

LEGALEDGE TEST SERIES
MOCK COMMON LAW ADMISSION TEST 2024-25
MOCK CLAT 20

TR ID.

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

(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	01-24	3
Current Affairs and General Knowledge	25-52	11
Legal Reasoning	53-84	16
Logical Reasoning	85-108	25
Quantitative Techniques	109-120	31

Toprankers.com

SECTION-A : ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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

Passage (Q.1-Q.6): I can't actually remember when I first started thinking of myself as a "morning person". When I was in my 20s, the only time I saw a sunrise was if I stayed up all night – I had a series of jobs that let me stroll from bed to work in about 15 minutes. If I ever did overtime it was until one or two in the morning, trying to string together words on a combination of tea, beer and deadline adrenaline. Fast forward a couple of decades and I don't think I've slept past 7.30 in the last six months.

This wasn't exactly a lifestyle change I made by choice. First, I got a job with actual responsibilities and a commute, then a life-partner who worked as a personal trainer, and finally a small child with zero respect for the concept of a lie-in. But, although I'm frequently up before the birds and the binmen, I've never felt better. I've become one of those people who reads self-improvement books and grinds out kettlebell swings while most people are blearily thumbing the snooze button. It might even be helping me stay in shape – there's some evidence from a study published last year in the journal *Obesity* that moderate-to-vigorous exercise earlier in the day is more beneficial for weight management than hitting the gym in your lunch break or after work.

Also, if I'm honest, I feel less guilty about my habits than I used to when I was working until the wee hours, though I'm probably putting in about the same amount of actual graft. And I'm probably not alone – we're a nation that venerates the morning routine. In contrast, we often treat late sleepers with suspicion: the former, after all, seem to be up and attacking the day, while the latter are simply making up for lost time. But is one routine really better than the other? And if you're looking to go from late sleeper to early riser, how easy is it to actually do?

"Many people don't even realise that they have what's known as a 'chronotype'," says Dr Amantha Imber, an organisational psychologist, behavioural change specialist and author of *Time Wise*. "We've all got peaks and troughs in our natural energy levels throughout the day, and if we know our own we can do our hardest work in the period when our brain is most alert." There are various chronotype questionnaires on the internet to help you estimate your own with questions like "What time would you get up if you could?" and "What time do you prefer to eat?" but the key thing to understand is that performance is just as important as preferred waking time.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from,

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2024/jan/28/crack-on-how-to-become-a-morning-person-and-feel-like-a-winner>]

1. What does the passage imply about the impact of transitioning from a late sleeper to an early riser on personal productivity and lifestyle?
 - (a) It unequivocally states that becoming an early riser directly leads to improved personal productivity and a healthier lifestyle, as evidenced by the narrator's own transformation and the referenced study on exercise timing.
 - (b) The narrative suggests a correlation between early rising and personal well-being, but also hints at the complexity of lifestyle changes, indicating that such transformations are multifaceted and not solely dependent on waking early.
 - (c) The passage indicates that the transition to early rising is beneficial primarily because it aligns with societal norms and expectations, rather than any intrinsic benefits to personal health or productivity.
 - (d) It suggests that becoming an early riser is a superficial change that does not significantly affect personal productivity or lifestyle, focusing instead on the perceived societal image of early risers.

-
2. How does the passage reflect the author's attitude towards the evolution of their morning routine over the years?
 - (a) The author expresses regret over the transition, longing for the days of less responsibility and more freedom in their schedule.
 - (b) They display a neutral stance, reporting the changes in their routine without offering any personal opinion or emotional reaction to these changes.
 - (c) The author demonstrates a sense of pride and satisfaction in their evolved morning routine, highlighting the positive impacts on their health and productivity.
 - (d) They show a deep skepticism towards the benefits of early rising, suggesting that the changes in their routine have been largely ineffective.

 3. Based on the passage, what can be inferred about societal perceptions of morning and late routines?
 - (a) Society universally embraces early risers as more productive and morally superior, completely disregarding the benefits of late sleeping schedules.
 - (b) There is a nuanced view within society that values both morning and late routines, understanding that personal productivity can vary based on individual chronotypes.
 - (c) The passage indicates a societal favoritism towards morning routines, casting early risers positively and late sleepers suspiciously as less productive.
 - (d) It infers that society has shifted its perspective to favor late sleepers, recognizing the creative and intellectual benefits of working during the night.

 4. Based on the narrative and themes discussed, which of the following titles best encapsulates the essence of the passage?
 - (a) The Unyielding Power of Societal Expectations on Individual Lifestyles
 - (b) The Evolution of Personal Productivity: From Night Owl to Early Bird
 - (c) The Myth of the Morning Routine: Debunking Societal Preferences
 - (d) Chronotypes and Productivity: Navigating Personal Energy Peaks

 5. What can be inferred about the author's perspective on the relationship between lifestyle changes and personal growth?
 - (a) The author views lifestyle changes, especially in terms of sleep patterns, as superficial adjustments that have minimal impact on personal growth and productivity.
 - (b) Lifestyle changes are seen as inevitable consequences of aging that individuals passively accept rather than actively choose for the sake of personal growth.
 - (c) The author suggests that lifestyle changes, while sometimes forced by circumstances, can lead to significant personal growth and improved well-being.
 - (d) The narrative implies that only voluntary lifestyle changes contribute to personal growth, whereas changes forced by external circumstances are largely ineffective.

 6. Which of the following best describes the use of verbs in the narrative to convey the author's change in lifestyle?
 - (a) The verbs predominantly express actions undertaken willingly by the author, highlighting a series of deliberate choices that lead to personal growth and improved discipline.
 - (b) They mainly depict actions imposed upon the author by external circumstances, suggesting a passive acceptance of lifestyle changes rather than active choice.
 - (c) The verbs are used to contrast past and present activities, emphasizing the drastic shift in daily routines through the lens of reluctant adaptation.
 - (d) The narrative employs verbs that reflect a gradual and natural evolution of the author's habits, underscoring an unconscious shift towards healthier living.

Passage (Q.7-Q.13): Ours was founded by a single incident. Several white families established themselves in what was then called Graysville. The entire town relied on Graysville-Flint Bank, headed by a Mr. George Flint, who had already made hundreds of thousands of dollars in real estate somewhere in Maine, as rumors had it. He founded Graysville on a whim. With a sudden need for adventure, he packed up all he owned and sent for the rest once he made it across the Mississippi River and found himself in St. Louis, Missouri.

Banking there became a hassle; already-established branches offered little to no room for a new executive and showed no interest in his cutthroat procedure of lending to those most in need who also carried the smallest possibility of paying anything back, taking from them their very bed if debts weren't paid on time.

Word of his arrival preceded him with the force of a plague and the entire banking community refused to have anything to do with him. With no other choice, Mr. Flint headed just a few miles north of St. Louis, discovering a nothing place burdened by woods and orioles. He used his fortune to tear down every piece of nature that challenged his financial vision.

He bought up the land and divided it into plots he sold to anyone able to pay between \$130 and \$200. Word got around in 1832 that a new development had started just north of St. Louis with cheap prices for large plots of land. Mr. Flint made a name for himself and his business, calling it the Oriole Street Realty Corporation. Between 1833 and 1834, more than 120 people moved into Graysville, bringing with them over three dozen businesses.

In the summer of 1834, a dark-skinned woman and man appeared on the outskirts of town. They were watched from the moment they arrived to the moment they reached the newly built branch of the Graysville-Flint Bank. It hadn't been open for a full two years before the two opened the door and the woman asked to speak with "the superior of this bank." Everyone working stared at her, one man so anxious he sweated the pen from behind his ear till it slid to the floor, the clink across the wood making him jump. She cleared her throat and repeated her request. Someone stood and ran to the back.

Moments later, Mr. Flint approached, a gun in his holster. People ducked beneath desks. Some of his bankers left the establishment to wait for shots to go off and for two bodies to be dragged out. He glared at the woman and then spoke to the towering, broad man who came with her.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from, Ours, <https://lithub.com/ours/>]

7. How does the passage depict the banking practices of Mr. Flint prior to establishing Graysville?
 - (a) As innovative and generous, focusing on providing opportunities for the underprivileged by offering them loans they could not secure elsewhere.
 - (b) As cautious and conservative, adhering strictly to the banking norms of the time and avoiding any risky financial transactions.
 - (c) As ruthless and exploitative, prioritizing his financial gain over the welfare of borrowers by lending to those least likely to repay and seizing their possessions.
 - (d) As philanthropic and community-oriented, aiming to build a financially inclusive community by offering affordable loans to all residents.

8. What central theme emerges from Mr. Flint's establishment of Graysville and his interactions with the community?
 - (a) The importance of banking institutions in pioneering settlements and their role in shaping the economic landscape of new communities.
 - (b) The resilience of nature against human endeavors to reshape the environment for commercial purposes.
 - (c) The transformative impact of entrepreneurial ventures on undeveloped land and the potential for such developments to foster community growth.
 - (d) The ethical dilemmas and moral questions posed by capitalist endeavors, particularly in the context of exploiting vulnerable populations for financial gain.

-
9. What can be inferred about the community's reaction to the arrival of the dark-skinned woman and man at the Graysville-Flint Bank?
- (a) Their appearance caused anxiety and fear, leading to an expectation of violence and conflict.
 - (b) They were seen as potential investors, indicating the community's eagerness for economic growth.
 - (c) They were welcomed with curiosity and openness, reflecting the community's inclusive values.
 - (d) The community showed indifference, suggesting a lack of concern for new visitors regardless of their background.
10. What does the establishment of Graysville by Mr. Flint signify in the broader context of American expansion and entrepreneurship?
- (a) It highlights the pursuit of personal profit over community welfare and environmental care, typical of some capitalist ventures then.
 - (b) It represents a missed opportunity for fostering a more inclusive and ethically conscious community, given Flint's background and resources.
 - (c) It showcases the pioneering spirit of American entrepreneurship, highlighting the positive impacts of individual ambition on societal development.
 - (d) It underscores the importance of financial institutions in facilitating the growth of new settlements, despite ethical considerations.
11. Which figure of speech is evident in the description of Mr. Flint's actions upon arriving north of St. Louis?
- (a) Hyperbole, as his impact on the banking community and the environment is exaggerated to emphasize his ruthless ambition.
 - (b) Metaphor, comparing his arrival and subsequent actions to a plague, indicating a negative impact on the community and environment.
 - (c) Personification, attributing human qualities to nature by suggesting it challenged his financial vision.
 - (d) Simile, likening his financial practices to a cutthroat procedure, suggesting they were harmful and predatory.
12. Which word best describes Mr. Flint's approach to establishing Graysville, based on the passage?
- (a) Altruistic (b) Ecological (c) Mercenary (d) Visionary

Passage (Q.13-Q.18): The judgment of the Supreme Court of India, on February 15, 2024, striking down the electoral bonds scheme, is a landmark moment. Democracy requires transparency and the fact is that the electoral bonds scheme was opaque.

Voters in India have no idea who has been funding political parties and the amounts given. In all leading democracies, transparency is the basis of campaign funding. The Court has restored that transparency.

