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**English Language**

Each set of questions in this section is based on a single passage. Please answer each question on the basis of what is stated or implied in the corresponding passage. In some instances, more than one option may be the answer to the question; in such a case, please choose the option that most accurately and comprehensively answers the question.

- I. I am an accidental birder. While I never used to pay much attention to the birds outside my window, even being a bit afraid of them when I was a child, I have always loved making lists. Ranking operas and opera houses, categorising favourite books and beautiful libraries – not to mention decades of creating ‘Top Ten’ lists of hikes, drives, national parks, hotels, and bottles of wine. My birding hobby grew out of this predilection. Specifically, out of my penchant for writing down the birds I found in the paintings by the Old Masters.

Hieronymus Bosch, for starters.

Bringing my opera glasses to the Museo del Prado in Madrid, I delighted in sitting across the room and counting the birds in Bosch’s painting, today called Garden of Earthly Delights (1490-1510). The triptych, which visualises the fate of humanity in three large panels, is exploding with birds. So far, my list of Bosch birds includes spiralling flocks of starlings amid posing peacocks and pheasants. Closer to the water are storks, egrets and two kinds of herons. A jackdaw and a jay can be identified near a giant ‘strawberry tree’, below which are two spoonbills. And lurking in the trees are three kinds of owls, serving as signs of heresy.

In his book *A Dark Premonition: Journeys to Hieronymus Bosch* (2016), the Dutch poet and novelist Cees Nooteboom describes seeing Bosch’s work when he was a young man of 21 – and then seeing it again when he was 82. He asks of one picture: How has the painting changed? How has the viewer changed? Am I even the same man now?

These are the questions I ask myself while standing in front of a certain picture by Raphael in the Uffizi. The first time I saw the *Madonna del Cardellino* (c1505-06) was more than 30 years ago. I was 19. My college boyfriend and I had stopped in Europe on the way back from two magical months in India. It was my first time in Italy. And Florence was so damn pretty.

Life is, after all, constantly shuffling the deck, with each moment precious and unique. All those heightened moments we experienced in our favourite paintings are precisely what the great artists were celebrating. The perfect unfolding of now.

And what was true in the paintings was also true out in the world.

Birding alone and then later in groups, we have savoured those moments when a bird is spotted, and we all grow instantly quiet. Frantically training our binoculars on the object, it seems we are all frozen in a great hush. With laser focus, we attune ourselves to the bird, on a hair’s breadth of losing it, aware of the tiniest flutter, flutter and peep. It is enchantment. And through this, I have felt a little of how birds must have exerted power over the Renaissance imagination too. I continue to marvel at these free creatures of the air, symbolising hope and

rebirth, messengers from distant lands, inhabitants of a canvas of beauty and life in this great garden of earthly delights.

1. What is the primary purpose of the third paragraph in relation to the rest of the passage?
  - (a) It introduces the idea of birding as a group activity.
  - (b) It details the different types of birds seen in Bosch's painting.
  - (c) It highlights the author's first encounter with birding.
  - (d) It discusses the themes seen in Bosch's work.
  
2. How does the author describe her birding hobby?
  - (a) It is a systematic process of identifying and categorizing birds.
  - (b) It is an accident born out of her love for making lists.
  - (c) It is a passion that she developed from childhood.
  - (d) It is an attempt to overcome her fear of birds.
  
3. In the context of the passage, what does the term 'predilection' mean?
  - (a) A strong dislike or aversion.
  - (b) A particular way of accomplishing something.
  - (c) A natural inclination or preference towards something.
  - (d) A distinctive behavioural characteristic.
  
4. According to the author, what served as signs of heresy in Bosch's painting?
  - (a) The spiralling flocks of starlings.
  - (b) The posing peacocks and pheasants.
  - (c) The different kinds of owls lurking in the trees.
  - (d) The various kinds of herons near the water.
  
