Scrivener"
 - (b) The role of different characters in the novel
 - (c) The Bartleby and his plot
 - (d) None of the Above

Passage (Q.7-Q.12): Three countries southwest of Beijing, noted for their rows of orchards and lotus flowers, are slated to undergo an advanced industrial transformation. The administrative districts of Rongcheng, Xionxian, and Anxin will combine to form the Xiongan New Area (XNA), according to a statement made by Chinese President Xi Jinping on April 1. The XNA will be the most recent iteration of China's well-known New Areas, which have played a pivotal role in the nation's quick ascent to prominence and evolution into a modern economy. With his XNA, President Xi is merely tracing the path set by Mao Zedong's successor, Deng Xiaoping. Deng was the one who created the Shenzhen economic zone initially. The Shenzhen experiment, **a stone's throw** to Hong Kong, which created a conduit for international finance, gave rise to genuine optimism about China's capacity to quickly adopt the modern industrial era.

Jiang Zemin, Deng's successor, established the Pudong New Area (PNA), Shanghai's pride, in Deng's footsteps. The PNA, which stretches all the way to the East China Sea, is divided from historic Shanghai by the Huangpu River. Magnificent skyscrapers like the Shanghai World Financial Center in the PNA, the Jin Mao Tower, and the Oriental Pearl Tower give Shanghai a distinct air of strength and prosperity. With the XNA, President Xi has ambitious plans as well. While few specifics are known at this time, Morgan Stanley estimates that this megacity, located 160 kilometers from Beijing, would require investments totaling 2.4 trillion Yuan, or \$290 billion. The project is anticipated to contribute up to 0.4 percentage points to China's yearly economic growth. It would comprise brand-new universities, housing developments, schools, and hospitals in addition to new clusters of high-tech industry. With a projected population of 2.5 million, the XNA is predicted to become the biggest infrastructure project in Chinese history. Following President Xi's announcement, a series of events have occurred akin to a **boomtown reaching stratospheric** proportions. Early-bird small businessmen and speculators are flocking to the emerging city from remote regions of China, lured by the promise of enormous profits. Already, rentals are skyrocketing. Environmental organizations are raising concerns about the massive plan, though.

The XNA will rise around the Baiyang Lake, which is already in a deep state of decay. As the largest wetland in north China, the lake and the surrounding water bodies encompass an area of 366 square kilometers. However, underground pipelines carry hazardous waste from neighboring factories to the lake's bottom. Large volumes of extra waste will end up in the lake when the area's population increases from the current 2,00,000 to 3,00,000 to 2.5 million or more if immediate corrective action is not taken.

The Chinese Academy of Sciences' deputy director, Han Dongmei, is concerned that as the plan is implemented, the issue will worsen. "It is easy to predict what will happen as more people swamp in," she said. The Baiyang Lake may become a "disaster" for the environment. Many others, though, disagree with her viewpoint. There is still much that can be done to preserve the lake, according to Beijing Normal University's School of Environment Dean Cui Baoshan. He makes the point that all polluting factories could be closed by the government, nearby farms could reduce their use of pesticides, and large-scale water treatment facilities could be built.

SOURCE: Edited, Extracted from

https://english.beijing.gov.cn/travellinginbeijing/citytours/202306/t20230623_3143445.html

7. Choose the option which best describes the meaning of the phrase "**a stone's throw**" as used in the passage.
 - (a) A profitable place
 - (b) A wasteful place
 - (c) A long distance
 - (d) A short distance
8. Of these, what is the environmental groups' main concern regarding the massive plan to establish Xiongan New Area?
 - (a) This massive project will require the cutting down of a large number of trees, which will pose environmental risks.
 - (b) The river has already been deteriorated by toxic pollutants from factories that have already been channeled to Baiyang Lake through covert pipelines; combined with the growth in infrastructure and population, this will be an ecological disaster.
 - (c) The anticipated 2.5 million residents of XNA will result in increased waste and a shortage of drinkable water.
 - (d) Due to this massive project, land values will skyrocket and rentals will soar, creating social divides.
9. Regarding the recent proposal by the Chinese government to establish XNA, which of these claims is untrue?
 - (a) With 2.5 million residents, this project (XNA) is predicted to contribute up to 0.4 percentage points to China's yearly economic growth.
 - (b) The administrative districts of Rongcheng, Xionxian, and Anxin—which are southwest of Beijing and well-known for their lotus blossoms and orchards—would combine to form the XNA.
 - (c) An estimated \$290 billion, or 2.4 trillion Yuan, would need to be invested in the XNA mega city in order for it to succeed as well as or better than the PNA and SEZ that are currently in place.
 - (d) XNA's high-rise economic centers, such as Oriental Pearl Tower, would combine strength and commercial success.
10. Choose from the following that best describes the meaning of the phrase "boomtown going stratospheric", as used in the passage?
 - (a) A community where economic activity is expanding and raising the pollution level.
 - (b) A neighborhood that is on the edge of collapse as a result of the extraordinarily high rate of urbanization
 - (c) A town that suddenly sees its business and population soar from rags to extraordinarily high status
 - (d) A community whose highly sensitive residents allow it to simultaneously exhibit its nation's culture, art, and economy

11. The author claims that Chinese President Xi, by implementing the XNA plan, is following in the footsteps of former President Deng Xiaoping, who was the first to establish the Shenzhen economic zone. Which of the following outcomes could these massive projects lead to?
1. These initiatives assist in leapfrogging the nation into the contemporary industrial age and provide access to international finance and investments.
 2. Small business owners and speculators now have a chance to profit from these projects and eventually expand.
But it also results in high living standards.
- As a result of these projects, the environment will become so contaminated that it will be impossible to restore the green belt, making the entire area an ecological disaster.
- (a) Only 1 and 2 (b) Only 2 and 3 (c) Only 1 and 3 (d) All 1, 2 and 3
12. Which of the following among these lends support to the author's viewpoint?
- (a) The megacity project is harmful as it will cause hindrance to the environmental development of the city as a whole.
 - (b) The financial constraints of the project would eventually break the economic growth of China as a whole.
 - (c) Both a and b both lend support
 - (d) Neither a nor b lend support

Passage (Q.13-Q.18): A specific mental illness can be brought (____) by consuming excessive amounts of one thing. The mind fed too long on monotony succumbs to the sneaky mental illness known in the West as "cabin fever," just as the body fed too long on meat becomes a victim of that horrible disease called scurvy. It is true that it goes by various names depending on the situation and caste. You may be afflicted in a palace and call it **ennui**, and it may drive you to commit **peccadillos** and indiscretions of various sorts. In a middle-class apartment building, you might face attacks that lead you to call it different names and resort to cafe life, alimony, and affinities. You might experience it anyplace you are thrown into a backwater of life and fail to feel like you are being carried by the full force of advancement. Make sure it will turn you into someone who is extremely sensitive to small things, agitated when you used to be friendly, and depressed when you used to laugh about your play and work. It serves as the ultimate barrier against animosity, the character crystallizer, and the acid test of friendship. It will expose to your friends your true nature—either your vileness or your glory—and your tiny, hidden flaws. It will also cut and polish your untapped virtues.

Take a friend into the wilderness and rub elbows with him for five months to test his soul! Three things are certain to occur: After that, you will either leave each other with a contemptuous, enlightened hatred, or you will come out of it with a pitying toleration mixed with contempt, or you will remain close, unwavering friends for the remaining six feet of earth—and beyond. Cabin fever will cause all of these symptoms and more. It has repeatedly killed people. Men have gone insane over it. Its character has become so warped and distorted that it no longer resembles the person it once was. It has killed love and sweetened love. There is a remedy, but I'll let you discover that in this story.

Former cowpuncher Bud Moore, who now owned an auto stage that was not used during the winter, suffered from cabin fever and was unsure of the cause of his illness. His staging area extended from San Jose through Los Gatos, crossed the Santa Cruz Mountains via the Bea Creek Road, and descended to the State Park, known as Big Basin in the community. He charged six dollars for a wonderful scenic drive of about fifty miles, and his big car was usually loaded to the running boards. Bud had a kind pair of eyes, dark blue with a funny little twinkle hidden somewhere in them, and a little smiley quirk at the corners of his mouth. Bud had a kind face with dark blue eyes that had a funny little twinkle somewhere in them, as well as a human little smiley quirk at the corners of his lips. He was also a good driver. Unbeknownst to him, these items contributed to the gas in his car.

SOURCE: Excerpts from Cabin Fever by B. M. Bower

13. "It will expose to your friends your true nature—either your vileness or your glory—and your tiny, hidden flaws. It will also cut and polish your untapped virtues". The author aims to:
- (a) Highlight the term in the text. (b) Outline the contradiction.
(c) Take precautions to avoid getting sick. (d) Make doomsday prophecies.
14. "After that, you will either leave each other with a contemptuous, enlightened hatred, or you will come out of it with a pitying toleration mixed with contempt, or you will remain close, unwavering friends for the remaining six feet of earth—and beyond".
What does the author infer from this statement.
- (a) It is possible to be close enough friends to move into underground housing together.
(b) The friendship that is thus forged between friends will endure to the end of time and into the afterlife.
(c) A person can only be sufficiently close friends after they pass away.
(d) The friendship that is thus forged between friends will endure until death and carry over into the next life.
15. Choose the closest word to "ennui" as used in the passage?
- (a) boredom (b) bravery (c) satisfaction (d) joyous
16. Observe the following sentences and identify the idiom that is synonymous with touch.
- (a) depressing where you used to go whistling about your play and your work.
(b) Love has been killed and sweetened by it.
(c) It is true that, depending on the situation and caste, it goes by several names.
(d) Take a friend into the wilderness and rub elbows with him for five months to test his soul.
17. Which of the following words can be used in the place of the word 'peccadillo' without changing the context of the passage?
- (a) Trifling offense; (b) disoriented; (c) intrusion; (d) Ingratiate
18. "A specific mental illness can be brought () by consuming excessive amounts of one thing". Which of the following prepositions/adverbs will convey the correct meaning of the statement?
- (a) at (b) in (c) on (d) Conjunction about

Passage (Q.19-Q.24): Vladimir Putin, the president of Russia, achieved the confrontation he had been seeking with the West. What happens next? Defensive diplomacy seems to have failed in trying to diffuse the situation. Putin has intensified his protracted proxy war in two eastern provinces over the past month, and he has also accelerated the massive Russian troop build-up that now encircles Ukraine on three sides. In retaliation, the US has placed thousands of troops on high alert, and the president of the US is considering a number of additional actions, including the imposition of harsh economic sanctions and the deployment of troops. Putin, a mysterious leader with a strong dislike for the West and a desire for power, is at the center of it all. We asked the most astute observers of Russia and Putin we knew what might happen next and what the United States should do, as the entire world **braced for** potential conflict. We asked these observers to do it even though they are the first to tell you that it is impossible to predict Putin. While some stated they thought Putin would invade, others thought he would probably give diplomacy more time. Some drew attention to significant incidents in Putin's past that might have an effect on how the crisis develops. And when asked how Biden (American President) should respond, our experts offered a wide spectrum of options, from sending more troops into the region to taking Russia's concerns more seriously to toning down the rhetoric from Washington.