There are other legal issues. The first is the limit on funding by a corporate house or organisation. Again, the world over, this amount is limited to prevent undue influence on the government. We had such a provision in India before electoral bonds were introduced. The judgment says: "The chief reason for corporate funding of political parties is to influence the political process which may in turn improve the company's business performance...."

Electoral bonds also removed the earlier limits on how much of its profits a company could donate to political parties. The scheme even allowed loss-making companies to make donations. This could have opened the door for shell companies to be formed with the purpose of channelling funds to political parties. The Election Commission of India has said, "This opens up the possibility of shell companies being set up for the sole purpose of making donations to political parties." This too has been reversed by the Court.

Democracies went through a phase of crony capitalism, where big money funded political parties. In return, laws, policies, schemes and incentives were made for the benefit of the donors. In a limited way, the Supreme Court's judgment prevents this from happening in India.

There was an Amendment to the Finance Bill. In any country, the central bank alone has the authority to issue currency such as notes and bonds. Section 31 of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act says "only the RBI or the Central Government authorized by the RBI Act shall draw, accept, make or issue any bill of exchange or promissory note for payment of money to the bearers of the note or bond".

The Government amended the RBI Act using a Finance Act, and allowed under a new clause 31(3), the central government to authorise any scheduled bank to issue electoral bonds. This amendment to the Finance Act too has been struck down.

We need to pause for a minute to understand a few issues. The Amendment to the RBI Act was passed in a Finance Bill as this does not have to be passed by the Rajya Sabha.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from, <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/the-clear-message-in-the-courts-no-to-electoral-bonds/article67854474.ece>]

13. Considering the Supreme Court's judgment on electoral bonds, what nuanced understanding does it provide regarding the intersection of corporate financing and political integrity?
 - (a) It suggests corporate financing aligns harmlessly with democratic processes, enhancing transparency without affecting political decisions.
 - (b) It emphasizes the problematic nature of unregulated corporate donations, highlighting their potential to undermine democratic transparency and fairness.
 - (c) It portrays electoral bonds as a singular, effective method for political campaign sustainability, negating other forms of funding mechanisms.
 - (d) It advocates for a political funding model rooted exclusively in public financing to comprehensively eliminate corporate influences on politics.
14. How does the Supreme Court's decision reflect a synthesis of legal principles and democratic ideals in the context of political funding?
 - (a) It endorses the integration of corporate interests with democratic values, viewing corporate financing as a pillar of political funding transparency.
 - (b) It illustrates a judicial effort to balance legal norms with ethical democratic imperatives, advocating for transparency and accountability in funding.
 - (c) It prioritizes pragmatic campaign financing over democratic ideals, suggesting economic efficiency trumps transparency in political contributions.
 - (d) It signals a shift towards valuing technical legality over the essence of democracy, implying procedural compliance suffices for democratic integrity.
15. What does the Supreme Court's stance on amending the RBI Act via a Finance Bill reveal about the judiciary's view on legislative processes and transparency?
 - (a) It reflects approval of leveraging finance bills for crucial legal amendments, emphasizing legal adaptability and flexibility in governance.
 - (b) It criticizes the practice of embedding significant changes within finance bills, calling for enhanced legislative scrutiny and openness.
 - (c) It demonstrates a preference for swift legislative amendments through finance bills, valuing expediency over detailed legislative debate.
 - (d) It suggests neutrality towards the methods of legislative amendment, focusing on the specific legalities of the RBI Act without broader transparency concerns.

-
16. What does the Supreme Court's decision reveal about the balance between legal frameworks and democratic ideals in the context of political financing?
- (a) It acknowledges the complexity of political financing, affirming that legal frameworks should adapt to facilitate greater corporate participation in democracy without compromising transparency.
 - (b) It suggests that while legal mechanisms like electoral bonds may aim to innovate political financing, they should not compromise democratic values such as transparency and accountability.
 - (c) The judgment indicates the Supreme Court's preference for enhancing corporate participation in political financing, provided it aligns with democratic transparency.
 - (d) The decision underscores the Court's stance that legal frameworks enabling political contributions must unequivocally prioritize democratic principles, especially transparency.
17. How does the Supreme Court's judgment on electoral bonds potentially reshape the landscape of corporate donations to political parties?
- (a) could lead to an increased reliance on direct corporate donations, with enhanced transparency and regulated limits.
 - (b) The decision might inadvertently limit corporate contributions to political parties, affecting the overall funding dynamics.
 - (c) The judgment mandates a legislative reassessment of political financing mechanisms, encouraging more transparent funding models.
 - (d) It may result in stricter regulations on corporate donations, reinstating previous caps and enhancing disclosure requirements.
18. What legislative actions are implicated by the Supreme Court's decision to strike down the electoral bonds scheme for enhancing political funding transparency?
- (a) Legislators may now focus on developing funding mechanisms that balance donor anonymity with public transparency requirements.
 - (b) The ruling may prompt a reevaluation of the RBI Act and Finance Bill amendments, aiming to realign them with democratic transparency and accountability principles.
 - (c) There could be a move towards public financing models, reducing reliance on corporate and private contributions to political campaigns.
 - (d) A legislative push for comprehensive disclosure requirements for all political contributions, aiming to curb undue influence in politics.

Passage (Q.19-Q.24): Katushika Hokusai's woodblock print "Great Wave off Kanagawa" is one of the world's most recognizable images. A global icon, the thrilling print has been widely reproduced, repurposed, and, inevitably, parodied, including as the Cookie Monster.

According to scholar Timon Screech, the Great Wave is the only single work of Japanese art to have an entire English-language book devoted to it. In that monograph, Christina M. E. Guth argues that familiarity with the image "has contributed to the way many people visualize waves today."

And, as Screech notes, the Great Wave took "a new lease on life, seemingly with a more profound resonance" after the disastrous Tohoku (or Great East Japan) earthquake and resulting tsunami in 2011. While Hokusai did not portray a tsunami, just seriously large breaking waves, his image had long been read as a visualization of the terrors of the sea, with the serene majesty of Mount Fuji—symbol of the nation—calmly positioned in the distance.

Screech points out that the print was originally part of a series called Thirty-six Views of Mt. Fuji, printed circa 1830–1833, but "now enjoys a largely independent existence, and perhaps it always did."

Hokusai's series was so popular, he and his publishers extended the sequence to forty-six views of Mt. Fuji, while keeping the original Thirty-six title. Individual prints in the series could be ordered on demand: the Great

Wave was the most popular, with an estimated 5,000 copies of it made. Screech notes that this number was “very much more than other items in the set, and very high for Edo prints overall.”

Screech puts the print in context of Dutch maritime disaster paintings circulating in Japan. These were theologically tinged: one’s fate at sea rested in God’s hands. Hokusai had earlier made two other prints showing boats in heavy seas, without Mt. Fuji in the background. All three compositions clearly reveal “Western associations” and a “European flavor,” including European perspective. This, writes Screech, was not such much “a matter of ‘influence,’ but of cooption and adaptation,” similar to Japan’s approach in general to first European and then American culture and technology.

There’s also a commercial flavor: the boats depicted are high-speed, narrow, and unstable oshiokuribune, used to “deliver time-sensitive food to Edo’s markets.”

“The boats are bringing some seasonal first catch, and huge profits awaited those who could get samples to market soonest,” writes Screech. In fact, “the boats are probably the property of merchants who were risking human life on ferocious seas for vast financial rewards.”

The print’s Japanese caption is translated as “Under the Waves off Kanagawa.” Screech suggests an alternate title: “Ships in distress.”

[Extracted with edits and revisions from, <https://daily.jstor.org/under-hokusais-great-wave/>]

19. Evaluate the significance of Mount Fuji in Hokusai's "Great Wave off Kanagawa" based on the text.
 - (a) As a symbol of nature's unpredictable power and the human struggle to survive amidst natural disasters.
 - (b) As a serene counterbalance to the chaotic forces of the sea, symbolizing the enduring spirit and stability of the nation amidst adversity.
 - (c) Merely as a geographical marker to indicate the location of the depicted event, without any deeper symbolic meaning.
 - (d) To showcase Hokusai's mastery in depicting landscapes, emphasizing the beauty of Japan's natural scenery over the thematic content of the wave.

20. In the context of the passage, how does Timon Screech's interpretation of the "Great Wave off Kanagawa" relate to the influence of European culture and technology on Japan?
 - (a) He suggests that the print's European influences undermine the authenticity of Japanese art, making it less valuable in the context of Japan's cultural heritage.
 - (b) Screech implies that the adaptation of European artistic techniques, such as perspective, represents a dilution of traditional Japanese values and aesthetics.
 - (c) He posits that the incorporation of European elements into the artwork is a reflection of Japan's broader approach to adopting and adapting foreign influences for its own purposes.
 - (d) He criticizes the commercial aspects of the print, arguing that the European influence has led to a prioritization of profit over artistic integrity.

21. Based on Screech's analysis, what might the "Great Wave off Kanagawa" symbolically represent in the context of Edo-period Japan?
 - (a) A critical reflection on the dangers faced by Edo-period society due to their reliance on the sea for economic prosperity, highlighting the risks merchants took.
 - (b) An allegorical warning about the consequences of neglecting traditional Japanese values in favor of adopting foreign, particularly European, cultural and technological practices.
 - (c) A celebration of the adventurous spirit of the Edo period, glorifying the daring and risk-taking of merchants and fishermen in their quest for prosperity.
 - (d) A commentary on the transient nature of success and the inevitable downfall that comes from hubris, particularly in the context of economic ventures.

-
22. What is the overarching theme of Hokusai's "Great Wave off Kanagawa" as inferred from the passage?
- (a) An exploration of the dynamic interplay between man, nature, and technological adaptation, reflecting broader themes of cultural exchange and the human condition.
 - (b) A critique of the rapid modernization of Japan and its impact on traditional ways of life, symbolized by the tumultuous relationship between the sea and the vessels.
 - (c) A depiction of nature's overwhelming power over humanity, underscoring the futility of human endeavors in the face of natural disasters.
 - (d) An allegory for Japan's isolationist policies prior to the Meiji Restoration, using the sea as a metaphor for the barriers between Japan and the rest of the world.
23. Considering the passage's nuances, how does "The Great Wave off Kanagawa" encapsulate the essence of cultural dynamics during the Edo period as viewed through Hokusai's artistic lens?
- (a) As a mere reflection of aesthetic evolution in Japanese art, showing Hokusai's ability to capture the beauty of natural phenomena without delving into the socio-economic underpinnings of the era.
 - (b) As an artistic testament to the era's complex interplay between traditional Japanese ethos and emerging global influences, illustrating a pivotal moment in the cultural and artistic narrative of Japan.
 - (c) Primarily as a historical artifact, the print's widespread acclaim overshadows its deeper cultural significances, rendering it a subject of commercial exploitation rather than an item of profound artistic dialogue.
 - (d) As a subtle critique of the socio-economic ambitions of the Edo period, prioritizing the depiction of merchant ventures over the exploration of deeper cultural or environmental concerns.
24. Based on the passage, which term most aptly describes Hokusai's integration of European artistic influences into the "Great Wave off Kanagawa"?
- (a) Convergence (b) Dissonance (c) Transmutation (d) Appropriation -

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): World Wetlands Day and Ramsar Sites

The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) in collaboration with Government of Madhya Pradesh, organised a national event at Sirpur Lake, Indore through Indore Municipal Corporation and Environmental Planning & Coordination Organisation (EPCO), Government of Madhya Pradesh to celebrate World Wetlands Day (WWD) 2024. The theme of WWD-2024 is '[a]' which underscores the critical role wetlands play in enhancing our lives. It highlights how wetlands contribute to flood protection, clean water, biodiversity and recreational opportunities, all of which are essential for human health and prosperity.