5. Based on the context of the passage, which of the following could be an apt title for it?
  - (a) "The Accident of Birding: A Reflection on Life's Transitions"
  - (b) "In Pursuit of the Feathered: From Canvas to Real Life"
  - (c) "Art and Birding: An Unlikely Connection"
  - (d) "The Story of the Accidental Birder: From Fear to Fascination"
  
6. What was the author's age when she first saw the Madonna del Cardellino?
  - (a) She was 21 years old.
  - (b) She was 19 years old.
  - (c) She was 30 years old.
  - (d) Her age is not mentioned in the passage.

7. What feelings does the author associate with the moment of spotting a bird?
- (a) She associates it with fear and apprehension.
  - (b) She associates it with quiet focus, hushed excitement, and enchantment.
  - (c) She associates it with the need for quick action and alertness.
  - (d) She associates it with a sense of competition and victory.

II. Throughout bio, each time Ms. Park turned to the blackboard, I read the missing persons report from my phone. The report went on only for a few pages, and over the course of the school day, I was able to read all of it. The mp (missing person) was fifty-three, male, gray haired, blue eyed, with a tattoo reading *Nolite te bastardes carborundorum* (“Don’t let the bastards get you down,” apparently) on his left shoulder blade, three small surgical scars in his abdomen from a gallbladder removal, six feet in height, approximately 220 pounds, last seen wearing his standard sleeping attire: a horizontally striped navy-and-white nightshirt and light-blue boxer shorts. He was discovered missing at 5:35 A.M. when the police raided his house in connection with a corruption investigation.

The report was mostly “witness statements” from witnesses who had not witnessed anything. Nobody was there that night except Noah and Davis. The camera at the front entrance had captured two groundskeepers driving away at 5:40 P.M. Malik the Zoologist left that day at 5:52. Lyle left at 6:02, and Rosa at 6:04. So, what Lyle told us about Pickett not having nighttime staff seemed true. There were also pictures—almost a hundred of them—of every room in the house.

Nothing appeared disrupted. In Pickett’s office, I saw stacks of papers that seemed to have been left for an evening, not for a lifetime. A cell phone could be seen on his bedside table. The carpets were so clean I could see a single set of footprints leading to Pickett’s desk, and a single set leading away from them. The closets were full of suits, dozens of them perfectly aligned from lightest gray to darkest black. A photograph of the kitchen sink showed three dirty dishes, each with little smudges of pizza grease and tomato sauce. To judge from the pictures, Pickett didn’t seem to be missing so much as he seemed to have been raptured.

The report did not, however, contain any mention of the night-vision photograph, meaning we had something the cops didn’t: a timeline.

While eating dinner with Mom in front of the TV that night, I kept thinking about the case. What if they did give us a reward? It was valuable information the police didn’t have. Maybe Davis would hate me, if he ever found out, but why should I care what some kid from Sad Camp thought of me?

After a while, I begged homework and escaped to my room. I thought maybe I’d missed something from the police report, so I went through it again and was still reading when Daisy called me. She started talking before I’d finished saying “Hi.”

“I had a highly hypothetical conversation with the tip line, and they said that the reward is coming from the company, not the police, so it’s up to the company to decide what is relevant, and that the reward would only be given out after they found Pickett. Our info is definitely

relevant, but it's not like they'll find Pickett just with the night-vision picture, so we might have to split the reward with other people. Or if they never find him, we might not get it. Still, better than nothing."

8. What can be inferred about the missing person's lifestyle based on the details provided in the report?
  - (a) The missing person was extremely meticulous and organized.
  - (b) The missing person was a messy individual who lacked cleanliness.
  - (c) The missing person had a secret life that was hinted at in the details of his home.
  - (d) The missing person was an introverted individual who kept to himself.
  
9. If one were to name this narrative, which title would capture the essence of the passage?
  - (a) "Unseen Clues: The Pickett Mystery."
  - (b) "The Undiscovered Evidence: Night Vision Leads the Way."
  - (c) "Lost in the Night: The Disappearance of a Man."
  - (d) "The Curious Case of the Clean Carpets."
  
10. What does the tone of the narrator towards Davis suggest?
  - (a) The narrator is concerned about Davis's opinions of their actions.
  - (b) The narrator respects Davis and values their friendship.
  - (c) The narrator is indifferent to Davis's perspective of them.
  - (d) The narrator fears Davis's potential retaliation.
  