Shevtsova claims that President Putin has evolved into a "Master of Suspense." While war has the potential to bring the West together, suspense breeds confusion there. Putin's current task is to keep the tension from giving way to bluster. He ultimately faces a decision between comedy and war, which means humiliation, and he is not prepared for that. Menon, on the other hand, feels that the failed Geneva talks opened up several diplomatic channels, improving prospects for diplomacy, despite the general pessimism. Therefore, Menon anticipates that Putin will hold off on invading Ukraine, wait, evaluate the outcome, and keep his powder dry.

However, Pifer believes that the Biden administration has set the right framework: Try to extend the diplomatic path while making clear the costs of a Russian military assault — more punitive sanctions, more Western military assistance to Kyiv, and a bolstering of NATO presence on its eastern flank. It's good to see the administration increasing military assistance to Ukraine. The Americans appear to be preparing for an order to move some troops to Europe. McKew says that Putin will continue blackmailing and an attack is inevitable, there is a new security reality in the region; we are debating things that were not debatable before the escalation.

SOURCE: Extracted, Edited from <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-56720589>

19. In the last month, Russia intensified its long-running proxy war in two eastern provinces and accelerated the massive Russian force build-up that now encircles Ukraine on three sides. How did America respond?
- The US withdrew its troops from that region, and the president took into consideration a number of other measures, such as refraining from meddling in another nation's internal affairs.
 - Fearing that this could set off a chain reaction that could lead to a third world war, the United States asked Putin to gently back off.
 - The US placed thousands of soldiers on alert, and the president is thinking of taking a number of other actions, such as imposing severe economic penalties in exchange for the troop deployment there.
 - The US has put tens of thousands of soldiers on high alert, and the president is considering a variety of additional steps, but he is not supporting the idea of investing a huge chunk of money for the brawl with the Russians.
20. What stands out as the primary distinction between Putin and Biden, based on the passage?
- Putin's approach is unpredictable, whereas Biden's can be described in words.
 - Biden is a pacifist, and Putin is a despot who craves conflict.
 - Biden is a stick in the mud, whereas Putin is a master strategist.
 - While Biden is content with the current state of affairs, Putin is concerned about the global power balance.
21. What are Putin's two options in this situation, and why is keeping the West in suspense such a key component of his strategy?
- Conflict will destabilize the west, but Putin's suspense could bring the West together because he ultimately must choose between war and absurdity.
 - The West will be confused by Putin's uncertainty over the plan, but a war would only serve to bring the West together, so Putin's options are to go to war or suffer humiliation.
 - If Putin doesn't say anything, the West will get confused, but the war could bring the East together, so his only option is war.
 - The confrontation between Putin and Biden will throw the West into disarray, but the tension could bring it together, and Putin's only option is to say nothing.
22. Which one of the following expert's opinions hints towards the least aggressive attitude of either Putin or Biden in power?
- (a) Shevtsova. (b) Menon. (c) McKew. (d) Pifer.
23. Which of the following best reflects the meaning of the expression, 'braced for' in the context of the passage?
- (a) To furnish or fasten with a brace. (b) To secure against pressure or impact.
(c) To act as a stimulant to. (d) To assume a relaxed position.
24. Which of the following can be the apt title to the passage?
- The war between Russia & Ukraine.
 - The interest of the West & spill over of the war between Russia & Ukraine.
 - The reaction of USA to the war between the two factions.
 - The Indian strategy and response to the war between Russia & Ukraine.

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): Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2023

“A web of outdated rules and regulations causes trust deficit. It has been the endeavor of the government to achieve the principle of ‘Minimum Government, Maximum Governance’, redefining the regulatory landscape of the country under the Ease of Living and Ease of Doing Business reforms...” said Goyal in the ‘statement and objectives’ of the Bill. Meghwal added that he was moving an official amendment to add 11 more bills to the list, bringing the total to 76. The 11 bills added through the amendment are colonial-era laws. He said the repealing of old laws is part of the government’s efforts to improve “ease of living as well as ease of doing business”. In his brief remarks, the minister took a jibe at the previous UPA government, saying not even a single law, which is not required in the current scenario, was repealed. The Repealing and Amending Bill also aims to correct a “patent error” in one of the laws by replacing certain words. The bill is one of the periodical measures by which enactments that have ceased to be in force or have become obsolete or the retention as a separate Act is unnecessary are repealed.

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/lok-sabha-passes-jan-vishwas-bill-aimed-at-improving-ease-of-doing-business-11690464023250.html>

25. Which of the following committees examined the Jan Vishwas Bill 2023 and made recommendations for its improvement?
- (a) Rajan Committee (b) Select Committee
(c) Joint Committee (d) Finance Committee
26. What is the primary objective of the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2023?
- (a) Legalization (b) Decriminalization
(c) Reformation (d) Prosecution
27. What key measures are proposed in the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2023, to facilitate effective implementation?
- (a) Reduction of fines and penalties (b) Establishment of Adjudicating Officers
(c) Elimination of Appellate Authorities (d) Randomization of fine and penalty amounts
28. What is the minimum majority required to pass a constitutional amendment in the Indian Parliament?
- (a) One-thirds Majority (b) Two-thirds Majority
(c) Absolute Majority (d) Three-fourths Majority
29. What is the name of the Bill that seeks to reserve one-third of the seats in Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies for women?
- (a) The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Two Amendment) Bill, 2023
(b) The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2023
(c) The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Seventh Amendment) Bill, 2023
(d) The Constitution (One Hundred and Thirtieth Amendment) Bill, 2023
30. How does the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2023, contribute to the growth of businesses and efficient governance?
- (a) By promoting compliance among businesses
(b) By focusing on preventive measures for serious offences
(c) By streamlining specific laws and regulations
(d) By rationalizing laws, reducing barriers, and saving time and cost

Passage (Q.31-Q.36): SCO Summit 2023

India is virtually hosting the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit on Tuesday. Chinese President Xi Jinping, Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif, and Russian President Vladimir Putin are also participating in the summit. The SCO was formed by China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Tajikistan in 2001. It is a Eurasia political, economic, international security and defence organisation that counters western influence in Eurasia. This year the meeting is chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi with issues including terrorism, regional security, Ukraine war, and prosperity on the agenda. The theme of the SCO summit 2023 is 'SECURE' which stands for security, economic development, connectivity, unity, respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, and environmental protection. During the SCO summit, PM Modi spoke on the importance of unity and cooperation among member countries during his address. He stated that the SCO is an extended family and shared India's vision for the summit. This included security, economic development, connectivity, unity, respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, and environmental protection.

https://www.business-standard.com/world-news/pm-modi-chairs-sco-summit-2023-here-s-what-all-happened-in-the-meet-123070400623_1.html

31. Which country officially joined the SCO as the Ninth Member Country during the 23rd SCO Summit in 2023?
(a) Netherland (b) Cambodia (c) Iran (d) North Korea
32. What event did India host as part of its SCO presidency in February 2023?
(a) SCO Economic Summit (b) SCO Tourism Mart
(c) SCO Universal summit (d) SCO Trade Expo
33. Which of the following countries is not an observer state of the SCO as of 2023?
(a) Iran (b) Belarus (c) Mongolia (d) Turkey
34. Which country hosted the 15th BRICS summit in August 2023?
(a) South Africa (b) Russia (c) India (d) France
35. Where is the main headquarters of the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) located?
(a) Paris, France (b) Dhaka, Bangladesh
(c) Tashkent, Uzbekistan (d) Beijing, China
36. Which international treaty governs the objectives, functions, financing, and rules of procedure of the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS)?
(a) UNICEF Charter
(b) Shanghai Convention on Combating Terrorism
(c) Treaty of Tashkent
(d) WTO Agreement

Passage (Q.37-Q.42): Global MPI & National MPI

The latest National Multidimensional Poverty Index released by Niti Aayog states that nearly 13.5 crore people were lifted out of poverty in the five-year period till 2019-21. The government's think-tank published the first National MPI baseline report for India in November, 2021. OPHI and the UNDP are its technical partners. "The Government's focus on investments in critical areas of education, nutrition, water, sanitation, cooking fuel, electricity, and housing has played a pivotal role in driving these positive outcomes. Key Government schemes such as Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Poshan Abhiyan, Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (Saubhagya), Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) among others have contributed significantly in driving the tremendous progress," Niti Aayog stated. Experts believe that it is critical to monitor progress, assess gaps and address emerging channels amidst global macroeconomic headwinds. Shoko Noda, Resident Representative, UNDP India said that, "when complemented with monetary poverty measures, the national MPI will enable policymakers to reflect on, and effectively

respond to the comprehensiveness and complexity of poverty in the country.” India aims to reduce poverty in all its forms by at least half by 2030 in line with SDG target 1.2.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com>