The event was inaugurated by [X], the Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh and Dr Musonda Mumba, Secretary General, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, as a Special Guest who is visiting India to participate in the celebration of WWD 2024. The event was also graced by cabinet ministers of Government of Madhya Pradesh, Shri Jitendra Kumar, Director General (Forest) & Special Secretary, MoEF&CC, Dr Sujit Kumar Bajpayee, Joint Secretary, MoEF&CC, and other senior officials from Government of India and Government of Madhya Pradesh. Three publications were also released during the event including revised guidelines for 'National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA)', 'Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool: A Practitioners' Guide', and a Compendium on Phyto-diversity of Ramsar Sites in India'.

Ref-

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=2001996#:~:text=World%20Wetlands%20Day%20is%20observed,of%20International%20Importance%20in%201971.>

25. What has been redacted by [X] in this passage?
(a) Dr Mohan Yadav (b) Shivraj singh chauhan
(c) Kamal Nath (d) Narendra Singh Tomar
26. What is the primary focus of World Wetlands Day celebrations?
(a) Promoting tourism in wetland areas
(b) Highlighting the economic potential of wetlands
(c) Raising awareness about the importance of wetlands and their conservation
(d) Advocating for the development of wetland industries
27. What is the theme for World Wetlands Day in 2024?
(a) Wetlands action for people and nature
(b) Wetlands restoration
(c) Wetlands and human wellbeing
(d) Wetlands conservation
28. Consider the following statements:
I. World Wetlands Day is observed on 2nd February every year worldwide to commemorate the signing of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance in 1971.
II. Tamil Nadu have maximum number of Ramsar Sites (16 sites) followed by Uttar Pradesh (10 sites).
(a) Only I is correct. (b) Only II is correct.
(c) Both I & II are incorrect. (d) Both I & II are correct.
29. On which date was the Convention on Wetlands adopted?
(a) 2 January 1972 (b) 2 February 1971
(c) 2 March 1972 (d) 2 April 1971
30. As of February 2024, what is the total number of Ramsar Sites of India?
(a) 75 (b) 80 (c) 65 (d) 70

Passage (Q.31-Q.36): First Neuralink Implant

The first human patient implanted with a brain-chip from Neuralink appears to have fully recovered and is able to control a computer mouse using their thoughts, the startup's founder [X] said late on Monday.

"Progress is good, and the patient seems to have made a full recovery, with no ill effects that we are aware of. Patient is able to move a mouse around the screen by just thinking," Musk said in a Spaces event on social media platform X.

Musk said Neuralink was now trying to get as many mouse button clicks as possible from the patient.

Neuralink did not immediately reply to Reuters' request for further details.

The firm successfully implanted a chip on its first human patient last month, after receiving approval for human trial recruitment in September.

The study uses a robot to surgically place a brain-computer interface implant in a region of the brain that controls the intention to move, Neuralink has said, adding that the initial goal is to enable people to control a computer cursor or keyboard using their thoughts.

Neuralink, which was valued at about \$5 billion last year, has faced repeated calls for scrutiny regarding its safety protocols.

Ref-<https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/neuralinks-first-human-patient-able-control-mouse-through-thinking-musk-says-2024-02-20/>

31. What has been redacted by [X] in this passage?
(a) van Menezes (b) George Kurian
(c) Elon Musk (d) Satya Nadella
32. What regulatory body cleared Neuralink for its first human trial?
(a) World Health Organization (WHO)
(b) Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
(c) US Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
(d) National Institutes of Health (NIH)
33. According to Elon Musk, what is the first product from Neuralink called?
(a) Mind Control (b) Telepathy
(c) Brainwave (d) NeuraLinker
34. Who out of the following are the initial users expected to be for Neuralink's Telepathy product?
(a) Athletes
(b) Gamers
(c) Individuals who have lost the use of their limbs
(d) Tech enthusiasts
35. Consider the following statements:
I. Spikes are activity by neurons, which the National Institute of Health describes as cells that use electrical and chemical signals to send information around the brain and to the body.
II. Neuralink received FDA clearance last year for its first trial to test the company's implant in humans, a critical milestone for the startup.
(a) Both I & II are incorrect. (b) Only I is correct.
(c) Both I & II are correct. (d) Only II is correct.
36. In which of the following year Neuralink was founded?
(a) 2022 (b) 2020 (c) 2018 (d) 2016

Passage (Q.37-Q.42): Vyommitra and Gaganyaan

Jitendra Singh said that the 'Vyommitra' astronaut is designed to simulate human functions in the space environment and interact with the life support system.

Woman Robot Astronaut 'Vyommitra' will fly into space ahead of ISRO's ambitious 'Gaganyaan' mission, which will be India's first human-manned space flight carrying Indian astronauts into space.

Disclosing this in New Delhi during an interaction with the media, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science and Technology and Space, Jitendra Singh, said, "The uncrewed "Vyommitra" mission is scheduled for the [X] while a manned mission "Gaganyaan" is scheduled to be launched next year, that is 2025."

"Vyommitra is a name derived from two Sanskrit words, namely, 'Vyoma' (meaning space) and 'Mitra' (meaning friend). This female robot astronaut is equipped with the capability to monitor module parameters, issue alerts, and execute life support operations. It can perform tasks such as operating six panels and responding to queries," he explained.

Jitendra Singh further elaborated that the 'Vyommitra' astronaut is designed in such a manner as to simulate human functions in the space environment and interact with the life support system.

It is pertinent to mention that, in the run-up to the launch of India's first-ever manned space flight named 'Gaganyaan', the first Test Vehicle Flight TV D1 was accomplished on October 21 last year.

Ref- <https://www.hindustantimes.com/technology/woman-robot-astronaut-vyommitra-to-be-launched-before-isro-gaganyaan-mission-101707097315778.html>

37. What has been redacted by [X] in this passage?
- first quarter of this year
 - second quarter of this year
 - third quarter of this year
 - None of the given option is correct.
38. What is the primary objective of the Gaganyaan mission?
- Conduct space tourism
 - Launch satellites into orbit
 - Demonstrate India's human spaceflight capabilities
 - Explore Mars
39. What altitude is the orbit of the Gaganyaan mission?
- 100 kilometers
 - 200 kilometers
 - 300 kilometers
 - 400 kilometers
40. How will the astronauts of the Gaganyaan mission return to Earth?
- By landing in the Pacific desert
 - By parachuting into the Atlantic Ocean
 - By docking with the International Space Station
 - By landing in India's sea waters
41. Consider the following statements:
- The 'Gaganyaan' project aims to demonstrate human space capabilities by launching astronauts into a 400-kilometer orbit and safely returning them to Earth by landing in India's sea waters.
 - Union Minister Jitendra Singh revealed that the uncrewed 'Vyommitra' mission is slated for the third quarter of this year, while the manned 'Gaganyaan' mission is scheduled for 2025.
- Both I & II are correct.
 - Only I is correct.
 - Only II is correct.
 - Both I & II are incorrect.
42. In which of the following state/UT, Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre is located?
- Delhi
 - Andhra Pradesh
 - Karnataka
 - Kerala

Passage (Q.43-Q.48): Henley Passport Index 2024

Indian passport's fall has come as a surprise given the fact that visa-free access to countries for Indians has increased over the last year.

India has fallen one position from last year in the recently released Henley Passport Index for 2024. The Indian passport ranks [X] on the list while France has got the top position, reported.

The Henley Passport Index ranks countries on the basis of the strength of their passports. France has secured the top position as its passport grants visa-free access to 194 countries.

However, Indian passport's decline has come as a surprise given the fact that visa-free access to countries for Indians has increased over the last year. In 2024, Indian passport holders can travel visa-free to [a] countries as compared to 60 countries in 2023.

When it comes to India's neighbours, Pakistan has got the 106th place, similar to last year, while Bangladesh has slipped from 101st to 102nd position.

Interestingly, Maldives has got a much better rank than India, securing the 58th place as Maldivian passport holders enjoy visa-free travel to 96 countries.

The Henley Passport Index comes up with the rankings from analysis of data spanning the past 19 years, based on the International Air Transport Association's (IATA) specialized data, covering 199 different passports and 227 travel destinations worldwide. The Index is updated monthly.

Ref- <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/india-falls-in-worlds-most-powerful-passports-ranking-who-tops-the-list-101708351925967.html>

43. What has been redacted by [X] in this passage?
(a) 86th (b) 84th (c) 85th (d) 88th
44. Which country secured the top spot in the Henley Passport Index for 2024?
(a) Russia (b) Netherland (c) France (d) UK
45. How many countries can Indian passport holders travel visa-free to in 2024?
(a) 58 (b) 60 (c) 62 (d) 64
46. Which countries are among the top-ranked alongside France in the Henley Passport Index for 2024?
(a) Germany, Italy, Japan, Singapore, and Spain
(b) China, India, Brazil, Russia, and Australia
(c) United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand
(d) Brazil, Mexico, South Africa, Argentina, and Turkey
47. Consider the following statements:
I. In 2006, people could travel visa-free to an average of 58 countries, while this year that number has nearly doubled to 111 countries.
II. The Henley Passport Index derives its rankings from data spanning the past 19 years, based on the International Air Transport Association's (IATA) specialized data, covering 199 different passports and 227 travel destinations worldwide.
(a) Both I & II are incorrect. (b) Only I is correct.
(c) Both I & II are correct. (d) Only II is correct.
48. Which of the following statement is incorrect?
(a) Henley Passport Index ranks nations based on strength of their passports.
(b) Pakistan maintains its position at 106th place, similar to last year, while Bangladesh has slipped from 101st to 102nd position.
(c) Maldives, continues to have a strong passport, maintaining its position at 58th place, with Maldivian passport holders enjoying visa-free travel to 96 countries.
(d) Germany, Italy, Japan, China, and Netherland are also among the top-ranked countries alongside France.

Passage (Q.49-Q.52): World Governments Summit 2024

At the invitation of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister, Defence Minister, and the Ruler of Dubai, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi participated in the World Governments Summit in [x] as Guest of Honour, on 14 February 2024. He delivered the special keynote address on the theme of the Summit – “Shaping the Future Governments”. Prime Minister had attended the World Governments Summit in 2018, also as Guest of Honour. The Summit this time saw participation of 20 world leaders, including 10 Presidents and 10 Prime Ministers. Governments and delegates from over 120 countries were represented at the global gathering.