11. What can be inferred about the significance of the night-vision photograph?
  - (a) It provides a lead to the missing person's potential whereabouts.
  - (b) It serves as proof that the missing person was kidnapped.
  - (c) It gives a timeline that police were not aware of.
  - (d) It reveals that there were more people involved in the missing person's disappearance.

III. Scheduled for launch at 2:35 p.m. Indian Standard Time on July 14, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is preparing for the Chandrayaan-3 mission to the moon. The mission will utilize a Launch Vehicle Mark 3 from Sriharikota. Chandrayaan-3 is essentially a replication of its predecessor, Chandrayaan-2, which consisted of an orbiter and a lander named 'Vikram' carrying a rover called 'Pragyan'. While the orbiter successfully entered the moon's orbit, the surface mission encountered a setback in September when the lander crashed during its descent due to guidance software issues and propulsion system anomalies. In Chandrayaan-3, the rocket will place the payload in an elliptical orbit around the Earth, followed by a handover to a propulsion module that will guide the lander to a circular orbit around the moon. Subsequently, the lander will detach and initiate a series of maneuvers, culminating in a gradual landing on the lunar surface, projected to occur on August 23-24. To enhance the chances of success during this stage, ISRO has made improvements to the lander's legs, thrust capability, power availability, and landing sequence.

This will mark India's second endeavour to achieve a soft landing of a lander and rover on the moon, demonstrating comprehensive proficiency in the relevant technologies. Soft-landing on the moon is a complex undertaking, and although the possibility of failure persists, it is relatively diminished. Nevertheless, the focus should lie on the implications of achieving resounding success. India's participation in the Artemis Accords adds further significance to the mission. If successful, India would become only the second country to soft-land a rover on the moon within this alliance. The importance of this achievement cannot be overstated, as various public and private missions are currently underway globally, aiming to establish permanent lunar bases, which has become a significant geopolitical objective. While the United States leads the Artemis Accords, China and Russia are collaborating on the development of an 'International Lunar Research Station'. Chandrayaan-3's success would also position it as the closest surface mission to the lunar south pole to date. This region of the moon is geologically distinctive and includes areas in perpetual shadow. To study these unique features and more, the mission carries six scientific payloads. Additionally, a seventh instrument on the propulsion module will assess signs of life on Earth, aiding scientists in the search for similar signs on planets beyond our solar system. Overall, Chandrayaan-3 presents India with an opportunity to take the lead in responding to the moon's growing scientific and political significance worldwide.

12. What does the passage primarily aim to illuminate?
- (a) The intricacies of the propulsion system used in the Chandrayaan-3 mission
  - (b) A critical analysis of the failures of the Chandrayaan-2 mission
  - (c) The intricate procedural steps and global significance of India's Chandrayaan-3 lunar mission
  - (d) A comprehensive history of India's space exploration efforts

13. In the context of the passage, the term "soft-landing" most likely means:
- (a) The process of landing on the lunar surface without any technical glitches
  - (b) Landing a spacecraft on the moon with minimal impact, allowing it to remain operational
  - (c) A smooth take-off from the Earth's atmosphere towards the moon
  - (d) The gentle docking of the rover onto the lander before the mission
14. Judging by the details provided in the passage, what type of source would most likely contain this information?
- (a) A high school textbook about India's history
  - (b) A scientific report on moon's geological features
  - (c) A news article or report detailing the upcoming Chandrayaan-3 mission
  - (d) A biography of a significant figure in the Indian Space Research Organisation
15. According to the passage, what is one of the key improvements made to the Chandrayaan-3 mission in light of the challenges faced during the Chandrayaan-2 mission?
- (a) The introduction of a new rover model with improved navigation capabilities
  - (b) The inclusion of a new launch vehicle for a more stable ascent [www.lawpreptutorial.com](http://www.lawpreptutorial.com)
  - (c) Modifications to the lander's legs, power availability, thrust capacity, and landing sequence
  - (d) The repositioning of the landing site on the moon to a less challenging terrain
16. In the geopolitical context of lunar exploration, what would be the significant achievement for India with a successful Chandrayaan-3 mission, as indicated by the passage?
- (a) It will pioneer the technological advancements needed for future lunar missions
  - (b) India would be the only country in the Artemis Accords to have a successful lunar mission
  - (c) India would become the second country within the Artemis Accords to achieve a soft landing of a rover on the moon
  - (d) It will outperform China and Russia in their collaborative effort to establish an 'International Lunar Research Station'