37. Which of the following states has shown the highest absolute reduction in multidimensional poverty headcount ratio (H) between NFHS-4 and NFHS-5 according to the National MPI 2023?
(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Kerala (c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Odisha
38. Which of the following statements is false about the regional disparities in multidimensional poverty in India according to the National MPI 2023?
(a) The North-Eastern region has the lowest average MPI value among all regions
(b) The Central region has the highest average MPI value among all regions
(c) The Southern region has the lowest average H value among all regions
(d) The Eastern region has the highest average A value among all regions
39. Which of the following is the title of the 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR)?
(a) The Future : Science for Achieving Sustainable Development
(b) Times of Crisis, Times of Change: Science for Accelerating Transformations to Sustainable Development
(c) Leaving No One Behind: Science for Inclusive and Equitable Development
(d) Transforming Our World: Science for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
40. The global MPI was developed by _____ for inclusion in UNDP’s flagship Human Development Report in 2010.
(a) UNDP with WTO (b) OPHI with the UNDP
(c) OPHI with ADB (d) WTO with FICCI
41. Who is the current Director General of World Trade Organization?
(a) Droupadi Murmu (b) Catherine M. Russell
(c) Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (d) Audrey Azoulay
42. What does "OPHI" stand for in the context of poverty measurement and research?
(a) Oxford Progress in Human Indicators
(b) Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative
(c) Outreach Program for Humanitarian Initiatives
(d) Oxford Project for Humanitarian Impact

Passage (Q.43-Q.48): INS VAGIR

Commissioning INS Vagir, the fifth of six licence-built French (Scorpene)-class diesel-electric conventional submarines (SSKs) into Indian Navy (IN) service on Monday, while noteworthy, also highlights the forces severely depreciated underwater platform assets, which were unlikely to be made good soon, due to flawed and unsound planning. The IN’s prevailing SSK ‘hunter-killer’ numbers were eight boats short of the stipulated 24, scheduled for induction by 2030, in accordance with the Navy’s 2012-27 Maritime Capability Perspective Plan (MCP). Furthermore, with a majority of its older Russian EKM ‘Kilo’-class variants, and only slightly younger German HDW boats due imminently for retirement, senior naval officers conceded that the IN faced serious problems, even in the foreseeable future, in fielding an ‘operationally credible’ SSK fleet. The enduring submarine shortfall principally challenges the IN in realising its wider strategic goal of sea-control and sea-denial in the critical Indian Ocean Region (IOR), to rival the inimical Chinese navy’s rapid underwater platform accretion. Furthermore, these deficiencies also adversely diluted the effectivity of India’s much hyped naval role in the Indo-Pacific maritime security structure, which has gained centre-ground in recent years.

43. The fifth Scorpene submarine 'Vagir' was delivered to Indian Navy. The submarine belongs to which class of submarines?
(a) Shreshtha class (b) Shishumar class (c) Kalvari (d) Dhruv

44. Recently, the Indian Navy commissioned the fifth diesel-electric submarine Vagir. The submarine is famously known as?
(a) Sand Shark (b) Black Tiger (c) Sea Shark (d) Sea Tiger
45. Vagir is a diesel-electric submarine, which includes six submarines developed under which project?
(a) Project-11 (b) Project-101 (c) Project-125 (d) Project-75
46. The first Vagir, a submarine from Russia, was commissioned into the Indian Navy on _____.
(a) December 3, 1973 (b) December 13, 1978
(c) December 23, 1970 (d) December 30, 1982
47. Who out of the following is the current Chief of the Naval Staff of India?
(a) R. Harikumar (b) Hardeep Singh
(c) Vivek Ram Chaudhari (d) Karambir Singh
48. The Indian Navy appointed Commander _____ as the first woman officer of the Indian Navy to command an Indian Naval Warship.
(a) Prerna Deosthalee (b) Archana Singh (c) Sadhvi Chaudhari (d) Aarti Saklecha

Passage (Q.49-Q.52): India- UAE CEPA

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the UAE over the weekend, the country's ambassador to India, Abdul Nasser Alshaali, spoke with Shubhajit Roy about key outcomes of the visit. A PhD in Economics from Australia, Alshaali also spoke about shared concerns of terrorism and security cooperation with India, regional geopolitics, including the recently formed I2U2 grouping comprising India, UAE, Israel and the US, and China's role in the Gulf region and the UAE's leadership in COP-28. Excerpts: CEPA [Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement] was signed last year, [and] it's been more than a year since implementation. We already see the fruits of CEPA — we see a lot of engagement between our stakeholders from the private and the public sector...not only at the federal level but also at the local or state level Overall trade today stands at \$85 billion, including oil. Non-oil bilateral trade stands at a little bit more than \$50 billion.

The target announced when the meeting [in June 2023] between [Union Commerce and Industry Minister] Piyush Goyal and His Excellency, Dr Thani Al Zeyoudi [UAE's Minister of State for Foreign Trade], was \$100 billion [to be achieved] in non-oil trade by 2030.

49. Which out of the following country was India's biggest trading partner in 2022-23?
(a) Russia (b) China (c) US (d) Bangladesh
50. India had been a part of negotiations for which free trade agreement for almost nine years till it pulled out of the agreement in 2019.
(a) India – US FTA
(b) North Asian Free Trade Area (NAFTA)
(c) Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA)
(d) Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)
51. India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) established diplomatic relations in _____.
(a) 1980 (b) 2002 (c) 1980 (d) 1972
52. Which of the following countries is not a member of the Gulf Cooperation Council?
(a) Qatar (b) UAE (c) Iran (d) Kuwait

SECTION – C: LEGAL REASONING

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

Passage (Q.53-Q.57): The Indian Railways (Penalties for Activities affecting Cleanliness at Railway Premises) Rules, 2012 under section 60 and 198 of the Railways Act 1989 mentions section 2 as: (b) 'litter' means all refuse and include any other waste material which, if thrown or deposited tends to create unclean or unhygienic conditions or a danger to life, environment pollution, public health, safety and welfare; (d) 'railway premises' means station building, platforms, railway track and other property belonging to railways including trains; (e) 'person' means any person or persons coming to railway premises with or without the intention of travelling; (f) 'carriage' means the carriage of passengers or goods by a railway administration.

Section 3. Prohibition of activities affecting cleanliness and hygiene in the railway premises. - (1) No person shall,- (a) throw or deposit litter in any occupied or unoccupied railway premises or the carriage except in authorized places; (b) cook, bathe, spit, urinate, defecate, feed animal or birds, repair or wash vehicles, washing utensils or clothes or any other objects or keep any type of storage in any railway premises except in such facilities or conveniences specifically provided for any of these purposes; (c) paste or put up any poster or write or draw anything or matter in any compartment or carriage of the railway or any premises thereof, without any lawful authority; (d) indulge in defacing railway property. Whosoever contravenes any of the provisions of these rules or fails to comply with such provisions shall be punished with a fine which shall not exceed five hundred rupees.

Section 5. Officials authorized to collect penalties under these rules. - The following officials are authorized to collect fine mentioned in these rules, namely:- (a) The Station Master or Station Manager; (b) An officer not below the rank of ticket Collector of the Commercial Department or an officer of equivalent rank of the Operating Department; (c) Any other official(s) authorized by the Railway Administration for the purpose of implementing these rules.

[Source: <https://www.latestlaws.com/bare-acts/central-acts-rules/railways-law/the-railways-act-1989/indian-railways-penalties-for-activities-affecting-cleanliness-at-railway-premises-rules-2012>]

53. Wareshwar Railway Station, one of the busiest and most significant railway hubs in India, faces a persistent challenge of littering despite ongoing efforts to maintain cleanliness. The station, serving as a major transportation hub connecting various cities and regions, witnesses a substantial influx of passengers daily. Viresh, who is on the station for dropping his sister on a night train, throws away a packet of chips on the seat, which both of them were consuming prior to arrival of the train. He is reported by a person who witnesses this act and is fined Rupees five hundred by the ticket collector of operating department. Is the imposition of fine on him correct according to the passage?
- (a) Yes, because as he littered on the railway premises and hence, was fined by an authorized official.
 - (b) No, because the litter is being thrown on the seat which is not part of the Railway premises.
 - (c) Yes, because he is a passenger who threw garbage on the railway premises and fined by a ticket collector.
 - (d) No, because he was not a railway passenger and there can be no liability for him.
54. Late at night on 12th January 2021, three individuals named Rocky, Parmi and Locky took advantage of the lack of surveillance and security presence in the railway yard to paste a large-sized poster of an upcoming film on the side of a goods train carriage. They are seen by a railway guard. The poster, featuring vibrant colors and promotional graphics, covered a significant portion of the carriage, attracting attention from railway staff and local residents the next morning. The guard reports them to the authorities next day. They are caught and put behind bars by the station master and RPF officials. Is the punishment given to them valid in light of the passage?
- (a) Yes, because they pasted posters on the carriage of the railway without lawful authority.
 - (b) No, because the pasting of the poster happened on a goods train which is not covered in the Rules of 2012.
 - (c) Yes, because they littered on railway premises and were punished by authorized officials.
 - (d) No, because there can be only fine imposed for the offence under section 3 of the Rules of 2012.

55. Minku, Rita and Tina targeted various areas of LMN Railway Station, spoiling railway property with graffiti and unauthorized markings. The vandals targeted station walls, platforms, and even rolling stock, leaving behind a trail of spray-painted tags and symbols. The perpetrators took advantage of inadequate surveillance and security measures at the station during the nighttime, evading immediate detection. They are spotted by a key-man and reported to the station master. The station master imposes fine on them for their offence. Which sub-section of section 3 have they violated by this act of theirs?
- (a) They have violated subsection (b) as they defecated on the railway premises with no prior approval.
 - (b) They have violated subsection (c) as they pasted posters on railway premises without lawful authority.
 - (c) They have violated subsection (d) as they indulged in defacing public property.
 - (d) They have violated subsection (c) and (d) as they drew things on and defaced railway property without lawful authority.
56. Which of these acts will not be an offence under the Railway Rules of 2012 as given in the passage?
- (a) Preeti, a passenger waiting on the station, washes unclean utensils on the drinking water kiosk.
 - (b) Shiva, visitor to the station, feeds birds on the platform with bird-feed spread everywhere while there is rush for the upcoming train.
 - (c) Kamla, under orders from an official, pastes a poster enumerating penalties for various offences on the passenger train carriage.
 - (d) Ganesh, being a passenger travelling on the train, washes clothes in the washbasin meant for washing hands, spilling detergent everywhere.
57. Which of these will not be a railway premise according to the passage?
- (a) A train's washroom.
 - (b) A railway Court lying outside the station.
 - (c) A railway track passing through private property of several acres.
 - (d) A vintage railway carriage acquired through auction by Atul.