In his address, Prime Minister shared his thoughts on the changing nature of governance. He highlighted India’s transformative reforms based on the mantra of “Minimum Government, Maximum Governance”. Sharing Indian experience on how the country had leveraged digital technology to further welfare, inclusivity and sustainability, he called for a human- centric approach to governance. He also underlined India’s focus on people’s participation, last-mile-delivery and women-led development to achieve an inclusive society.

Prime Minister emphasised that given the inter-connected nature of the world, governments must collaborate and learn from each other to address future challenges.

Ref- https://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/pms-participation-in-world-governments-summit-2024/

49. What has been redacted by [X] in this passage?
(a) Dubai (b) Paris (c) New Delhi (d) Singapore
50. Which of the following edition of the World Governments Summit held in February 2024?
(a) 14th (b) 11th (c) 16th (d) 8th
51. Consider the following statements:
I. In 2024, the World Governments Summit had took place under the theme of 'Shaping Future Governments' where the conversation will involve governments, international organizations, thought leaders, and private sector leaders from around the globe to international cooperation.
II. Since its inception in 2013, the Summit has championed the mission of shaping future governments and creating a better future for humanity.
(a) Both I & II are incorrect. (b) Only I is correct.
(c) Both I & II are correct. (d) Only II is correct.
52. Who out of the following is the present President of the United Arab Emirates?
(a) Sheikh Mohamed bin Rashid al bahyan
(b) Sheikh Mohamed bin latif al Jahid
(c) Sheikh Mohamed bin Safiqullah
(d) Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan

SECTION – C: LEGAL REASONING

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

Passage (Q.53-Q.58): The Gauhati High Court had observed that the police could not use their uniform as a shield when any allegation of unlawful conduct at the police station is raised against them. The mandate to obtain sanction under Section 197 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) for taking cognisance of offences against police personnel applies only if the alleged act is reasonably connected to the discharge of official duty, the Court reiterated. "Only because they are in the police station with their uniform, they cannot take the shield the uniform to protect their unlawful conduct," the Court made it clear. In case of an act of policeman or any other public servant not connected with the official duty, there can be no question of sanction, single-judge Justice Rumi Kumari Phukan ruled. Supreme Court has unanimously clarified that criminal misconduct and misdemeanour on the part of a public servant are not to be treated as an act of discharge of his official duties. If the act alleged against a police officer is reasonably connected to the discharge of his official duty, it does not matter if the policeman has exceeded the scope of his power and/or beyond the four corners of the law, the Court added, however he can claim section 197 only in discharge of his official duty and not a moral duty.

[Source: <https://lawupdates.in/section-197-crpc-police-cannot-use-their-uniform-as-shield-against-unlawful-conduct-gauhati-high-court/>]

53. Pooram was a police officer and he was very honest. However, he recently got into the habit of drinking because he was having some differences with his wife. He used to be drunk on duty as well. One fine day, the police officers had to do a raid in a drug dealing. Pooram was as usual drunk that day as well. When they reached the place where the drug dealing was supposed to take place, Pooram went ahead and started beating an innocent civilian who happened to be there by mistake. He held Pooram liable for criminal misconduct.
- (a) Pooram cannot be held liable as he was discharging his official duties.
(b) He cannot be held liable because the civilian should not have been present at the place of drug dealing.
(c) Pooram's criminal misconduct cannot be ignored and he will be held liable.
(d) Pooram was stressed and so he cannot be held liable.
54. Shyam was a police officer. He was sitting in the park with his family as it was a holiday for him. While, sitting in the park and looking around, he soon saw a child being kidnapped, he saw that the child was pushed into a black van and he was crying as well. Shyam ran towards the moving van and then threw a brick towards the van. The brick broke a window of the van and the driver got injured severely. He later held Shyam accountable for criminal misdemeanour. Can he be held liable?
- (a) Yes, as he was not discharging his official duties.
(b) Yes, because he exceeded the scope of his powers.
(c) No, because being a police officer it was always his duty to protect the civilians.
(d) No, because he believed the child was getting kidnapped.
55. Suppose in the previous question, Shyam was on duty however, he was merely not wearing his uniform, as he was undercover, can he still be held liable?
- (a) No, because he can claim immunity under section 197 of CrPC.
(b) Yes, he can still be held liable as he was not in uniform.
(c) He was only discharging a moral duty.
(d) No, because he is a police officer and he was protecting a child.
56. Inno was investigating a high-profile murder case. Later on, while going through all the details of the cases, he got to know that the case was not merely a murder case and it was not as simple as it looked, it also involved a drug cartel and a group of people involved in human trafficking. He went to the designated place where allegedly the trafficked girls were kept. On reaching there, the information turned out to be true, he had his loaded gun in his hand he soon opened fire there and killed a lot of criminals, he ended up however, injuring a girl as well. The girl sued him for causing grievous hurt to her. Can he be held liable?

-
- (a) No, he was discharging his official duty so he can claim protection under section 197.
 - (b) No, as he did not intend to hurt the girl.
 - (c) The girl's family should be grateful their daughter was saved and should not sue Inno.
 - (d) Inno should not have opened fire, that was disproportionate to the danger being posed.

57. Rakha was handed a search warrant to search the house of a notorious criminal named Khuda Baksh. The latter was a very notorious and dangerous dacoit, he was held in the jail however, the police needed concrete evidence and they got to know that he was hiding a lot of gold from his recent dacoity. Rakha went to his house and started searching the house, Khuda Baksh's wife was there and Rakha was infuriated at her husband, so he beat the wife up really bad. She filed a complaint against him for assault. Can Rakha claim protection under section 197?
- (a) No, because beating the wife was not a reasonable act in discharging his duties.
 - (b) Yes, because she was being an impediment in the search procedure.
 - (c) Yes, because he was angry at her husband.
 - (d) No, because he beat her up really badly and should not get away with it.
58. Suppose in the previous question Rakha was searching the house and the wife called other dacoits who worked under Khuda Baksh to kill Rakha. Then Rakha had to kill all of them to protect himself, can he claim protection under section 197 now?
- (a) No, he cannot claim protection under section 197.
 - (b) Yes, he cannot claim protection under section 197.
 - (c) Yes, he can claim protection under section 197.
 - (d) No, he can claim protection under section 197.

Passage (Q.59-Q.64): Private defence is a legal right given to individuals to protect themselves, their property, or others from harm. It is recognized under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) as a general exception to the criminal offense of causing harm or using force against someone. Private defence is considered lawful when it is necessary and proportionate to the threat faced by the defender.

Section 96 of the IPC gives the primary exception of private defence. Section 97 further elaborates the scope of the same to defending a person's own body, and body of any person and any property movable and immovable of oneself or of any other person against acts falling under the definition of theft, robbery, mischief or criminal trespass, or which is an attempt to commit theft, robbery, mischief or criminal trespass. The right of private defence extends to situations where the offender is of unsound mind or even if the same is acting under a misconception or a mistake of fact.

That said Section 99 of the IPC curtails the right to exercise private defence. Private defence shall be used in face of an imminent threat of harm. The threat must be real, present, and immediate. The force used in private defence must be necessary and proportionate to the harm threatened. It means that the defender cannot use more force than what is necessary to repel the attack. Private defence is not available to a person who has the opportunity to approach the authorities or to get assistance from the public. The right of private defence does not extend to the use of force that is intended to cause death or grievous harm. Private defence cannot be claimed against an action taken by direction of a public servant in good faith under the colour of his office.

59. A was running in a public park in the morning. A has been feeling paranoid lately due to an astrologer's prediction that someone is after his life. While running, A saw a man running behind him. A started running faster fearing that he is under attack from that man. The man behind started running faster and was coming closer to A, when he was right behind A, he swung his arm on the man hitting him in the head and fleeing away. Can A take the exception of private defence, decide:
- (a) A can take the exception of private defence as the man was an imminent threat to A's life.
 - (b) A cannot take the exception of private defence as threat was not a real one rather was imaginary.
 - (c) A can take the exception of private defence as any reasonable person would think that a person running behind you is chasing you.
 - (d) A cannot take the exception of private defence as if A felt threatened, he should have gone to the authorities.

-
60. Continuing with the same facts as given above, after fleeing from the park, A went to his car to drive home. The man whom A hit followed A to his car with a big stick and hit the hood of the car. The man was accompanied by a group of people who were holding various weapons of sorts. A got very scared and ran the car over the man which led to his death. Can A take the exception of private defence, decide:
- (a) A can take the exception of private defence as the man was about to cause threat to A's life.
 - (b) A can take the exception of private defence as the man's action were sufficient enough to incite the fear of death in A.
 - (c) A cannot take the exception of private defence as if A felt threatened, he should have gone to the authorities.
 - (d) A cannot take the exception of private defence as the action for defending himself was not proportionate.
61. After witnessing the death of the man, the group of people were shocked and started fleeing from the site. Noticing them fleeing A started chasing them with the thought that he would also get rid of them and only then will his life be secure. Can A take the exception of private defence, decide:
- (a) A can take the exception of private defence as the group of men did pose an imminent threat to A's life.
 - (b) A can take the exception of private defence as they were accomplices of the man and had the same motive.
 - (c) A cannot take the exception of private defence as the group of men were fleeing and now did not pose any threat to A's life.
 - (d) A cannot take the exception of private defence as the group of men never attacked him thus did not pose any threat to A's life.
62. X and Y are friends that live in the same house. Both X and Y carry out numerous pranks on each other throughout the day. One day X planned to prank Y by staging a robbery in his room. While Y was sleeping X climbed through the window, but Y suddenly woke up and under the impression that there is a robbery under way he started beating X. Can Y claim the exception of private defence, decide:
- (a) Yes, Y can claim the exception as he acted in self-defence believing that there was an actual robbery happening in his room.
 - (b) Yes, Y can claim the exception as he acted in a way that any reasonable person would act.
 - (c) No, Y cannot claim the exception as he was under the misconception that there was a robbery.
 - (d) No, Y cannot claim the exception as he should have known that it was his friend X.
63. V was walking on the street with his wife N and their new-born daughter. While P was driving a car down the road, the breaks of her car failed and the car started meandering on the street. The car was about to hit V, N and their daughter from behind but in the nick of time K jumped and pushed the three out of danger. While pushing them out of the way N was injured which caused her to have a broken arm. Can K avail the exception of private defence, decide:
- (a) Yes, K can avail the defence as she acted in manner to protect the V, N and their daughter.
 - (b) Yes, K can avail the defence as she acted in manner to save herself and by mistake injured N.
 - (c) No, K cannot avail the defence as the same only applies when a person is directly attacked.
 - (d) No, K cannot avail the defence as the same was not reasonable.
64. Facts in continuation: As K pushed them aside, V got up and saw that her wife and daughter are in bruises. Infuriated by the same V rushed towards P's crashed car and got her out of it and started beating her. Can V avail the exception of private defence, decide:
- (a) V can avail the defence as P's acts put his and his family's life in danger.
 - (b) V cannot avail the defence as the threat on V and his family's life was curtailed and now V was just being an aggressor.
 - (c) V can avail the defence as P's conduct led to his family being injured and V had a right to do something about it.
 - (d) V cannot avail the defence as him going and beating P is not proportionate and reasonable.