IV. What is "law"? By what processes do judges arrive at opinions, those documents that justify their belief that the "law" dictates a conclusion one way or the other? These are among the oldest questions in jurisprudence, debate about which has traditionally been dominated by representatives of two schools of thought: proponents of natural law, who see law as intertwined with a moral order independent of society's rules and mores, and legal positivists, who see law solely as embodying the commands of a society's ruling authority.

Since the early 1970s, these familiar questions have received some new and surprising answers in the legal academy. This novelty is in part a consequence of the increasing influence there of academic disciplines and intellectual traditions previously unconnected with the study of law. Perhaps the most influential have been the answers given by the Law and Economics school. According to these legal economists, law consists and ought to consist of those rules that maximize a society's material wealth and that abet the efficient operation of markets designed to generate wealth. More controversial have been the various answers provided by members of the Critical Legal Studies movement, according to whom law is one among several cultural mechanisms by which holders of power seek to legitimate their domination. Drawing on related arguments developed in anthropology, sociology, and history, the critical legal scholars contend that law is an expression of power, but not, as held by the positivists, the power of the legitimate sovereign government. Rather, it is an expression of the power of elites who may have no legitimate authority but who are intent on preserving the privileges of their race, class, or gender.

In the mid-1970s, James Boyd White began to articulate yet another interdisciplinary response to the traditional questions, and in so doing spawned what is now known as the Law and Literature movement. White has insisted that law, particularly as it is interpreted in judicial opinions, should be understood as an essentially literary activity. Judicial opinions should be read and evaluated not primarily as political acts or as attempts to maximize society's wealth through efficient rules, but rather as artistic performances. And like all such performances, White argues, each judicial opinion attempts in its own way to promote a particular political or ethical value.

In the recent *Justice as Translation*, White argues that opinion-writing should be regarded as an act of "translation," and judges as "translators." As such, judges find themselves mediating between the authoritative legal text and the pressing legal problem that demands resolution. A judge must essentially "re-constitute" that text by fashioning a new one, which is faithful to the old text but also responsive to and informed by the conditions, constraints, and aspirations of the world in which the new legal problem has arisen.

17. According to the passage, how does the Law and Economics school view the function of law?
- (a) Law serves to maintain the power and authority of a society's elites.
  - (b) Law primarily functions as an expression of a society's moral order.
  - (c) Law is an artistic performance promoting political or ethical values.
  - (d) Law consists of rules designed to maximize societal wealth and support market efficiency.



18. Which group or movement, as described in the passage, contends that law is a means by which power holders seek to legitimize their dominance?
- (a) Legal positivists (b) Natural law proponents  
(c) The Law and Economics school (d) The Critical Legal Studies movement
19. As used in the passage, the term "legitimate" most closely means:
- (a) Logical (b) Accepted  
(c) Traditional (d) Valid
20. According to James Boyd White, a judicial opinion could be considered analogous to which of the following?
- (a) A political act (b) An economic policy  
(c) A translation (d) A power assertion

V. In recent years, there has been a growing belief that the way society determines what is considered true is influenced by discursive practices that often go unnoticed. This has led legal reformers to explore the intricate relationship between narrative and law. In many legal systems, judgments are based on competing stories about events. Judges and juries, who have not witnessed these events firsthand, must evaluate and validate certain narratives as true while rejecting others as false. This approach is rooted in objectivism, a philosophical perspective that has underpinned Western legal and intellectual systems for centuries. Objectivism posits that there is a single, neutral account of each event that is not biased by any particular point of view and holds a privileged position over all other versions. Consequently, the quest for truth in the law involves uncovering this objective description, the one that accurately represents what really transpired, as opposed to the subjective perceptions of the individuals involved. However, the fundamental flaw of objectivism is the absence of a truly neutral and objective observer. Psychological research has demonstrated that all observers bring their own expectations, values, and beliefs to a situation, which shape what they perceive and comprehend. Two individuals listening to the same story will interpret it differently based on their learned experiences and selective perception. Thus, it is impossible to escape subjective judgments influenced by prior experiences, values, and beliefs, both in life and in the realm of law.