Passage (Q.58-Q.62): Signaling a total overhaul of criminal laws in the country, Union Home Minister Amit Shah moved three new Bills to replace “19th Century Laws.” Shah introduced the **Bharatiya Sanhita Suraksha Bill, 2023 in Lok Sabha** to replace the Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure and Indian Evidence Act, and referred the laws to a standing committee. The Bill, among other things, seeks to reinvent Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code that criminalizes sedition as an offence “endangering sovereignty, unity and integrity of India.” Section 150 of The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Bill, 2023 deals with the offence of sedition. It reads: Whoever, purposely or knowingly, by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or by electronic communication or by use of financial mean, or otherwise, excites or attempts to excite, secession or armed rebellion or subversive activities, or encourages feelings of separatist activities or endangers sovereignty or unity and integrity of India; or indulges in or commits any such act shall be punished with imprisonment for life or with imprisonment which may extend to seven years and shall also be liable to fine. However, section 124A of the IPC reads: Whoever, by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise, brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards, the Government established by law in, shall be punished with imprisonment for life, to which fine may be added, or with imprisonment which may extend to three years, to which fine may be added, or with fine.

Explanation 1.—the expression “disaffection” includes disloyalty and all feelings of enmity. Explanation 2.—Comments expressing disapprobation of the measures of the Government with a view to obtain their alteration by lawful means, without exciting or attempting to excite hatred, contempt or disaffection, do not constitute an offence under this section. Explanation 3.—Comments expressing disapprobation of the administrative or other action of the Government without exciting or attempting to excite hatred, contempt or disaffection, do not constitute an offence under this section.

(Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-law/sedition-law-repealed-or-strengthened-in-a-new-form-ipc-bill-8887864/>)

58. As per your understanding of the passage, how does Section 150 of the proposed bill differ from Section 124A of the IPC in terms of the offense of sedition?
- Section 150 introduces penalties for the offense of sedition compared to Section 124A.
 - Section 150 expands the scope of the offense of sedition by including acts related to separatist activities.
 - Section 150 specifies that only electronic communication can be used to incite feelings of separatism.
 - Section 150 omits the mention of endangering sovereignty and unity of India as part of the offense.
59. In 2018, G worked as an IAS official. He was assigned to embark on a mission with three of his comrades. The Indian Embassy was about to be bombed by nation Y, who was poised to become a danger. G and the other commanders were to destroy the other nation's helicopters. When both nations' helicopters were in the air, G purposely missed the shot, saving one of the eight bordering countries' planes. Then, one of G's fellow policemen destroyed the chopper just as they were ready to launch the missile, saving the country. Provide an answer referencing Section 124 A of the IPC.
- G will be held accountable for fraud as he intentionally missed the shot and defrauded the nation.
 - G shall be held guilty of sedition for knowingly endangering the security of the country.
 - G will not be held accountable until it is established that he purposefully missed the shot.
 - Since the country ultimately suffered no harm, G shall not be held accountable.
60. X was a devoted soldier serving the country. For sixteen years, he had served the country. He was supposed to be promoted to field marshal rank. However, because of certain discrimination inside the army, X was demoted from his current position rather than being promoted. Because of this, he was thoroughly enraged and demoralized. The Indian Army was now the target of his vengeance. While continuing to work, he allied himself with the army of the enemy nation. He provided all the pertinent information regarding the locations of the war and other sensitive data, to the enemy nation. He was later discovered engaging in this activity and was charged with sedition among other offenses. Do you approve of how he has been treated with respect to Section 150?
- No. Since the Indian Army had earlier discriminated against X, he shouldn't be held accountable.
 - No. Since the conditions for sedition have not been met in this case, X should not be held accountable.
 - Yes. X has to be held accountable for putting the nation's sovereignty in danger by engaging in such disloyal conduct.
 - Yes. Since X committed fraud while already employed by the Indian Army, he should be held accountable.
61. The Parliament was presented with a bill amending the people's fundamental rights. The Bill sought to eliminate the ownership of property as a fundamental right. The removal of the right to property as a fundamental right followed the full approval of the bill by both chambers of Parliament. The people were dissatisfied with this choice, and a journalist named K wrote an article about it in the newspaper. The article discussed how the government has restricted some of the most significant rights that are essential for the daily functioning of the general population. The government found this offensive and accused K of committing sedition. Examine the decision made by the Government by applying Section 124A of the IPC to determine its legality.
- Given that K sought to incite dissent and hostility towards the government, the government made the right decision.
 - Since all requirements for sedition have been met, the government made the right choice.
 - Since hatred was generated by K's article, the government did not make the right choice.
 - Given that K's act does not qualify as sedition, the government did not make the right decision.

62. F was an Indian politician. For the previous ten years, he was the chief minister of State W. However, in the upcoming elections, a politician named Z ran for office and it turned out that he had a significant following. Despite his inexperience in politics, he captured the attention of 50% of the general public. Therefore, F bribed the people who counted the votes, influencing the final verdict in his favour. Ascertain if he is liable under Section 124A.
- (a) Since no criminal act was committed against the incumbent Government, F shall not be held accountable.
 - (b) F will be held accountable for sedition since he tried to use financial means to incite discontent against the Government.
 - (c) Given that the prerequisites of sedition have been met, F will be held accountable for the same.
 - (d) As there was no harm done to the country's reputation, F shall not be held accountable for sedition.

Passage (Q.63-Q.67): The Indian Penal Code mentions sexual offences against women under a separate head which encompasses the following offences with their respective sections. Section 375, IPC defines rape. In simple terms, the offence of rape is the ravishment of a woman, without her consent, by force, fraud or fear. In other words, it is the carnal knowledge (penetration of any of the slightest degree of the male organ of reproduction) of any woman by force against her will. It is an obnoxious act of the highest degree which violates the right to privacy and sanctity of a female. Apart from being a dehumanizing and perverted act, it is also an unlawful interference in the personal life of a woman, which is an intense blow to the honour, dignity, reputation and self-esteem of a woman. This outrageous crime not only causes physical injury to the victim but also humiliates, degrades and leaves a scar on the most precious jewel of a woman, i.e., her character and dignity. Section 375 has the following two essential ingredients-

- **Actus Reus:** There must be sexual intercourse, as understood in terms of the provisions of Section 375 (a) to (d), such as penetration or insertion into any part of the body of the women, etc.
- **Mens Rea:** Intention to penetrate and no reasonable belief in consent

Sexual intercourse must be under any of the seven circumstances as given under Section 375, such as without her consent, with a minor, consent obtained due to intoxication or unsoundness of mind, etc.

[Source: <https://blog.ipleaders.in/offences-against-women/>]

63. Sapna, an employee at a call center, typically worked until the early hours of the morning, sometimes even late into the night. The prospect of returning to her apartment alone filled her with fear, given its location in a particularly sketchy area near her office. On one occasion, her coworker Arjun, offered to accompany her home due to the late hour. He offered her some vodka, and they both drank. When Arjun sexually advanced towards her, she completely tried to stop him. But due to her intoxication, she soon passed out. Arjun has sexual intercourse with her. Can Sapna claim she was raped?
- (a) No, because she went with Arjun on her own, out of her own will, and so, she cannot claim that.
 - (b) Yes, because Arjun has sexual intercourse with her without her consent.
 - (c) No, because she was intoxicated when she gave her consent, and that is not consent.
 - (d) Yes, because Arjun knowingly tried to get her intoxicated to rape her.
64. Sunita was a maid in the villa that belonged to the Khanna's. She was very diligent with her work, and her employers really liked her. They trusted her as well. One time there was a robbery in the house, and at that time, only Sunita had the keys to the house as the Khanna's were out for a vacation. When Mr. Khanna came back, he figured out that a very expensive vase was stolen; he started suspecting Sunita had stolen it; he asked her and told her that he would hand her over to the police if she did not give in to his sexual advances. She got scared and agreed. Can she claim statutory rape here?
- (a) No, because she agreed to have sexual intercourse on her own.
 - (b) No, because she was not under any influence when she agreed to the intercourse.
 - (c) Yes, because her consent was obtained due to the fear of being handed over to the police, and so, it constitutes rape.
 - (d) Yes, because Mr Khanna had threatened her, and he had ill intentions too.

65. Anaya was a business owner. She was a single mom and had a lot of troubles trying to handle the delicate balance between her work life and taking care of her toddler. She also got into alcoholism because of the extreme stress. Once, she was drunk in a bar and a man approached her and asked her if he could buy her a drink, she agreed. Later on, he held her by her waist and she screamed as she got alarmed. He tried to have intercourse with her but she managed to run away. Can she sue the man for rape?
- No, because there was no sexual penetration and so, the necessary constituents were not fulfilled.
 - Yes, because he held her inappropriately and tried to have intercourse with her.
 - Yes, because she was intoxicated and not capable of giving her reliable consent.
 - No, because there was no mens rea on the part of the man.
66. Jagia was the eldest daughter of Mr Kanda Kumar. They were very poor and lived in the rural suburbs. One day when she was going towards the cowshed to get some milk to sell to buy some flour for their dinner. It was already very late and so, it was getting dark. One Ram who was in love with her, saw her walking alone and then started to follow her. He groped her from behind and forced himself on her. Jagia went to complain against him. Which is the best reasoning for the claim of statutory rape?
- It was rape because there was consent on Jagia's part.
 - It was rape because he forced himself on her after it got dark.
 - It was rape because it was against her will.
 - It was not rape as there was no ill intention.
67. A wanted to marry B and they had been together for three years; B had promised her that he would marry her. A was very much in love with B and she had brought up the subject of marriage quite a lot of times but B did not seem very keen towards it. B told A that he will only marry her if she has sexual intercourse with him. A agrees to it because she really wanted to get married to him but eventually got pregnant. When B got to know about this, he refused. A gave birth to their baby. B came to see the baby but did not bring up marriage. A filed a case against B for raping her and not marrying her after she gave birth by the virtue of the same act. Can she claim statutory rape here?
- No, because she had consented to the acts and so, it is not rape.
 - No, because there was no fraud from B, he never agreed to marry her.
 - Yes, because she was under the impression that B would marry her.
 - Yes, because B obtained her consent by fraud as he promised to marry her but then did not marry her.