Passage (Q.65-Q.69): The term “void” is given under Section 2(g) of the Act which states as follows: “An agreement not enforceable by law is said to be void.” A void agreement is not enforceable at the option of either party. e.g., agreements which are only partly illegal/unlawful i.e., which are opposed to the law of the land, the court will enforce the part which is not illegal provided that it is severable from the rest of the agreement. In many cases of contracts relating to trade or legal proceedings, the court knock out the objectionable clause of the agreement and allow rest to be enforced. Another example of severance, Section 27 says that an agreement shall be void to that extent i.e., to the extent of unreasonable restraint. Whereas agreements that are void ab initio i.e., void from the beginning, may be avoided altogether and if any price is paid, it cannot be recovered.

Illegality of an agreement is also a void agreement, but it is not necessary that void agreement is always illegal.

The only material difference between an illegal and void agreement relates to their effect upon collateral transactions. A collateral transaction means a transaction subsidiary to the main transaction. For example, where money is given to a person to enable him to pay a wagering debt, the wage is the main transaction and the loan subsidiary to it. If the main transaction is only void, its collateral transaction will remain enforceable. If the main transaction is illegal, for example, smuggling, a collateral transaction like money given to a person to smuggle, will also be tainted with the same illegality and the money will be irrevocable.

[Extracted with revisions from <https://www.scconline.com/blog/post/2021/01/30/validity-of-a-contract-voidable-contract-and-void-agreement-as-given-under-indian-contract-act-1872/>]

65. A and B contracted with each other for delivery of a shipment of goods. The goods were to be transported from a warehouse in London to a port in Chennai through a ship named "Queen of the Sea". Queen of the Sea was to complete the voyage in 2 months. Unknown to A and B, the ship had sunk due to some damage sustained in a storm during its previous voyage. Decide the validity of the contract between A and B.
- The contract between A and B is valid since they were unaware of the status of the ship
 - The contract between A and B is illegal since the ship had already sunk
 - The contract between A and B is void since the ship had already sunk
 - The contract between A and B is enforceable
66. In the previous question, in order to complete the contract, A had paid B a sum of Rs. 10,000 as advance in order to complete the bargain. Once the ship would reach Chennai, A was obligated to pay B the balance amount of Rs. 90,000. Once A got to know that the ship had already sunk before it started its voyage, he demanded his money back from B because he could no longer complete his end of the bargain. B claims that he is not liable to return the money to A. Can A force B to return his money?
- Yes, because the agreement between A and B was void and unenforceable
 - Yes, because the ship had already sunk even before it began its voyage from London to Chennai
 - No, because the money paid by A was not part of a collateral transaction ancillary to the main contract
 - No, because the agreement between A and B was void ab initio
67. Tees Maar Khan was a famous thief who went on international escapes to look for the most precious and exclusive objects in the world. Raghu was a rich art collector who prided himself on owning the world's best art collection. He asked Tees Maar Khan to steal the famous painting of Monalisa by Leonardo Da Vinci from France. This involved two steps: traveling to Paris from Mumbai and stealing the painting from the Louvre museum. Tees Maar Khan was unsuccessful in stealing the painting. However, he is now asking Raghu to reimburse him for the airplane tickets from Mumbai to Paris because he went there for him. Raghu is saying that he is not obligated to pay him because the contract is not enforceable. Is Raghu correct?
- Yes, because the contract to steal the painting was illegal and hence non enforceable
 - Yes, because Tees Maar Khan failed to complete the contractual obligations
 - No, because the action of going to France is separate from the action of stealing the painting
 - No, because the contract was only partly illegal in nature and can be enforced

-
68. In the case of ABC Electronics v. XYZ Components, a contract was entered into between the two parties ABC and XYZ for the supply of electronic components. The contract included a clause that stipulated the use of child labour in the manufacturing process, which is illegal and against the labour laws of the land. As a result, the main contract was deemed void due to its illegality. However, the rest of the contract, excluding the clause on child labour, remained lawful and valid. What will be the legal outcome concerning the enforceability of the contract?
- The entire contract, including the lawful part, becomes void and unenforceable.
 - The entire contract remains valid and enforceable, despite the illegality of one clause.
 - The court will enforce the lawful part of the contract, considering it to be severable from the illegal clause.
 - The court will enforce the entire contract, disregarding the illegality of the clause on child labour.
69. In the case of XYZ Drug Trafficking Organization v. Law Enforcement, Mr. John, a member of the XYZ Drug Trafficking Organization, entered into an illegal agreement with Mr. Smith to purchase a large quantity of illegal narcotics. As part of the agreement, Mr. John also lent a significant sum of money to Mr. Smith to finance the transportation of the illegal drugs. What is the legal status of the collateral transaction in this case?
- The entire contract remains valid, except for the clause on prohibited construction materials.
 - The entire contract, including the payment terms, becomes void and unenforceable.
 - The court will enforce the payment terms specified in the contract, considering them to be severable from the illegal clause.
 - The court will enforce the clause on prohibited narcotics but will strike down the payment terms.

Passage (Q.70-Q.74): Current/Chapter: Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj Act- Essentials to stand for an election

The Karnataka High Court has ruled that failing to disclose assets or concealing assets of a candidate, their spouse, or dependents constitutes a corrupt practice. The Court observed that such actions could result in the disqualification of the candidate from participating in a panchayat election under the Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj Act. The Court added that such suppression by itself is enough to attract disqualification and that there is no requirement to prove that the suppression resulted in an adverse impact on the election prospects of another candidate. A Bench of Justice Suraj Govindaraj made these observations while dealing with a challenge to an October 2022 trial court order that had quashed the election of a candidate, Abida Begum to a gram panchayat. The said order was passed after one, Mohammed Ismail challenged Abida Begum's election on the ground that she had failed to disclose her and her husband's assets. The said suppression would amount to a corrupt practice by Abida Begum in terms of Section 19(1) (b) of the Panchayat Raj Act, Ismail had contended. Abida Begum eventually challenged the trial court's order in Ismail's election petition before the High Court. The Court relied on various Supreme Court judgments to observe that the purity of election at all levels, be it election to the Union Parliament or a State Legislature or a Municipal Corporation, or Panchayat is of national importance, in which area uniform policies are desirable in the interest of all the States. Therefore, disclosure of assets has to be made by the candidate, spouse of the candidate and other dependent members, the Court said. "It is not only suggestio falsi i.e., suggesting of false information regarding the assets but also suppressio veri i.e., suppression of details relating to the assets which would be covered under Section 19 of the Panchayat Raj Act. That is to say suggestio falsi and suppressio veri of assets of the candidate, his or her spouse and dependent would come within the purview of Section 19 (1) (b) of the Panchayat Raj Act," the Court further observed. Non-disclosure of the same would, therefore, amount to undue influence and a corrupt practice, the Court said. (Source:<https://www.barandbench.com/news/litigation/non-disclosure-assets-candidates-corrupt-practice-disqualification-election-karnataka-high-court>)

70. According to the Karnataka High Court's ruling and observations in the context of panchayat elections, which of the following scenarios would not constitute a corrupt practice leading to a candidate's disqualification?
- A candidate fails to disclose assets belonging to their dependent children.
 - A candidate conceals their own assets during the election process.
 - A candidate omits to disclose their spouse's assets before the election.
 - A candidate conceal information about their assets to influence voters.

-
71. Y made the decision to stand in the upcoming panchayat elections. He was a member of a royal family. As a result, he disclosed every asset and property that was registered in his name. He additionally listed the assets and properties that were held in his father's name. Following the panchayat elections by one month, he was intended to marry P. The P-owned assets, however, were left out of his statements. Find out if his eligibility might be questioned in this situation. To choose the right answer, refer to the passage.
- (a) Y's candidature cannot be challenged because he has already reported all of his assets.
 - (b) Y's candidature may be challenged because he failed to disclose the details of his spouse's holdings.
 - (c) Y's candidature cannot be challenged because he was not legally obligated to reveal the details of P's assets.
 - (d) Y's candidature can be challenged because he violated the Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj Act.
72. G had a family of five members. She shared a home with her husband, her 6-month-old son, and her in-laws. She wished to stand in the upcoming elections. As a precondition, she detailed all of her and her husband's assets. She did not, however, reveal the specifics of her in-laws' holdings. As a result, when this information became public, another candidate, O, filed a petition to challenge G's candidature. Determine the veracity of O's challenge.
- (a) His claim is invalid since G was only required to report assets pertaining to her and her husband.
 - (b) His claim cannot be sustained because G met all of the requirements before standing in the elections.
 - (c) G's candidature can be challenged since she broke the law by failing to disclose the specifics of her son's assets.
 - (d) G's candidature can be challenged because she was obligated by law to reveal the assets of her in-laws as well.
73. Q and F were brothers, however due to a job transfer; F relocated to another country and established his home there. Despite this, the brothers had a great relationship and used to get together at festivals. However, they both earned and lived independent lives. Q's wife wished to run in the elections. She provided information on her and her husband's assets for this purpose. She, however, omitted to mention F's assets. She was disqualified as a result of this. Do you consider she received appropriate treatment? Justify your answer with proper logic.
- (a) She was correctly dismissed since she omitted all of her family members' assets.
 - (b) Due to the fact that she was not obligated to declare F's assets, she should not have been disqualified.
 - (c) She was rightfully dismissed because she violated the Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj Act's provisions.
 - (d) Since the passage lacks sufficient details to make a determination, it is uncertain to say whether she should have been disqualified or not.
74. X wanted to contest the state elections that will be held soon. In addition to being a probable candidate for the 2018 elections, he served as the Chief Minister for the previous five years. In order to comply with the law, he revealed all pertinent information, including financial information, but he left out any information about his wife. Analyze the possibility of a challenge to his candidature.
- (a) His candidature cannot be challenged because such information is only required for panchayat elections.
 - (b) His candidature cannot be challenged because he met all of the requirements.
 - (c) His candidature may be challenged since he failed to disclose his spouse's financial information.
 - (d) Since he cannot run for two terms at the same time, his election as a candidate can be challenged.