The assumption of objectivist principles in traditional legal discourse has caused societal harm by historically privileging the stories told by those fluent in legal language, while dismissing the narratives of individuals who lack such fluency. Legal scholars like Patricia Williams, Derrick Bell, and Mari Matsuda have sought to empower the latter group by constructing alternative legal narratives. Objectivist legal discourse tends to exclude the language of emotion and personal experience, focusing solely on cognitive aspects. These reformers propose replacing this abstract discourse with powerful personal stories. They argue that personal narratives, with their absorbing and non-threatening structure and tone, may for the first time convince

legal insiders to listen to those who are not well-versed in legal language. The persuasive force of personal narrative can create a sense of empathy between legal insiders and individuals traditionally marginalized in legal discourse, thus challenging the complacency of the legal establishment and disrupting its status quo. Therefore, the captivating power of narrative can play a crucial and positive role in the process of legal reconstruction by bridging differences in background and training, and forming a new collective based on emotional empathy.

21. According to the passage, what does "discursive practices" refer to?
- (a) Ritualistic legal procedures
  - (b) Active lobbying efforts by legal reformers
  - (c) Communication methods in legal discourses
  - (d) Unacknowledged societal influences on truth determination
22. Based on the passage, which of the following accurately characterizes the potential impact of personal narratives in the legal system?
- (a) Personal narratives can lead to the misuse of legal proceedings due to their emotional appeal
  - (b) Personal narratives disrupt legal proceedings by undermining cognitive aspects
  - (c) Personal narratives can instill empathy in legal insiders, challenging established complacency and bridging differences in understanding
  - (d) Personal narratives can manipulate legal insiders into sympathizing with those not well-versed in legal language
23. Which of the following titles best encapsulates the central theme of the passage?
- (a) The Power of Personal Narratives: A Challenge to Traditional Legal Discourse
  - (b) Objectivism: The Dominant Paradigm in Western Legal Systems
  - (c) Psychological Research's Influence on Legal Interpretations
  - (d) Legal Reformers and Their Fight Against Legal Jargon
24. In relation to the rest of the passage, what is the primary purpose of the first paragraph?
- (a) To debunk the principle of objectivism in legal discourse
  - (b) To provide a background to the issues raised in the subsequent paragraphs
  - (c) To highlight the impact of psychological research on legal systems
  - (d) To critique the exclusionary nature of legal language

**Current Affairs and General Knowledge**

Each set of questions in this section is based on topics that arise out of the excerpted passage. Answers may be implied by facts mentioned in the passage but need not be so. Please answer each question on its own merit on the basis of your knowledge of current affairs and general knowledge.

- VI. Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted on Thursday that his work in the last 10 years has led to people having immense confidence in his government as he faulted past dispensations for acting like "mai-baap" of citizens, with vote bank considerations guiding their development initiatives. In his address to beneficiaries of different schemes as part of the government's Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra for saturation coverage of welfare schemes, he said four biggest "castes" for him are the poor, youth, women, farmers, and their rise will make India developed. The yatra, under which government 'raths' (chariots) are travelling to all corners, has generated huge enthusiasm among people with some describing the vehicles as "Modi ki guarantee wali gaadi" (vehicles carrying Modi's guarantees), the Prime Minister said, asserting that the masses know that he will fulfil all his promises. For this he needs their blessings, he said, underscoring that the programme will identify everyone left out of welfare schemes aimed for them and that he will ensure their saturation coverage in the coming years.

A voice is emerging from people across the country that Modi's guarantee begins from where people's expectations from others end, he said. In his remarks after interacting with the beneficiaries, PM Modi said Bharat is neither going to stop nor tire as the people have resolved to make the country developed. "In various corners of the country there is such enthusiasm for the yatra and there is a reason for it, as people have seen Modi, his work, in the last 10 years and therefore, they have immense confidence in the government and its efforts."