Passage (Q.68-Q.74): The Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, 1952 reads as the follows:
373. The Speaker, if is of the opinion that the conduct of any member is grossly disorderly, may direct such member to withdraw immediately from the House, and any member so ordered to withdraw shall do so forthwith and shall remain absent during the remainder of the day's sitting.

374. (1) The Speaker, may, if deems it necessary, name a member who disregards the authority of the Chair or abuses the rules of the House by persistently and wilfully obstructing the business thereof. (2) If a member is so named by the Speaker, the Speaker shall, on a motion being made forthwith put the question that the member (naming such member) be suspended from the service of the House for a period not exceeding the remainder of the session: Provided that the House may, at any time, on a motion being made, resolve that such suspension be terminated. (3) A member suspended under this rule shall forthwith withdraw from the precincts of the House. The chairman of Rajya Sabha has the same powers as the Speaker under Rule 256.

[374A. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in rules 373 and 374, in the event of grave disorder occasioned by a member coming into the well of the House or abusing the Rules of the House persistently and wilfully obstructing its business by shouting slogans or otherwise, such member shall, on being named by the Speaker, stand automatically suspended from the service of the House for five consecutive sittings or the remainder of the session, whichever is less: Provided that the House may, at any time, on a motion being made, resolve that such suspension be terminated. (2) On the Speaker announcing the suspension under this rule, the member shall

forthwith withdraw from the precincts of the House.] Rule 378. The Speaker shall preserve order and shall have all powers necessary for the purpose of enforcing own decisions.

[Source: https://eparlib.nic.in/bitstream/123456789/66/1/Rules_Procedure_LokSabha.pdf]

68. What is the nature of the order given by the Speaker of Lok Sabha under Rule 373?
- It is mandatory in nature for the member.
 - It is optional in nature for the member.
 - It is partially mandatory if backed by the majority of the house.
 - It is mandatory for the member if it is given in written form.
69. Prisha is a Rajya Sabha MP who is extremely angry from the recent decision of the Parliament to allow foreign investment in a field in which her constituency makes local products. She shouts slogans in the House and disrupts the proceedings of the house persistently with repetitive warnings. The Speaker of the House issues order for her suspension for the rest of the session with backing from the House. Is that valid in light of the passage?
- Yes, because she persistently and willfully obstructed the business of the house.
 - No, because the power to issue such an order of suspension is with the vice-president of India.
 - Yes, because she violated Rule 374 of the House Rules which entail suspension from the House for the rest of the session.
 - No, because the power to issue such order of suspension is with the chairman.
70. Rinky is a Lok Sabha member and is extremely angry from the nationalization of an industry which was profit creating in private hands. She comes to the well of the House and shouts slogans and refuses to budge from the well of the House. She creates excessive ruckus in the house. There is no debate due to her persistent shouting. There are three sittings of that session remaining. She is suspended for five sittings by the Speaker without House validation for the present session and the next one under Rule 374A. Is her suspension valid in light of the passage?
- Yes, because she created grave disorder in the well of the House and persistently and willfully obstructed the business of the house.
 - No, because there can be suspension for five sittings of the current session of the House only.
 - Yes, because there can be automatic suspension for grave disorder and willful obstruction without House validation.
 - No, because there can be suspension only for the lesser duration between the end of the session or five sittings.
71. If Suresh inattentively disrupted the proceedings of the (Lok Sabha) House due to issues with his mobile speaker left on his seat for twenty minutes while he was using the washroom, can he be suspended under the Rules of 1952?
- No, because the suspension is either for willful obstruction, grave disorder or gross disorder only.
 - Yes, because he disrupted the proceedings of the House for a considerable duration without adequate cause.
 - No, because the suspension must necessarily be for grave disorder and willful obstruction only.
 - Yes, because he recklessly caused disorder in the House which disallowed any business proceeding in the House.
72. If the suspended disrupting members refuse to budge from their seats, can the speaker use force to drive them out of the House precincts?
- Yes, because the speaker has been given the power of enforcement under Rule 374 of the Rules of 1952.
 - No, because the duty to withdraw or vacate the precincts of the House is with the suspended member voluntarily.
 - Yes, because the speaker has been given the power of enforcement for his decisions.
 - No, because there is no enforcement power given to the speaker for the removal of the members from the precincts.

73. What is to be done after an order for suspension has been issued against a member under Rule 374?
- (a) There is mandatory obligation on the member to withdraw from the precincts of the House.
 - (b) There is optional obligation on the member to withdraw from the precincts of the House.
 - (c) There is obligation on the member to visit a confinement area in the precincts of the House.
 - (d) There is obligation on the speaker to use force to make the member leave the precincts of the House.
74. What is the power given to the House under Rule 374 which is not given to the speaker?
- (a) The House may terminate the suspension on a motion.
 - (b) The House shall terminate the suspension on the member's motion.
 - (c) The House may terminate the suspension after ten days on a motion.
 - (d) The House shall terminate the suspension on an apology on a motion.

Passage (Q.75-Q.79): Divorce in India can be pursued through various avenues, each laden with distinct legal ramifications. Adultery, a widely accepted basis for divorce under the Hindu Marriage Act, materialises when one spouse willfully engages in consensual and voluntary carnal relations with an individual of the opposite sex, other than their lawful partner. In such instances, the substantiation of the divorce claim hinges upon robust evidence, such as irrefutable photographic proof.

Desertion, yet another ground, conveys the notion of a spouse vacating the matrimonial abode and terminating shared habitation devoid of any reasonable justification for a specified duration. The Hindu Marriage Act deems a span of two years marked by continuous abandonment as ample justification for divorce, devoid of any obligatory requirement for reconciliation before instituting proceedings.

Mental Cruelty, frequently entrenched in the emotional and psychological realms, constitutes another formidable ground for divorce. It encompasses a spectrum of actions causing substantial harm to the mental well-being or equilibrium of the aggrieved spouse. Persistent humiliation, spurious accusations, or egregious emotional maltreatment exemplify the manifestations of such cruelty that can warrant a legitimate divorce claim.

Conversion assumes pertinence when one spouse undergoes a religious transformation without the acquiescence of the other party and subsequently enters into a matrimonial alliance with an adherent of the newly embraced faith. The forsaken spouse, in this scenario, possesses the prerogative to initiate divorce proceedings predicated upon the non-consensual conversion, as it fundamentally transmutes the essence of the marital contract.

Lastly, the concept of the Irretrievable Breakdown of Marriage proffers a no-fault premise, acknowledging that certain conjugal unions reach a juncture beyond resuscitation. In the event that a couple has subsisted in separate domiciles for a triennial period bereft of any semblance of reconciliation, they are entitled to invoke this ground for divorce. It underscores the exigency for a pragmatic approach to concluding a marriage that has irrevocably deteriorated, underscoring the practicality of dissolution in such circumstances.

Comprehending these divorce grounds within the framework of the Hindu Marriage Act assumes paramount significance for individuals contemplating marital dissolution in the Indian legal milieu. Be it the presentation of Adultery buttressed by incontrovertible substantiation, the assertion of Desertion subsequent to a stipulated temporal threshold, the establishment of Mental Cruelty resulting in emotional distress, the repercussions of Conversion reshaping religious affiliations, or the acknowledgment of an Irretrievable Breakdown of Marriage, each ground imbues the divorce process with unique legal gravitas and ramifications.

<https://blog.ipleaders.in/grounds-divorce-the-hindu-marriage-act/>

75. A husband Bunty filed for divorce on the grounds of cruelty by his wife Sonia. He claimed that she constantly humiliated him in front of family and friends. She also undertook the termination of pregnancy without his consent. The court observes these allegations. What should the court consider in this case?
- (a) Both the husband's claim of cruelty and the termination of pregnancy, as they relate to his mental and emotional well-being.
 - (b) The husband's claim of cruelty, but not the termination of pregnancy, as it is a separate issue.
 - (c) The termination of pregnancy, but not the husband's claim of cruelty, as it's a medical decision.
 - (d) Neither the husband's claim of cruelty nor the termination of pregnancy, as they are not relevant grounds for divorce.
76. A husband Ramu and wife Gauri have been living separately for over a year, with no cohabitation between them. The wife filed a divorce petition, claiming that the husband deserted her. The husband argues that he tried to reconcile, but the wife prevented him from doing so. What should the court consider in this case?
- (a) The husband's claim that he tried to reconcile, as it shows his willingness to save the marriage.
 - (b) The fact that they have been living separately for over a year without cohabitation, regardless of attempts at reconciliation.
 - (c) The wife's claim of desertion, as she initiated the divorce petition.
 - (d) The court should dismiss the case, as reconciliation efforts should be made before filing for divorce.
77. Rahima, the wife, has filed for divorce, alleging that her husband Bitu started a tikki-selling business but failed to attain profitability. Additionally, she claims that Bitu converted to another religion X without her consent, purportedly to gain favor with the god of that religion and marrying Reema a follower of religion X. In such a scenario, the court should consider?
- (a) The husband's conversion to another religion, as it's a valid ground for divorce.
 - (b) The wife's consent to the conversion, as it may indicate her willingness to continue the marriage.
 - (c) Whether the conversion caused any harm or distress to the wife.
 - (d) The court should not consider religious matters in divorce cases.
78. Rajat (husband) initiates divorce proceedings citing the ground of irretrievable breakdown of the marriage, the wife vehemently contests the divorce, asserting that concerted efforts should be made to salvage the marital union. What should the court consider?
- (a) The wife's claim of an irretrievable breakdown of marriage, as it's a valid ground for divorce.
 - (b) The wife's wish to continue working on the marriage, as it indicates a chance for reconciliation.
 - (c) The duration of the separation and the impact on both parties.
 - (d) The court should not consider the irretrievable breakdown of marriage as a valid ground.
79. A wife filed for divorce on the grounds of her husband's bigamy. The husband argues that he converted to another religion before marrying his second wife. What should the court consider in this case?
- (a) The husband's conversion to another religion, which may affect the validity of his second marriage.
 - (b) The fact that the husband married a second wife while the first marriage was still subsisting.
 - (c) The wife's claim of adultery against the husband's second marriage.
 - (d) The court should dismiss the case, as it involves religious matters.