Passage: (Q.75-Q.79): The element of consent is one of the critical issues in medical treatment. The patient has a legal right to autonomy and self-determination enshrined within Article 21 of the Indian Constitution. He can refuse treatment except in an emergency situation where the doctor need not get consent for treatment for all cases. There are two more additional aspects to be borne in mind: first, valid consent can be obtained only from a patient who is competent to consent and secondly, such consent must also be informed consent. To be competent to give a legally effective consent, the patient must be endowed with the ability to weigh the risks and benefits of the treatment that is being proposed to him. The law presumes that such ability is generally acquired with the attainment of the age of maturity. A person who has attained the competent age and who has sound mind can give valid consent to the medical practitioner for any treatment. Persons who have attained the age of

18 are generally considered to have attained the age of maturity and are competent to give consent. If there is incompetency, consent of parents or guardians must be obtained. In absence of any legal guardians to give consent, the child and their protector's consent would do. The law also presumes that the medical practitioner is in a dominating position vis-à-vis the patient; hence, it is his duty to obtain proper consent by providing all the necessary information. Consent without necessary information is no consent at all. Unfortunately, the expression 'informed consent' is often used without precision. The "informed consent" doctrine is American in origin and relates to the amount of information that a patient should be provided with to avoid any probable action in criminal or civil negligence. Rarely, a medical practitioner or a hospital administrator can rely upon the consent form signed by the patient, when the contention is that he was made to sign on the dotted lines of such format without proving necessary information. There must be information provided with all necessary details to the patient or his relatives.

[Source: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2779959/>]

75. Ashlesha, a sixteen year old, is diagnosed with a medical condition requiring surgery. She lives with her relatives as her parents have gone abroad to visit her sibling. Ashlesha has been well-informed about her condition, the proposed surgery, its risks, benefits, and alternatives by her healthcare provider. After thorough discussions with the healthcare team about all side-effects and precautions, Ashlesha expresses a clear and informed yearning to undergo the surgery to address her health issue and signs the written form. Can the doctors proceed with her surgery negating their liability in light of the passage?
- (a) Yes, because she has given her consent and due to presence of all necessary details, this was informed consent.
 - (b) No, because Ashlesha has not reached the age of competency for providing informed consent.
 - (c) Yes, because Ashlesha has fulfilled all the requirements of consent under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution.
 - (d) No, because Ashlesha should have gotten the consent of her parents for the surgery as she was not of sound mind.
76. A fifteen-year-old, named Rajesh, is involved in a severe car accident. Upon arrival at the hospital, Rajesh is unconscious and in critical condition, with injuries that require urgent surgical intervention to prevent further complications and potentially save his life. Medical assessments indicate that immediate surgery is imperative to address internal bleeding and other life-threatening injuries. Despite efforts to contact Rajesh's parents or legal guardians as ascertained from his wallet, they are unreachable. A hospital staff offers to sign the consent form for him. If the doctor operates on him, will he be liable for any criminal or civil action in the light of the passage?
- (a) Yes, because Rajesh has not reached the age of competency which requires consent to be obtained from his parents or guardians.
 - (b) No, because there can be waiver of consent requirement in times of emergency in all cases regardless of competency.
 - (c) Yes, because there was minority in the age of Rajesh and there was absence of any emergency situation.
 - (d) No, because there was consent given by the protector of the child in absence of parents or guardians.
77. Minku, aged twenty seven years, arrives at a hospital for a surgical procedure. Upon arrival, they are presented with a consent form to sign, which outlines the brief benefits, and alternatives of the surgery, but without any accompanying information or discussion from the medical staff. Feeling pressured by the hospital staff to proceed with the surgery, Minku signs the form after reading the form but without fully comprehending its contents. During the surgery, unforeseen complications arise that were not adequately explained in the consent form. As a result, Minku experiences serious adverse effects, leading to prolonged recovery and additional medical interventions. Can Minku prosecute the hospital or the doctor for any criminal or civil action according to the passage?
- (a) Yes, because there was requirement of a written detailed report on all repercussions of the surgery to Minku.
 - (b) No, because there was information provided in the consent form to a competently aged Minku.
 - (c) Yes, because there was consent obtained from a competent patient but it was not informed.
 - (d) No, because all the requirements of informed consent and competency are being met in Minku's surgery.

-
78. Uriva, aged fourteen, has been diagnosed with a medical condition that necessitates surgical intervention for their well-being. She attends a school whose attendance would be missed for a week by her. As the orphanage does not have legal guardianship over the child, the responsibility for providing consent for the surgery falls into a grey area. There are no known relatives or legal guardians available to provide consent on behalf of Uriva. What can be the proper course of action for Uriva's case in light of the passage?
- There must be consent obtained from Uriva and her school's headmaster after providing them with all detailed information.
 - There must be consent obtained from Uriva as it is a peculiar situation with absence of guardians or parents.
 - There must be consent obtained from relatives of Uriva as they can be constructive guardians for her in granting consent.
 - There must be consent obtained from Uriva and her protector, the orphanage people, with all detailed information.
79. Due to his unconscious state after five days of an almost fatal incident, Mr. Singh is unable to provide consent for the surgery himself. He was operated without any written or oral consent when he was brought to the hospital as he was profusely losing blood. His relatives reached the hospital while his surgery was ongoing and have remained present with him since that day. Can the hospital proceed with another surgery without consent due to his unconscious state?
- Yes, because there is an emergency situation for Mr. Singh which negates the requirement of informed consent.
 - No, because there is no emergency situation for Mr. Singh and his guardians are present to give consent.
 - Yes, because Mr. Singh's case is falling under the exception of compulsory requirement of consent and competency.
 - No, because Mr. Singh can give tacit or implied consent after a rejuvenating drug is administered to him.

Passage (Q.80-Q.84): "Nemo Judex In Causa Sua" literally translates to "no one should be made a judge in their cause." According to this principle, decision-makers must be impartial and unbiased while deciding the dispute. They should not have any personal or financial interest in the matter being decided, nor should they have any preconceived notions about the parties involved or the subject matter. The rule against bias is based follows two principles:

- No one should be a judge in his cause.
- Justice should not only be done but also seen to be done explicitly.

A different form of bias that an adjudicating authority can be accused of is given as follows:

1. PERSONAL BIAS

Personal bias arises from the personal or professional relationship between the authority and the parties to the dispute. In *Mineral Development Ltd. v. The State of Bihar & Ors.*, the Government granted the petitioners a mining lease in 1947. But the same was quashed in 1955 by the Government. The petitioners alleged that the quashing order suffered from personal bias as the minister who passed the order had a political rivalry. The Hon'ble Supreme Court found the allegations true and quashed the said order.

2. PECUNIARY BIAS

Pecuniary bias means any bias in which the adjudicating authority has a direct financial interest in the outcome of the dispute. In the case of *N.B. Jeejeebhoy v. Assistant Collector, Thana*, the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India reconstituted the bench when it found out that one of the members was a member of the cooperative society for which the land had been acquired.

3. SUBJECT-MATTER BIAS

Subject matter bias means bias in which the adjudicating authority is inclined towards any particular issue. It relates to the behavioral attitude of the judge. In *Gullapalli Nageswara Rao and Ors. v. Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation and Ors.*, the Hon'ble SC quashed the Andhra Pradesh government's decision to nationalize road transport. They quashed it on the ground that the secretary of the transport department who gave the hearing was interested in the subject matter of the dispute. Hence, the same amounted to violation of the principles of natural justice.

Extracted with edits and revisions from. <https://articles.manupatra.com/>

-
80. A judge overseeing a high-stakes patent infringement case has a sibling working at the plaintiff's law firm, though not directly involved in the case. Critics argue this relationship necessitates recusal to avoid any appearance of bias. Assess the judge's obligation to recuse themselves under the principle of impartiality.
- (a) Recusal mandatory; even indirect relationships compromise perceived impartiality.
 - (b) No recusal needed unless sibling is part of the legal team on the case.
 - (c) Recusal advised; maintaining public confidence in judiciary outweighs judge's personal integrity.
 - (d) No recusal if judge declares the relationship and parties consent to continue.
81. A legislator, who owns a substantial stake in renewable energy, drafts a bill providing tax incentives for renewable energy investments. Critics claim this creates a conflict of interest, potentially influencing the bill's provisions to favor the legislator's investments. Evaluate the legislator's ethical position in light of conflict of interest principles.
- (a) Ethical breach; personal financial interests should not influence legislative drafting.
 - (b) Ethical breach if the incentives apply broadly and not solely to legislator's investments.
 - (c) Disclosure of financial interest absolves conflict of interest, allowing bill progression.
 - (d) Only unethical if legislator directly intervenes in bill's passage for personal gain.
82. The head of an academic committee reviewing grant applications previously criticized the research methodology of one of the applicants in a public forum. The applicant claims this prior criticism constitutes a bias against their grant proposal. Determine the head's ability to impartially evaluate the proposal.
- (a) Inability to remain impartial; previous public criticism taints objectivity.
 - (b) Can be impartial if criticism was solely on professional, not personal, grounds.
 - (c) Recusal necessary to avoid any perception of bias in grant evaluation process.
 - (d) Objectivity intact if head can separate previous criticism from current evaluation.
83. A government official responsible for awarding contracts for public works is found to have received loans from a CEO whose company frequently bids for such contracts. While the loans were on market terms and official declaration has been made, allegations of a pecuniary bias have arisen. Assess the official's position regarding conflict of interest.
- (a) Clear conflict of interest; financial transactions with bidding companies are inappropriate.
 - (b) No conflict if loans were transparent and declared in the official's financial disclosures.
 - (c) Conflict present even though an official declaration has been made.
 - (d) Only a conflict if evidence shows loans influenced the contract awarding process.
84. During a contentious municipal election, a candidate serving on the election oversight committee makes public comments suggesting bias against an opponent. Allegations of undermining the electoral process's integrity are raised. Evaluate the appropriateness of the candidate's continued service on the committee.
- (a) Appropriate if candidate publicly retracts biased statements and commits to neutrality.
 - (b) Inappropriate due to public statements indicating bias..
 - (c) Continued service acceptable with strict monitoring and review of decisions by an independent body.
 - (d) Inappropriate, as such comments create a perceived conflict of interest indicating bias, demanding resignation or recusal.

SECTION D: LOGICAL REASONING

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

Passage (Q.85-Q.90): The decision by the 28-party Opposition alliance, INDIA, to draw up a list of 14 television anchors they will boycott, and then to release it Thursday, sets a disturbing precedent even in a discourse where naming and shaming have become a custom. Admittedly, many on the list practise, or are incentivised to practise, an upside-down journalism which seeks to flatter the government and discredit the Opposition, almost by rote. They — and those who sign their paychecks — have, perhaps, seen it as worth their while to give up their professional responsibility to ask questions that need to be asked, of those in power. Many of them tread, and slip on, thinning lines, whipping up hate hour by hour. Indeed, for these very reasons, what INDIA has done is a stunning self-goal. In a democracy where spaces for dissent and disagreement are increasingly coming under threat, the Opposition's boycott list strengthens that which it claims to oppose. It shrinks the space for honest, good journalism and journalists — it threatens press freedom.

All its righteous rhetoric about not wanting to legitimise the peddling of hate, all its high-minded claims about setting up a window of love in the bazaar of hate, and in the Patna resolution — where it put its first building blocks in place — of restoring the nation's damaged "secular and democratic" credentials, cannot mask the intolerance that lies at this decision's core. As many as 11 of the 28 in the alliance are ruling parties in states and the Congress has for long held power at the Centre. Surely, all of them know that a constitutional system is threatened, most of all, when it draws fixed and impermeable lines between "us" and "them", when it shrinks spaces for engagement and negotiation, and when it allows mobs to form and roam free, brandishing lists of targets.