"People have also seen that period when past governments used to consider themselves 'mai-baap' of the people. Therefore, even after decades of independence, a big portion of the population was deprived of basic facilities," PM Modi said.

Source: <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/four-biggest-castes-for-me-are-poor-youth-women-farmers-pm-narendra-modi-4621178>

25. The Women's Reservation Act, 2023 is also known as?  
(a) Nari Seva Vidhit Adhinyam (b) Nari Sashakatam Vidhit Adhinyam  
(c) Nari Shakti Vandan Adhinyam (d) Nari Hit Vandan Adhinyam
26. India ranked \_\_\_\_\_ out of 146 countries in the Global Gender Gap Report 2023 released by the World Economic Forum?  
(a) 124 (b) 127  
(c) 134 (d) 137

27. According to the World Bank, the Youth Unemployment Rate in India was at what percentage which was higher than its neighbors Pakistan, Bangladesh & Bhutan?
- (a) 27.5 (b) 25.2  
(c) 23.6 (d) 23.2
28. Under PM Kisan, transfer of how much amount is made per year?
- (a) 5000 (b) 6000  
(c) 9000 (d) 10500
29. In the Budget 2022-23, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana has received a 4.2-times (year-on-year) larger allocation of how many crores?
- (a) 8,654 crores (b) 9,645 crores  
(c) 10,433 crores (d) 12,543 crores

**VII.** An acid attack survivor has approached the Delhi High Court seeking additional compensation from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF), highlighting delays and challenges in accessing the grant. PMNRF was instituted in 1948 by then Prime Minister a)\_\_\_\_\_. The initial purpose of establishing PMNRF (Prime Minister National Relief Fund) was to help the people displaced due to partition of India and Pakistan.

The fund is currently used to provide support to people affected by natural and man-made disasters. This includes natural disasters like floods, cyclones, and earthquakes, and man-made disasters like major accidents, acid attacks, and riots. The fund consists entirely of public contributions and does not get any budgetary support. The corpus of the fund is invested with banks in fixed deposits. Disbursements are made with the approval of the Prime Minister.

All donations towards the PMNRF are notified for 100% deduction from taxable income under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

30. What is the minimum donation that one can make in PMNRF?
- (a) Rs 50 (b) Rs 100  
(c) Rs 150 (d) Rs 200
31. Which of the following is audited by CAG?
- (a) Prime Minister National Relief Fund  
(b) PM – CARES Fund (PM's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund)  
(c) Expenses from Centre and State Government's Bodies  
(d) None of the Above

32. Which of the following is Not the difference between PM CARES and PMNRF Fund?  
(a) PM Cares Minimum Donation is Rs 10, while PMNRF Donation is Rs 100.  
(b) Chairman of the Prime Minister National Relief Fund (PMNRF) is the Prime Minister of India. While Chairman of the PM – CARES Fund is also the Prime Minister of India.  
(c) PM CARES is not audited by CAG, but PMNRF is audited by CAG.  
(d) None of the Above is correct
33. Which of the following was not a part of panel of 3 judges which dismissed the petition filed by Centre for PIL against PM CARES fund?  
(a) Justice Chandrachud (b) Justice Bhushan  
(c) Justice Reddy (d) Justice Shah
34. Which of the following will come in place of a)\_\_\_\_\_in the passage?  
(a) Jawaharlal Nehru (b) Indira Gandhi  
(c) Rajiv Gandhi (d) Atal Bihari Vajpayee

**VIII.** The government has extended the deadline for completion of the flagship highway development project Bharatmala Pariyojana Phase – I to a)\_\_\_\_\_, a six years from the original schedule. Till November-end of 2023, about 15,045 km (b)\_\_\_\_\_ percent) of the project work has been completed.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) stated that approvals need to be expedited for the revised Bharatmala Phase-I project or any alternative programme to meet the targeted awards for FY24. The pace of award is likely to slow down even further until the revised cost of the project is sanctioned by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) as the Ministry of Finance has impeded the MoRTH from creating any fresh liability under the project till then.