Passage (Q.80-Q.84): The Elvish Yadav controversy has stirred a nationwide uproar, revealing a startling case involving the illegal trade of snake venom at rave parties. The incident unfolded when the People for Animals, an NGO led by BJP MP Maneka Gandhi, set a trap that led to the arrest of five individuals. Alongside the arrests, authorities discovered nine snakes, including cobras, in the possession of the accused.

The accused individuals were booked under several sections of the The Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, a landmark legislation in India, encompassing various essential sections dedicated to safeguarding the nation's rich biodiversity. Section 6 mandates the establishment of wildlife advisory boards in each state, instrumental in executing the Act's provisions effectively. Section 8 outlines the specific duties of these boards, ensuring a focused approach toward wildlife conservation. One of the pivotal sections, Section 9, unequivocally prohibits activities like hunting, poisoning, killing, trapping, and disturbing nests or eggs of specified wild animals listed in schedules I, II, and III. Ignorance of the law is not considered a valid defense under this legislation. It acts as a robust deterrent against activities detrimental to wildlife preservation. Section 11 provides carefully delineated circumstances under which hunting of wild animals is permissible, ensuring a balance between conservation and specific needs. Furthermore, Section 48 A regulates the transportation of wild animals, birds, and plants, emphasising the requirement for official permission from the chief wildlife warden or authorised state officials. Lastly, Section 49 acts as a deterrent against illegal wildlife trade by prohibiting the purchase of wild animals from dealers without a valid license. Together, these sections form a comprehensive legal framework, reflecting India's commitment to the conservation of its diverse flora and fauna, encouraging responsible wildlife management, and fostering a sense of collective responsibility towards the nation's natural heritage. Ignorance of the law is not considered a valid defence under this legislation.

Source - <https://blog.ipleaders.in/the-wildlife-protection-act-1972-and-its-impact-in-protecting-wildlife-in-india/>

80. In the bustling city of Ranjotpur, a notorious gang orchestrated a nefarious operation, smuggling exotic animals, including endangered species like snakes and scorpions, destined for a high-profile black-market auction. These animals, snatched from their natural habitats, were exploited for illicit photo shoots. When law enforcement finally apprehended the gang, they hastily pleaded ignorance, claiming they were unaware of the protected status of the specific animals they were smuggling under the Wildlife Protection Act. This situation raises a crucial question: How does the Wildlife Protection Act address their defence in light of their professed lack of awareness about the protected status of these species?
- (a) Offenders can avoid penalties if they claim lack of awareness about the protected status of the animals.
 - (b) Penalties are reduced if offenders cooperate by providing information about the wildlife trafficking network.
 - (c) Leniency is granted if offenders actively participate in local wildlife conservation programs.
 - (d) Offenders must face strict penalties regardless of their knowledge about the protected status of the animals.
81. In the heart of a renowned national park, a sanctuary for endangered species, birds, and diverse flora, a group of photographers meticulously arranges quarterly wildlife photography tours. Their endeavours have elevated them to industry prominence, bolstered by a dedicated YouTube channel generating additional revenue. Amidst one of their excursions, their quest for the perfect shot led them to disrupt the nesting site of a rare bird species. In the midst of this disturbance, one team member, captivated by the allure of a bird's feather, callously hurled a stone, rendering the bird unconscious, and snatched the feather for their collection. Now facing scrutiny, they assert their innocence, pleading ignorance concerning nesting season regulations. Within the framework of the Wildlife Protection Act, how does the law address their actions, considering their claimed lack of awareness about the nesting season regulations?
- (a) Their actions are justifiable as they did not intend to harm the wildlife and were unaware of nesting season regulations.
 - (b) They might face minor penalties for disturbing the nesting area, but their lack of knowledge could serve as a mitigating factor.
 - (c) Their actions constitute a grave offence under the Wildlife Protection Act, regardless of their ignorance about the regulations.
 - (d) Leniency could be considered if they publicly apologise and actively engage in wildlife conservation efforts to rectify their actions.

82. Deep within a forest reserve, a group of tourists meandered through the lush landscape, blissfully unaware of the rarity and endangered status of the orchids adorning the forest floor. Mistaking these precious blooms for common flowers, they plucked a few as mementos of their journey. Later, as the significance of their actions dawned upon them, they asserted their innocence, emphasising that they had no intention of harming endangered species. Within the framework of the Wildlife Protection Act, how does the law address their defence, considering their lack of intent to harm the environment and wildlife?
- (a) The Act excuses their actions due to their lack of intent to harm endangered species.
 - (b) Ignorance of the orchids' protected status does not exempt them from legal consequences.
 - (c) They might face reduced penalties if they can prove their lack of knowledge about the orchids' endangered status
 - (d) The Act mandates imprisonment as a deterrent, regardless of their intention to harm wildlife.
83. Based on the passage, which of the following activities is unequivocally prohibited under Section 9 of the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972?
- (a) Selling wild animals to licensed dealers for research purposes.
 - (b) Disturbing nests or eggs of specified wild animals listed in schedules I, II, and III.
 - (c) Capturing wild animals for personal use with the permission of local authorities.
 - (d) Transporting wild animals without proper documentation but for non-commercial purposes.
84. From the information provided, what is the primary purpose of Section 48 A of the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972?
- (a) Regulating the establishment of wildlife advisory boards in each state.
 - (b) Prohibiting hunting, poisoning, and killing of specified wild animals.
 - (c) Emphasizing the requirement for official permission for transporting wild animals, birds, and plants.
 - (d) Outlining circumstances under which hunting of wild animals is permissible.

SECTION D: LOGICAL REASONING

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

Passage (Q.85-Q.89): The Centre's fertiliser subsidy bill has more than trebled from Rs 81,124 crore to Rs 2,51,339 crore between 2019-20 and 2022-23. Even the current fiscal's budget estimate of Rs 1,75,100 crore is likely to be overshoot in the final numbers. Not for nothing that the Narendra Modi government wants to derive maximum mileage, political as much as economic, from this humongous spend.

Since November 2022, all subsidised fertilisers are being marketed under a common Bharat brand, with companies having to print this (along with the Prime Minister's One Nation One Fertiliser scheme's logo) on two-third space of every bag and leaving only the balance one-third for their own name, logo and other product information. Now, the Modi government has capped the profit margins companies can earn from sales of diammonium phosphate (DAP), muriate of potash (MOP) and other subsidised non-urea fertilisers. The maximum retail prices (MRP) of these fertilisers cannot be more than 8-12 per cent higher than their total cost of sales.

The government's argument would be that **when so much of taxpayer money is being spent on fertiliser subsidy, the benefits should also accrue to farmers.** One way to ensure this is by making companies reveal their actual cost of production/imports, distribution and other expenses. Based on this self-assessed and duly audited cost data, they will be allowed to set MRPs that generate "reasonable" profit. Any unreasonable profit, in excess of 8-12 per cent, will have to be refunded with interest and adjusted against future subsidy payments.

In short, the current detailed cost monitoring and price control regime in urea will henceforth be extended to all other subsidised fertilisers. While urea is a controlled fertiliser — its MRP is fixed by the government — the likes of DAP, MOP and complexes (with varying nitrogen, phosphorus, potash and sulphur content) will also practically cease to be "decontrolled" fertilisers.

The flip side to the Modi government's move is that it takes the fertiliser industry back to the full-control era before the introduction of the nutrient-based subsidy (NBS) system in April 2010. Fertilisers are basically food for crops. NBS was supposed to foster product innovation, with newer and better fertilisers providing more balanced nutrition. That dream didn't materialise, as urea was excluded from NBS; its fixed MRP led to over-application, worsening nutrient imbalance and declining crop yield response. Farmer interest is better served by freeing up MRPs, encouraging balanced nutrient use and fertiliser products customised to different crop and soil-type requirements. The Rs 1,00,000-1,50,000 crore annual fertiliser subsidy can be converted into a direct income support scheme, be it on a per-farmer or per-hectare basis. Either way — India has about 10 crore farmers and 14 crore hectares net sown area — the benefits would be more than from distorted nutrient pricing.

85. The author of the passage is likely to agree with which of the following?
- (a) The nutrient-based subsidy scheme launched in 2010 by the then government was a complete failure.
 - (b) The Selling price of fertilizers were determined by the ruling government before the introduction of NBS scheme.
 - (c) Farmers in India get benefitted when taxpayers' money is used for providing fertilizer subsidy.
 - (d) Controlled MRP of subsidized fertilizers will be more helpful to farmers that deregulated prices of fertilizers.
86. Which of the following strengthens the argument "Farmer interest is better served by freeing up MRPs, encouraging balanced nutrient use and fertiliser products customised to different crop and soil-type requirements."?
- (a) Farmer interest also depends on the price of produce they get in the open market.
 - (b) When MRPs of fertilizers are not fixed, farmers make judicious use of fertilizers.
 - (c) Choice of fertilizers by farmers is not affected by the price at which fertilizers are sold.
 - (d) Farming practices of farmers determine the crop yield, not the choice of fertilizers.