In fact, a large part of the Opposition's inability, so far, to take on the BJP has been this — its criticism of the BJP's vendetta politics and intolerance of dissent lacks conviction and credibility. In the states these Opposition parties rule, they practice a similar narrow-minded politics, while the Congress carries a special burden of its own record, in states and at the Centre, of its governments weaponising laws and agencies to cramp freedoms. Now, with its list of TV anchors, its politics of gag and dog-whistle, the parties of the INDIA alliance undermine their claim to offer a political alternative.

Of course, when parties of the Opposition are feeling besieged, in a one-party dominant system presided over by a winner who wants to take all, they may choose who they talk to, and won't. But to arrogate to themselves the right to public name-calling and paste a label on those they don't agree with not only forecloses possibilities of dialogue and debate, but also calls attention to their own weak and wavering commitment to the freedom of expression that they purport to defend.

These must necessarily be decisions that leave open, for both sides, room for manoeuvre and persuasion. There is no space for blacklists in a democracy, all they do is mark out targets for the mob of your choice. Having made a mistake, the Opposition alliance must waste no time in undoing it. It must keep raising the very valid issue of why citizens in the world's largest democracy need — and deserve — better than anchors with a hateful tongue, on bended knee. But to do this effectively, it must withdraw its list.

85. The author refers to the Opposition alliance's list as a "stunning self-goal". Based on the context of the passage, what can be inferred about the broader implications of this "self-goal"?
- (a) The list signifies the Opposition's commitment to elucidate biased journalism but might fortify the very biases it seeks to expose.
 - (b) The Opposition, by creating this list, showcases an elevated understanding of navigating political narratives in the public domain.
 - (c) The Opposition's boycott list is a strategic response that inadvertently legitimizes the perceived imbalances in media discourse.
 - (d) The move signifies the Opposition's nuanced grasp on curating balanced journalism, irrespective of the broader political implications.

-
86. Which additional piece of information, if true, would strengthen the author's argument that the Opposition alliance's boycott list threatens press freedom?
- (a) Many journalists have publicly expressed apprehension about increased political interference in their editorial decisions.
 - (b) The boycott list contains names of journalists who predominantly cover human rights issues.
 - (c) Television channels with boycotted anchors have experienced a surge in their viewership.
 - (d) The boycott lists published by political parties act as precursors to more stringent media regulations.
87. The passage contends that the Opposition's boycott list potentially shrinks the space for honest journalism. Which of the following is an underlying assumption the author makes about the relationship between journalists and political entities?
- (a) Honest journalists don't remain unimpacted when there is political action against the alleged biased journalists.
 - (b) Journalists often acquiesce to political pressures, compromising their editorial independence.
 - (c) The work of honest journalists doesn't change as they don't worry about action taken against the corrupt journalists.
 - (d) Journalists' credibility is intrinsically linked to their associations with political entities.
88. Which of the following is a paradox mentioned in the passage?
- (a) The opposition's attempt to expose biased journalism is counterproductive yet necessary for the country.
 - (b) The opposition's boycott list restricts the freedom of expression that the opposition claims to oppose.
 - (c) The opposition's boycott of the biased journalism is a step in the right direction but harmful for the country.
 - (d) All of the above.
89. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the author's assertion that the boycott list demonstrates the Opposition alliance's "intolerance"?
- (a) The list was curated after in-depth public discussions and debates involving various sections of society.
 - (b) Over 75% of the boycotted anchors had previously confessed to biased journalism against the Opposition.
 - (c) Renowned international media bodies have boycotted endorsed the boycott list as an essential measure for unbiased journalism.
 - (d) The creation of the list was backed by a study that was done by the internal body of the opposition alliance.
90. Which of the following would be most useful in evaluating the author's argument that the Opposition alliance's decision to boycott certain television anchors sets a disturbing precedent?
- (a) Historical instances where political entities boycotted journalists and the consequences that followed.
 - (b) Ratings and viewership statistics of the boycotted television anchors in the past year.
 - (c) Personal opinions of the boycotted television anchors regarding the Opposition alliance.
 - (d) Recent financial contributions made by media houses to the Opposition alliance.

Passage (Q.91-Q.96): Last Friday, the minutes of the monetary policy committee meeting held in October were released. These reaffirm the committee members' focus on bringing down inflation to the central bank's target of 4 per cent. Inflation in India had surged in the months of July and August, staying well above the upper threshold of the Reserve Bank of India's inflation targeting framework. However, in both its August and October meetings, the MPC had chosen to look through this surge, on grounds that it was driven largely by soaring food, especially vegetable prices, which were transitory in nature. The September data, which was released after the MPC's October meeting, showed that food prices have indeed corrected sharply, vindicating the committee's decision to maintain status quo.

In July, the consumer food price index had surged to 11.5 per cent, up from 4.55 per cent the month before, as vegetable prices soared. However, in the weeks and months thereafter, prices, especially of tomatoes, corrected just as sharply as they had risen. Vegetable inflation that had touched 37.3 per cent in July fell to 3.4 per cent in

September as fresh supplies entered the market. Vegetables have a weight of 15.5 per cent in the food basket and exercise a disproportionate impact on the trajectory of inflation. As per a recent report by Crisil, vegetable prices have been trending upwards in recent years. Between 2019-20 and 2022-23, vegetable inflation averaged 5.7 per cent, up from 0 per cent between 2015-16 and 2018-19. Alongside, the frequency of the price spikes has also increased. As per the report, in the past 100 months, vegetable inflation was above 7 per cent in 35 months, and above 10 per cent in 30 months. The volatility in vegetable prices is in fact much more than that in overall food prices. The report identifies supply-demand mismatches, ups and downs in production, as triggers for these trends.

After the dry weather in August, the outlook on food prices has improved in recent weeks. The rains revived in September, and the impact of El Nino has been less severe than expected. The September data shows that food inflation now appears to be more concentrated in cereals (10.9 per cent) and pulses (16.4 per cent). The RBI's latest forecast also indicates that the worst is over. Inflation is projected to fall from 6.4 per cent in the second quarter (July-September) to 5.6 per cent in the third quarter (October-December). However, the MPC must continue to remain vigilant. As the RBI Governor noted in his statement, policy must take action to "prevent any spillover from food and fuel price shocks to the underlying inflation trends". The guiding objective of the committee must be to ensure price stability.

91. Given the observed impact of seasonal weather patterns, such as dry weather and later revival of rains, on food prices, what can be inferred about the causative relationship between weather conditions and food inflation in India?
- (a) Prolonged dry spells, reducing crop yield, doesn't have an immediate and escalating effect on food prices.
 - (b) The relationship between unseasonal rains and short-term food inflation is invariably proportional.
 - (c) Weather-induced agricultural disruptions, while significant, interact with other market dynamics.
 - (d) Intense weather variability predominantly affects perishable food items, thereby marginally influencing overall inflation.
92. Based on the data presented regarding vegetable price volatility and its average inflation between 2019-20 and 2022-23, what can be most reasonably concluded about the predictability of overall food price inflation in India?
- (a) Vegetable prices significantly contribute to the stability of overall food price inflation.
 - (b) The steady rise in vegetable prices indicates a trend of persistent food inflation.
 - (c) High vegetable price volatility undermines the predictability of food inflation trends.
 - (d) Seasonal patterns in vegetable prices offer reliable indicators for future food inflation.
93. What is an underlying assumption in the RBI Governor's claim that policy must take action to "prevent any spillover from food and fuel price shocks to the underlying inflation trends"?
- (a) Food and fuel prices have a significant, direct impact on core inflation metrics.
 - (b) Fluctuations in food and fuel prices are primarily driven by external market factors.
 - (c) The central bank has effective tools to control food and fuel price volatility.
 - (d) Spillover from food and fuel prices can lead to inflationary expectations among consumers.
94. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the argument that the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) forecast of a decline in inflation from 6.4% in the second quarter to 5.6% in the third quarter is likely to be accurate?
- (a) A gradual reduction in the central bank's repo rate has been effectively implemented in the last quarter.
 - (b) Detailed reports indicate a consistent increase in industrial production and capacity utilization nationwide.
 - (c) Recent import data reveals a significant drop in the import of inflation-sensitive commodities such as oil and gold.
 - (d) Official statistics show a steady decrease in the consumer price index for non-food, non-fuel items over the past two months.

-
95. Which of the following is the primary argument of the author?
- (a) Even as outlook on inflation improves, the RBI must continue to remain vigilant.
 - (b) The RBI can take a breather as its efforts have started to bring down the inflation numbers.
 - (c) The current inflation numbers don't give the RBI any room to let its guard down on the inflation.
 - (d) The RBI cannot let its guard down on inflation as it has not realised its target completely.
96. Each of the following is true in light of the passage except that
- (a) Inflation caused by hikes in vegetable prices is generally transient.
 - (b) Prices of vegetables have been more volatile these years as compared to long term average.
 - (c) Vegetable prices is impacted more due to demand-supply gap than prolonged dry spells.
 - (d) September data showed that inflation eased out because of fall in the prices of vegetables.

Passage (Q.97-Q.102): Ever since the launch of its flagship health programme, Ayushman Bharat, in 2018, the Centre has repeatedly underlined the significance of improving accessibility to medical care, especially in rural areas. The project envisages refashioning 1,50,000 public health centres (PHCs) to health and wellness centres (HWCs) to “bring healthcare closer to peoples’ homes”. From the outset it was apparent that this would require addressing the sector’s chronic shortages — doctors, frontline medical professionals and healthcare infrastructure. Since health is a state subject, the Centre’s resolve requires a matching commitment by state governments. By all accounts, most states that have traditionally lagged on welfare indices have not risen to this challenge. As a report in this paper shows, more than 200 community healthcare centres and PHCs in Uttar Pradesh are not even brick-and-mortar structures. A majority of these projects began years before the Yogi Adityanath government assumed office and the state’s health department has flagged irregularities in these construction works. Given that several data repositories place UP as amongst the worst performers in rural healthcare, the state government would be well advised to expedite work on these PHCs.

Private facilities dominate the country’s healthcare landscape. But these centres are concentrated in urban areas, do not have a community-oriented approach and do not focus on preventive care. The latest edition of the Centre’s Rural Health Statistics shows that the medical system outside urban areas continues to be plagued by a shortfall of doctors and infrastructure. Barely 45 per cent PHCs adhere to their mandate of functioning 24×7. Also worrying is the shortage of nurses in several states, including in India’s most populous state. A study published in *The Lancet* in February placed UP among the five states where district hospitals offer only 1 per cent of the basic services.

A PHC is the first point of contact between the village community and a medical professional and, therefore, plays a key role in building local confidence in the system. The significance of these health centres has been highlighted during several disease outbreaks in recent times, including the Covid pandemic. While the public health emergency tested medical preparedness in all parts of the country, it underscored that well-equipped medical centres at the village and district levels are imperative to prevent disease escalation. Other medical emergencies — encephalitis outbreaks in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, for instance — have also driven home this point. That’s why UP — and other states that lag on healthcare indices — must waste no time in getting their act together.