So far, nearly 26,418 km of highway stretches (76 percent of the total length of 34,800 km) have been awarded. However, in the first eight months of this financial year, only 102 km of projects under this Phase-I have been awarded. Total length to be covered by Bharatmala project was 74,942 km, of which, 35,800 were to be completed in Phase-I by 2022. As phase one still has a lot of ground to cover, how the government will look at executing the remaining 40,412 km.

The move follows an over 100 percent increase in the estimate cost of the project to nearly Rs c)\_\_\_\_\_trillion, and reflects the slowing of implementation, and financial constraints. The Cabinet Committee had approved the first phase of Bharatmala Pariyojana in 2017, with completion scheduled for 2022, was expected to cost Rs 5.35 trillion.

Source: <https://www.projectstoday.com/News/Govt-extends-Bharatmala-Phase-I-deadline-by-six-years-to-FY28>

35. Which of the following is Not the feature of Bharat Mala Pariyojana?
- (a) Integrating the Economic Corridors facilitates Larger Connectedness between Economically Important Production and Consumption Centers.
  - (b) Expressways have higher traffic configuration and choke points would benefit from green-field expressways.
  - (c) Better Border Road Infrastructure would ensure greater maneuverability, while also boosting trade with neighboring countries.
  - (d) Building and enhancing the capacity of elephant and tiger corridors.
36. When was the first phase of the Bharatmala project announced?
- (a) 2015
  - (b) 2016
  - (c) 2017
  - (d) 2018
37. Which of the following will come in place of a)\_\_\_\_\_ in the passage?
- (a) 2027 – 28
  - (b) 2028 – 29
  - (c) 2029 – 30
  - (d) 2030 – 31
38. Which of the following will come in place of b)\_\_\_\_\_ in the passage?
- (a) 28
  - (b) 42
  - (c) 55
  - (d) 51
39. Which of the following come in place of c)\_\_\_\_\_ in the passage?
- (a) 9
  - (b) 10
  - (c) 11
  - (d) 13

- IX.** The Centre on Friday hiked the interest rates of some of the small savings schemes, such as Sukanya Samriddhi Scheme, a)\_\_\_\_\_ -year Time Deposit, for the January-March 2024 quarter. In a notification, the Union finance ministry said that the interest rates of most schemes were at the same level, with minor tweaks for the Sukanya Samriddhi Scheme and a)\_\_\_\_\_ -year time deposit. As per the latest revised list, the interest rate of Sukanya Samriddhi Scheme will be b)\_\_\_\_%, while for a)\_\_\_\_-year TD it would be 7.1% for the last quarter of the current fiscal. Earlier, the interest rates for Sukanya Samriddhi Scheme and a)\_\_\_\_-year TD were 8.0%, 7.1%, respectively.
- The PPF rates were kept unchanged for more than 3 years. It was last tweaked in April-June 2020, when it was slashed to 7.1 per cent from 7.9 per cent. In the last announcement, the Centre kept small savings interest rates at the same level for the October-December quarter except for a marginal increase in five-year recurring deposit rates.
- Before today's revision, the interest rates on small savings schemes ranged between 4 per cent (post office savings deposits) and 8.2 per cent (Senior Citizens Savings Scheme).

Small savings schemes have three categories c)\_\_\_\_\_, social security schemes and monthly income plan. The interest rates offered by the Government on most of the small savings schemes, including Post Office Fixed Deposit, are already at par with term deposits offered by banks.