87. Which of the following is assumed in government's argument "when so much of taxpayer money is being spent on fertiliser subsidy, the benefits should also accrue to farmers"?
- (a) When taxpayers' money is used for subsidy, taxpayers should get the benefit.
 - (b) General public will be benefitted when farmers in India get benefitted.
 - (c) Farmers have the right to benefit when taxpayers' money is used for subsidy.
 - (d) All of the above
88. Which of the following can be answered on the basis of information in the passage?
- (a) What is the benefit farmers get when fertilizers are marketed under the common Bharat Brand?
 - (b) How is fixed MRP scheme more beneficial to farmers than the Nutrition based subsidy scheme launched in 2010?
 - (c) Why has Nutrient based subsidy failed to foster innovation which was intended by the government?
 - (d) How will Indian companies react to the government's decision to cap the profit margins of fertilizer manufacturers.
89. Which of the following is the primary argument of the author?
- (a) The government should control the prices of fertilizers and cap the profit margins of manufacturers to benefit Indian farmers.
 - (b) The move by Modi Government to cap the MRPs of subsidized fertilizers is reminiscent of era before 2010.
 - (c) The move by the government capping the MRPs of subsidized fertilizers is not desirable.
 - (d) To benefit the farmers in India, Modi government caps the MRPs of subsidized fertilizers.

Passage (Q.90-Q.94): In a postmodern world where we are heavily occupied and utterly distracted, we don't have time to read and take the trouble of imagining or scrutinizing things on the altars of rationality. We tend to rely on all types of floating information, be it in the form of letters or motion. Our knowledge of the economy, political ideology, society or religion for that matter is determined by what we see and hear. We put our 100 percent faith on it and start looking things from that perspective.

In a generation that consumes and is consumed by different types of cinemas and series, it is becoming difficult for the nascent mind to separate fact from fiction and reality from trash. The half-truths are masqueraded as "fact-in-motion".

Remember, half-truths are more dangerous than complete lies. Complete lies can be debunked completely, but when on the fabric of facts, where there is captivating colour of fiction, it becomes impossible for the half-wits (which we are) even to think that something needs to be washed off before considering a "content" as passable knowledge.

The lure of the lens is hard to resist. The clues it spoon-feeds us often make us clueless so before we all get entrapped in web of mis-information. Its better and in fact must for all of us to go back to books and literature which have been left among dusty confines our homes.

Reading should not be just a hobby anymore; it, in fact, should be a habit and necessity. It not only broadens your vision, your outlook but also helps you to look and read between the lines. It is also an act of empathy as during reading you not only discover or rediscover the things that you have forgotten but also for a moment become conscious of the author's mindset and so it helps in looking things from a multidisciplinary approach.

It makes you sensitive which is the need of hour. It not only improves what you think but how you express and in what language you put your point forward. The only trigger to survive intellectually in today's world is conflict and dissent of opinion with the stereotyped views of thoughtless people. This can only happen when you have correct knowledge about something.

Read a book not only once, read it till it unravels and sheds the clothes of mystery and you are at a stage when you can unfold the ink laden words and understand the content and smile. And then only, that book will be yours and you will be you forever.

90. Which of the following does exactly the same the author argues against?
- (a) Indra invested money in rail stocks only to find his investment halved due to improper research on rail stocks.
 - (b) Surya invested money in rail stocks only find his investment halved due to change in policy by the government.
 - (c) Lankesh invested money in rail stocks on the recommendation of an influencer, only to find his investment doubled in value the next day.
 - (d) Chitragupt invested money in rail stocks on the basis of research only to find that his investment doubled in value the next day.
91. The author's argument that **“half-truths are more dangerous than complete lies. Complete lies can be debunked completely, but when on the fabric of facts, where there is captivating colour of fiction, it becomes impossible for the half-wits (which we are) even to think that something needs to be washed off before considering a “content” as passable knowledge”** is based on what assumption?
- (a) Half-wits are not different from the experienced who differentiate between facts and lies.
 - (b) When half-wits are presented lies with some facts, they pay attention to just facts.
 - (c) It is very easy for half-wits to identify which information is not a fact.
 - (d) Natural inclination of half-wits is to weed out lies and ignore facts.
92. The author is likely to agree with each of the following except that
- I. The habit of reading should help us differentiate between facts and lies.
 - II. The information that we are supplied with in day-to-day life is completely incorrect.
 - III. Reading broadens your scope and enables you to understand the opinion of others.
 - IV. Sometimes a book is required to be read multiple times to fully understand it.
- (a) Only I, III, IV (b) Only II and III (c) All are correct (d) Neither is correct
93. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?
- (a) Whatever we see and hear about politics, economy, and religion is incorrect.
 - (b) Cinemas and series are the only propagator of incorrect information reinforcing lies in the society.
 - (c) It is very difficult of debunk a truth when there isn't any fiction attached to it.
 - (d) We don't rationally evaluate the floating information, including letters or motion, we rely on.
94. Which of the following reflects the author's argument?
- (a) Reading helps us understand the world from a diverse perspective.
 - (b) It is important to rediscover the power of reading in a postmodern world.
 - (c) Reading is one of the ways to evaluate the information we are surrounded by.
 - (d) It is important and beneficial to broadens your vision and outlook.

Passage (Q.95-Q.99): As multiple crises in Pakistan come to a head, can Delhi remain a mute spectator forever? In most other countries of the subcontinent, India is drawn quickly into their internal political arguments. Delhi has always exercised some influence on the outcomes of those contestations. But Delhi has rarely been a decisive player in Pakistan's internal politics. India's intervention in 1971 to liberate Bangladesh — the 50th anniversary of which is round the corner — was an exception rather than the rule.

Whether it can or should make a difference to Pakistan's internal politics, India must pay greater attention to the internal dynamics of our most difficult neighbour and more purposefully engage a diverse set of actors in that polity.

This is not the place to get into the rights and wrongs of India's interventions in the internal affairs of its other South Asian neighbours. It is enough to note that India's interventions are a recurring pattern in the subcontinent's international relations. Even when Delhi is reluctant to get into the weeds of these conflicts, the competing parties in the neighbourhood demand India's intervention on their behalf. All of the contestants, of course, resolutely oppose India's meddling when it goes against them. If Delhi's interventions are part of South Asian political life, why is Pakistan such an exception? Delhi's hands-off attitude is surprising, given India's huge stakes in the nature of Pakistan's policies and their massive impact on regional security. Delhi is hesitant to articulate even basic interests in Pakistan in general terms, let alone take sides in its internal politics. Indian media, which is so obsessed with covering the disputes with Pakistan, has no time for the internal politics next door. It hardly spends any resources covering the turmoil within Pakistan. India's political classes too seem utterly disinterested in Pakistan's domestic developments.

For Delhi, it is always about narrow political arguments with Rawalpindi and Islamabad; it is as if the people of Pakistan do not exist. This indifference is also rooted in profound pessimism — that Pakistan will never change and that there is little Delhi can do about it.

The depth of the current crises in Pakistan, however, should nudge India into overcoming this entrenched indifference. Delhi can't forget that change is an immutable law of nature and that Pakistan is not immune to it.

95. "Even when Delhi is reluctant to get into the weeds of these conflicts, the competing parties in the neighbourhood demand India's intervention on their behalf."
Which of the following is the assumption behind the above statement?
- (a) India is the third largest country in South East Asian region after China and Russia.
 - (b) India's say will matter to the people of countries to which these competing parties belong.
 - (c) When India interferes, it is unbiased towards all the parties involved in the conflict.
 - (d) India's intervention will be seen as hostile attempt by people of respective countries to which these parties belong.
96. Which of the following can be answered on the basis of information in the passage?
- (a) What is the impact of India's influence on the domestic political affairs in Pakistan?
 - (b) How keen is Pakistan to have India interfere in its domestic political affairs?
 - (c) Is India's interference in the politics of its neighbours influential enough?
 - (d) How frequently do countries interfere in the political affairs of its neighbours?
97. Which of the following is the primary argument of the author?
- (a) With the hope of a change in Pakistan's attitude, India should not improve its relations with Pakistan.
 - (b) Similar to other neighbours, India should pay attention to Pakistan's policies and politics.
 - (c) Since Pakistan's attitude will never change, India doesn't pay attention to Pakistan's internal affairs.
 - (d) Shedding its indifference, India should engage with Pakistan and pay attention to its internal politics.
98. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?
- (a) If Pakistan changes its attitude, India will start meaningful conversation with Pakistan.
 - (b) India has always played a major role in the domestic politics of all its neighbours.
 - (c) Some people in Pakistan demand India's intervention in Pakistan's internal affairs.
 - (d) India's arguments about Pakistan are stemmed from India's pessimism about Pakistan.
99. The author is likely to agree with which of the following?
- (a) India's intervention in international relations is appreciated by some and disliked by some.
 - (b) Pakistan is unlikely to change its attitude for India to begin any meaningful conversation.
 - (c) Countries generally interfere into domestic politics of their neighbours to assert influence.
 - (d) The situation in Pakistan doesn't demand India's intervention in Pakistan's politics.

Passage (Q.100-Q.104): India needs to change its age-old pro-cereal ‘Agrideology’. Weaning the agricultural sector — down the production chain to the farmer — off rice and wheat, much of which goes unsold, is really about getting a professional class to kick a habit. As was evident in the overlong quarrel between the farmers agitating against the proposed farm laws and the Government of India (GoI) during the farmer protests, providing enriching incentives can be perceived as alarming disincentives.

This means GoI needs to make it amply clear that there is ample profit to be made by farmers in growing vegetables, milk, fruit, oilseeds and pulses. For, like the rest of us, more farmers could consider ‘doing the right thing’ when they are convinced that it’s also the smart thing to do. Unlike wheat and rice prices, vegetable prices are more volatile, with their supply notoriously unstable (any consumer price index can attest to that).