97. Which of the following is the primary argument of the author?
- (a) The move by the government to rebrand public health centres will bring healthcare closer to people.
 - (b) Currently the state commitments on healthcare don't match the centre's resolve on healthcare.
 - (c) The state must improve the condition of public health Centre as it is the first point of contact between the government and public.
 - (d) States that lag on healthcare indices must waste no time in getting their act together.
98. What assumption underlies the Centre’s initiative to transform 1,50,000 public health centres into health and wellness centres in terms of addressing the rural healthcare crisis?
- (a) The transformation will significantly increase medical professionals' presence in rural areas.
 - (b) Rural populations will actively utilize health and wellness centres for their medical needs.
 - (c) Health and wellness centres will primarily address chronic diseases prevalent in rural areas.
 - (d) State governments will efficiently manage and fund these transformed centres.

-
99. To evaluate the effectiveness of the Ayushman Bharat program in improving healthcare in rural areas, which of the following would be most important to determine?
- (a) The number of health and wellness centres successfully converted from PHCs.
 - (b) The extent of state governments' financial contributions to the program.
 - (c) The increase in the number of patients treated at rural health and wellness centres.
 - (d) The percentage reduction in rural healthcare infrastructure shortages.
100. Based on the passage, what can be inferred about the relationship between the availability of brick-and-mortar healthcare facilities and the overall performance of rural healthcare in states like Uttar Pradesh?
- (a) Brick-and-mortar facilities are the only crucial factor in determining healthcare performance.
 - (b) The absence of such facilities correlates with poor rural healthcare performance.
 - (c) Physical healthcare structures have no impact on healthcare delivery in rural areas.
 - (d) More such facilities will automatically lead to improved healthcare outcomes.
101. The passage suggests that private facilities, while dominating India's healthcare landscape, are not sufficient for rural healthcare needs. What potential flaw exists in this reasoning considering the current rural health scenario?
- (a) Private healthcare facilities' emphasis on urban-centric models overlooks viable telehealth applications in rural settings.
 - (b) The assumption that private facilities' urban focus negates their efficacy in rural areas, underestimates adaptable healthcare models.
 - (c) Relying on private facilities' urban stronghold disregards their potential for scalable outreach through mobile health units.
 - (d) The argument ignores the possibility of private facilities implementing satellite clinics, thereby enhancing rural healthcare access.
102. If the goal is to prevent the escalation of diseases at the village and district levels, as highlighted during the Covid pandemic and other medical emergencies, what logical reasoning supports the urgent need for improving the infrastructure and staffing in PHCs, particularly in underperforming states?
- (a) Enhanced infrastructure and staffing can lead to better disease surveillance and early detection at local levels.
 - (b) Upgraded PHCs will reduce the dependence on tertiary care facilities, easing their burden during health crises.
 - (c) Improved PHCs contribute to more effective public health education and disease prevention strategies.
 - (d) Strengthening PHCs will foster greater trust in the healthcare system, encouraging timely medical consultations.

Passage (Q.103-Q108): Searches at the premises of Rajasthan Congress president Govind Singh Dotasra, a sitting Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) and a party candidate from Lacchmangarh in Sikar in the Assembly polls in November, and that of independent MLA Om Prakash Hudla, who has been fielded this time by the Congress from Mahua, have turned the spotlight yet again on the Enforcement Directorate (ED), a central agency that stands accused of selective targeting of Opposition leaders. The ED's money-laundering investigation is based on the cases instituted by the Rajasthan police to probe the alleged leak of the general knowledge paper of the Senior Teacher Grade II Competitive Examination (2022), which was cancelled and rescheduled by the Rajasthan Public Service Commission. The ED has also summoned Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's son Vaibhav Gehlot in an alleged foreign exchange violation case. In Rajasthan, incumbent governments usually get voted out, but Mr. Gehlot has effectively challenged that perception this time with a slew of new welfare schemes and the accompanying publicity blitzkrieg. Factionalism in the Congress has been contained, and Mr. Gehlot and party colleague Sachin Pilot are united. On the other hand, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is dealing with increasing friction within its ranks. The Congress has termed the ED's action in the election-bound State as a sign of the BJP's frustration.

The BJP's claim that all ED actions are purely to root out corruption could have been taken at face value only if they were even-handed and impartial. The pattern of action and inaction by the ED leaves no scope for any such inference. The ED's enthusiasm in pursuing political corruption fluctuates. It is also too much of a coincidence that the ED suspects corruption only in Opposition-ruled States and among leaders opposed to the BJP. Few would accept an argument, if at all the BJP or the ED is making one, that there is no corruption in States ruled by the party or by its leaders. The BJP has been the only beneficiary of large-scale defections of elected

representatives in recent years. No one can argue that agencies should not do their job and enforce the law. But both governance and democracy are undermined when the rule of law is weaponised against political opponents. When action against political players is taken in the midst of an election, it could potentially tilt the scales. The current legal regime for fighting corruption — and also the one against terrorism for that matter — is fast degenerating into an arbitrary internment of those who are inconvenient for the ruling party. This needs to end.

103. Which of the following is the primary argument of the author?
- (a) The weaponization of the ED against the political opponents must end as it undermines democracy and governance.
 - (b) The cases of corruption registered against Govind Singh Dadasra and Om Prakash Hudla are false.
 - (c) The current trend of cases registered against the political opponents show that there is no corruption in BJP ruled states
 - (d) The ED registered cases of corruption against Govind Singh Dadasra and Om Prakash Hudla because Congress enjoyed popularity in Rajasthan
104. Given the passage's depiction of the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) recent engagements in Rajasthan and the subsequent political implications, what can be inferred as the underlying motivation of the ED's actions during the Assembly elections?
- (a) Advancing a legal inquiry into corruption allegations to ensure fair election processes.
 - (b) Employing investigative authority to disproportionately scrutinize opposition figures, potentially affecting electoral dynamics.
 - (c) Enforcing stringent compliance with anti-corruption laws in politically sensitive times to demonstrate impartial governance.
 - (d) Channeling investigative resources towards political rivals to divert attention from internal party disputes and governance issues.
105. To assess the argument that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) acts with political bias in opposition-ruled states, which of the following pieces of information would be most crucial?
- (a) Frequency of ED raids in states governed by different political parties over the last five years.
 - (b) Statistical data comparing the financial irregularities reported in opposition vs. ruling party-ruled states.
 - (c) Historical analysis of ED's actions during crucial political events, like elections, in various states.
 - (d) Comparative study of ED's budgetary allocations and expenditure in different states.
106. What assumption underlies the author's argument regarding the relationship between the enforcement actions by the ED and the timing of these actions during the election period in Rajasthan?
- (a) The ED's actions are a standard procedure, unaffected by political timelines or events.
 - (b) Opposition parties are more likely to engage in corrupt practices during election periods.
 - (c) Enforcement actions during elections are primarily intended to influence the electoral outcomes.
 - (d) Increased political activities during elections naturally lead to a rise in financial irregularities.
107. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the author's claim that the use of agencies like the ED for political purposes is detrimental to both governance and democracy?
- (a) Reports indicating a significant decrease in public trust in governmental institutions post-ED actions.
 - (b) Evidence showing the ED has consistently targeted political figures across all parties equally.
 - (c) Data revealing a substantial increase in successful corruption prosecutions due to ED actions.
 - (d) Surveys displaying a high public approval rating for the ED's crackdown on political corruption.
108. The passage suggests a bias in the ED's actions against political figures opposed to the BJP. Which of the following, if true, would most effectively weaken this suggestion?
- (a) Analysis showing that the frequency of ED investigations aligns closely with the rise in reported financial irregularities across various political parties, including the BJP.
 - (b) Statistical evidence indicating that the incidence of ED probes correlates more with public allegations of corruption than with the political affiliations of the accused.
 - (c) A report detailing a significant number of investigations by the ED into several senior BJP officials and their affiliates for serious corruption charges.
 - (d) Independent research revealing that the ED's enforcement patterns closely mirror those of similar agencies in other democracies irrespective of the ruling party

SECTION - E : QUANTITATIVE TECHNIQUES

Directions (Q.109-Q.120): Study the following information carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Direction (Q.109-Q.114): There are 900 participation certificates that need to be distributed in a school among Class IX and Class X students. Ratio between boys and girls of class X is 6:5. Number of boys in Class IX is 30 more than number of girls in Class X. Total number of boys in Class IX and Class X together is 260 more than the total number of girls in Class IX and X together.

109. Number of boys in class IX are how much less percent than the number of boys in class X?
(a) 6.66% (b) 15% (c) 8% (d) 33.33%
110. Find the ratio between the total number of students of Class IX and the total number of students of class X.
(a) 9 : 11 (b) 7 : 13 (c) 7 : 11 (d) 8 : 15
111. The number of girls in Class X is how much more than the number of girls in Class IX?
(a) 200 (b) 180 (c) 160 (d) 155
112. Out of the total number of boys in Class X, 25% belongs to red house, 35% belongs to blue house and the remaining belongs to yellow house. How many boys are from yellow house?
(a) 130 (b) 200 (c) 175 (d) 120
113. The ratio between the number of girls in class X and Class XI is 10 : 13 and the ratio between the number of boys of class IX and class XI is 4 : 5. Find the total number of students in class XI.
(a) 675 (b) 650 (c) 725 (d) 750
114. If the registration fees of the competition was Rs.25 per student, find the difference between the amount received from Class IX and Class X.
(a) Rs. 5500 (b) Rs. 5000 (c) Rs.4800 (d) Rs. 5400

Direction (Q.115-Q.120): A survey was conducted among 2000 locals in City A to know the most famous spot of the city. Twice as many like Amusement Park, Lake View Drive and Sunset Point i.e. all three as those who like only Lake View Drive and Sunset Point. 1500 do not like Amusement Park and 1250 do not like the Lake View Drive. 150 people like only Amusement Park and Lake View Drive. The number of People who like only Lake View Drive is thrice the people who like only Amusement Park. 1100 people like at least one of the spots: Lake View Drive or Sunset Point. Out of the people who like Sunset Point, the difference between the number of people not liking the Amusement Park and those liking the Amusement Park is 90.

115. The people who like all the three spots is what percent of the people who like only Lake View drive?
(a) 18% (b) 20% (c) 25% (d) 16.66%
116. What percentage of people do not like any of the three spots?
(a) 37% (b) 35% (c) 25% (d) 37.5%
117. How many people like only Amusement Park?
(a) 160 (b) 150 (c) 106 (d) 155
118. What will be the ratio between the number of people who like only Sunset Point and the number of people who like Only Amusement Park and Lake View Drive?
(a) 5 : 8 (b) 8 : 5 (c) 3 : 10 (d) 10 : 11
119. What are the total number of people who like exactly two spots of the city?
(a) 450 (b) 350 (c) 300 (d) 250
120. The number of people who like only Amusement Park and Sunset Point is how much more than the number of people who like all the spots?
(a) 40 (b) 50 (c) 25 (d) 30

Notes:

Toprankers.com