During a price rise/shortage, farmers fill the supply-demand gap, earn some extra. The result is the proverbial flash in the pan, with oversupply leading to a crash in prices. Indian agriculture, and farmers, need to get out of this sine curve. For this, GoI should incentivise vegetable, oilseeds, fruit, etc, farming through nudges that farmers can monetise.

It is not enough to send out stentorian messages about the sorrows of subsidies, the woes of unconsumed (and unexported) foodgrain stocks, or even the disappointing detours of ‘middlemen’. The Union budget provides a ripe moment for farmers to be shown — through right policy ploughing — that non-cereal crops can be cash crops.

The talks today must focus on finding common ground for farmers and the government: after all, the government only stands to gain from farmer prosperity.

100. Which of the following strengthens the author’s argument?
- (a) The nutritional requirements of current population can also be met by engineered supplements.
 - (b) Rise in farmers income can be achieved both through producing fruits and vegetable and cereals.
 - (c) India currently overproduces grains and not enough fruits and vegetables to meet the nutritional needs of the current population.
 - (d) By bringing more land under cultivation for fruit and vegetables, land under cultivation for cereals will reduce.
101. Which of the following weakens the author’s argument?
- (a) Yield of fruit and vegetable is not high enough to meet the need of India’s population and land under cultivation is fixed.
 - (b) It is possible to bring more land under cultivation for the production of fruits and vegetables.
 - (c) Calories people get by consuming fruits and vegetables is more than they get through consuming cereals.
 - (d) All of the above.
102. Which of the following can be inferred from the author’s argument?
- (a) Farmers protested against the government because they wanted to produce more of fruits and vegetables.
 - (b) Diversification of food crops produced by farmers guarantees maximum profit to Indian farmers.
 - (c) Farmers in India resist diversification in the production of agricultural crops and cereals get sold quickly.
 - (d) Under the current situation, producing cereals instead fruits and vegetables is more profitable for farmers.
103. Which of the following is the author most likely to agree with?
- I. Some farmers may not think that growing fruit and vegetables is profitable.
 - II. Farmers should not produce fruit and vegetables as they are less profitable than cereals.
 - III. Rice and wheat consume maximum resources of the farmers in Indian agriculture.
- (a) Only I (b) Only I and II (c) Only II and III (d) Only III

104. Which of the following is the primary argument of the author?
- (a) The farmers in India face problem due to incorrect agricultural policies of the central government.
 - (b) The attempt by the government to reform agriculture sector should be done through right kind of policy making.
 - (c) If farmers in India can change what they produce, agriculture will become more profitable for them.
 - (d) The government of India should the budget as an opportunity to increase the production of cash crops.

Passage (Q.105-Q.108): Most other states would be ashamed of the tongue lashing issued against the government of Alabama on Tuesday by a trio of federal judges, all of whom were clearly furious that the state ignored their order to create a second majority-Black congressional district.

“We are deeply troubled,” the judges wrote, in an opinion laced with palpable anger, that the state drew a voting map that doesn’t do what the court previously ordered. “We are disturbed,” they wrote, that the Alabama Legislature didn’t even try to comply with a requirement that even the U.S. Supreme Court said was necessary. “We are struck,” they wrote, by the unprecedented nature of the defiance.

But Alabama’s leaders knew exactly what they were doing. They all but asked for the decision, as a way to show that no judge, court or other arm of the federal government could push them around. And far from being ashamed, state officials remained obstinate after the decision was issued. The state attorney general’s office issued a statement saying Alabama was right all along, that the court’s decision was disappointing and that the state planned to appeal to the Supreme Court.

In doing so, Alabama illustrated how contempt for the law — not to mention for equal representation and basic fairness — is an animating value in whole swaths of America. There are days when it feels as if defiance is defining large parts of the country, as represented by so many politicians who feel comfortable only when they are resisting someone else’s agenda rather than coming up with their own.

The legal problem with Alabama’s strategy is that the Supreme Court already ruled on the matter. Just three months ago, in one of the surprises of its term, the court ruled that Alabama had violated the Voting Rights Act of 1965 — a supreme achievement of the civil rights era — by drawing a voting map that diluted the power of Black voters. A single district in which Black voters were in the majority was not enough, the high court said.

After that ruling was handed down, the lower court told the state legislature to abide by it and come up with a new map that had two majority-Black districts. But in July the legislature simply refused. Instead, it approved yet another map with only one such district. And its leaders made it clear they were proud of standing up to federal power.

105. If the Alabama state officials' primary intention behind redrawing the voting map with only one majority-Black district was to challenge federal power, what can be inferred about their stance on the original order issued by the federal judges?
- (a) They considered the judges' directive to be in consonance with prevailing jurisprudential norms but politically untenable.
 - (b) They viewed the order as a nuanced paradigm shift in federal-state relations, meriting pushback to delineate boundaries.
 - (c) They interpreted the mandate as a testament to federal encroachment, necessitating a symbolic resistance for preserving state sovereignty.
 - (d) They perceived the decree as a procedural formality, with the real contention lying in its substantive implications for state autonomy.

106. In light of the Supreme Court's decision on the matter of the voting map, which of the following best characterizes the nuanced dichotomy between the stance of the Alabama Legislature and the perspective of the federal judges?
- (a) Subtle resistance to oversight vs. Emphatic endorsement of established legal precedents.
 - (b) Emphasis on localized governance vs. Conformity to expansive judicial decrees.
 - (c) Assertion of states' rights prerogatives vs. Insistence on prescriptive federal directives.
 - (d) Pursuit of representational equity vs. Strict adherence to the Voting Rights Act.
107. Which of the following, if true, would most undermine the author's suggestion that Alabama's leaders deliberately ignored the court's decision as a show of resistance against federal power?
- (a) Key members of Alabama's legislature were unaware of the specific requirements stipulated by the federal court due to a communication lapse.
 - (b) A prominent legal consultant, upon reviewing the redrawn map, confirmed its unintentional deviation from the court's directives.
 - (c) The Alabama Legislature's mapping committee had a series of internal disputes which led to a compromised version of the map.
 - (d) External influencers and lobbyists significantly swayed Alabama's mapping decisions, eclipsing the federal court's directives.
108. The author's assertion that Alabama's actions demonstrate "how contempt for the law... is an animating value in whole swaths of America" primarily serves to:
- (a) Generalize Alabama's specific actions to a broader national sentiment.
 - (b) Critique the moral framework that underpins Alabama's legislative decisions.
 - (c) Highlight the urgency for a nationwide discourse on adherence to federal directives.
 - (d) Advocate for a stronger legal system to curb localized acts of defiance.

SECTION - E : QUANTITATIVE TECHNIQUES

Directions (Q.109-Q.114): Answer the questions provided below based on the information given below.

Three individuals, X, Y, and Z, allocated their yearly savings across two different banks, Alpha and Beta. The amount deposited by X in Bank Alpha is triple the amount he deposited in Bank Beta. The amount deposited by Y in Bank Alpha is half the amount he deposited in Bank Beta. The amount deposited by Z in Bank Beta is the same as the amount deposited by X in Bank Alpha. The total amount deposited by the three individuals is 3.5 lac, and the ratio of amounts deposited by X, Y, and Z is 8 : 12 : 15. Bank Alpha offers simple interest at a rate of 20% per annum, while Bank Beta provides compound interest at a rate of 10% per annum.

109. What would be the total interest (in rupees) received by X after two years from both banks Alpha and Beta together?
 (a) 23800 (b) 24600 (c) 25200 (d) 28200
110. How much interest (in rupees) will Y receive from Bank Beta after three years?
 (a) 16800 (b) 26480 (c) 16760 (d) 26420
111. The interest received by Z from Bank Alpha in one year is what percentage of the interest received by Y from Bank Alpha in two years?
 (a) 80% (b) 100% (c) 112.5% (d) 125%
112. The total amount deposited by X in both banks is what percentage of the amount deposited by Y in Bank Alpha?
 (a) 50% (b) 150% (c) 100% (d) 200%
113. The interest received by Z in one year from Bank Alpha is what percentage more than the interest received by Y in one year from Bank Beta?
 (a) 150% (b) 80% (c) 100% (d) 125%
114. If X decides to withdraw all his savings from both banks after 1 years and reinvest them in Bank Gamma, which offers compound interest at a rate of 30% per annum, what will be the total amount (in rupees) he receives from Bank Gamma after 2 years?
 (a) Rs. 132960 (b) Rs. 152840
 (c) Rs. 136640 (d) Rs. 158860

Directions (Q.115-Q.120): Answer the questions provided below based on the information given below.

In a cultural event, there are 5 performances: Dance, Music, Drama, Poetry, and Painting. The total number of participants in the event is 1400. Thirty per cent of the total participants are in Music. There are 120 painting participants. 15 per cent of the total participants are in Drama. Dance participants are triple the number of Drama participants. The remaining participants are in Poetry. Forty per cent of the drama participants are female. Three-fourths of the female drama participants are equal to male painting participants. 40 per cent of the total dance participants are equal to the number of female participants in Music. The number of females in Dance and number of males in Poetry is equal. Specifically, there are only 5 females in Poetry.

115. What is the respective ratio between the male participants in Dance and the male participants in Poetry?
 (a) 43 : 1 (b) 41 : 1 (c) 39 : 1 (d) 47 : 1
116. What is the total number of males in Dance, Music, and Poetry together?
 (a) 754 (b) 784 (c) 798 (d) 760
117. The number of female participants in Poetry is what percentage of female participants in Dance?
 (a) 25 (b) 33 (c) 50 (d) 75

118. What is the difference between the male participants in poetry and the total number of participants in Music?
(a) 450 (b) 436 (c) 420 (d) 405
119. In which performance are female participants maximum and male participants minimum, respectively?
(a) Dance and Music (b) Painting and Music
(c) Painting and Drama (d) Music and Poetry
120. What is the sum of male participants in Drama and female participants in Poetry?
(a) 136 (b) 145 (c) 140 (d) 131

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