The small savings schemes are great instruments to save individual income tax. Under Section 80C of the Income Tax Act, individuals can claim deductions of up to Rs d)\_\_\_\_lakh per year from their taxable income by investing in PPF, SCSS, NSC, SSY, and the 5-Year Post Office Time Deposit Scheme. [www.lawpreptutorial.com](http://www.lawpreptutorial.com)

Source: <https://www.businesstoday.in/personal-finance/investment/story/small-savings-schemes-govt-hikes-sukanya-samridhi-scheme-3-year-td-to-82-71-for-jan-march-2024-quarter-411308-2023-12-29>

40. The Sukanya Sammridhi Account may be opened by one of the guardians in the name of a girl child, who has not attained the age of how many years as on account opening date?
- (a) From Birth (b) 6 years  
(c) 10 years (d) 14 years
41. Which of the following will come in place of a)\_\_\_\_\_ in the passage?
- (a) 1 (b) 2  
(c) 3 (d) 4
42. Which of the following will come in place of b)\_\_\_\_\_ in the passage?
- (a) 8.1 (b) 8.2  
(c) 8.3 (d) 8.4
43. Which of the following will come in place of c)\_\_\_\_\_ in the passage?
- (a) Green Funds (b) Fixed Deposit Scheme  
(c) Interest Scheme (d) Saving Scheme
44. Which of the following will come in place of d)\_\_\_\_\_ in the passage?
- (a) 1 (b) 1.5  
(c) 2 (d) 2.5

- X. Halo-Orbit Insertion (HOI) of its solar observatory spacecraft, Aditya-L1 was accomplished at 16.00 Hrs (approx) on January 6, 2024 (IST). The final phase of the maneuver involved firing of control engines for a short duration. The orbit of Aditya-L1 spacecraft is a periodic Halo orbit which is located roughly 1.5 million km from earth on the continuously moving Sun – Earth line with an orbital period of about 177.86 earth days. This Halo orbit is a periodic, three-dimensional orbit at L1 involving Sun, Earth and a spacecraft. This specific halo orbit is selected to ensure a mission lifetime of a)\_\_\_ years, minimising station-keeping manoeuvres and thus fuel consumption and ensuring a continuous, unobstructed view of sun.

The Aditya-L1 mission is an Indian solar observatory at Lagrangian point L1 for "Observing and understanding the chromospheric and coronal dynamics of the Sun" in a continuous manner. Placing the Aditya-L1 in a halo orbit around L1 point has advantages as compared to placing in a Low Earth Orbit (LEO): It provides a smooth Sun-spacecraft velocity change throughout the orbit, appropriate for helioseismology.

It is outside of the magnetosphere of Earth, thus suitable for the "in situ" sampling of the solar wind and particles. The insertion of Aditya-L1 into this Halo orbit presents a critical mission phase, which demanded precise navigation and control. A successful insertion further involved constant monitoring along with the adjustment of the spacecraft's speed and position by using onboard thrusters. The success of this insertion not only signifies ISRO's capabilities in such complex orbital manoeuvres, but it but gives confidence to handle future interplanetary missions.

It allows unobstructed, continuous observation of the Sun, and view of earth for enabling continuous communication to ground stations.

Source:[https://www.isro.gov.in/halo-orbit-insertion-aditya-l1.html#:~:text=Halo%20Orbit%20Insertion%20\(HOI\),engines%20for%20a%20short%20duration.](https://www.isro.gov.in/halo-orbit-insertion-aditya-l1.html#:~:text=Halo%20Orbit%20Insertion%20(HOI),engines%20for%20a%20short%20duration.)

45. Aditya L1 was launched through which rocket?
- (a) PSLV-C54 rocket (b) PSLV-C55 rocket  
(c) PSLV-C56 rocket (d) PSLV-C57 rocket
46. Aditya-L1 was designed and realised at?
- (a) Human Space Flight Centre (b) Indian Institute of Remote Sensing  
(c) ISRO Inertial Systems Unit (d) UR Rao Satellite Centre (URSC)
47. What is a Halo?
- (a) A Ring of Light seen around the Sun or Moon, especially during an Eclipse.  
(b) It is formed as a ray of light by bursting of stars.  
(c) It is formed through constellation of stars.  
(d) All of the above are correct.



48. Which one of the following will come in place of a)\_\_\_\_\_in the passage?  
(a) 3 (b) 4  
(c) 5 (d) 6

- XI. The Supreme Court on Wednesday issued notice to the Centre and 11 States on a public interest litigation (PIL) which alleged caste-based discrimination and segregation of prisoners in jails and sought a direction to repeal provisions that mandate such practices under the state prison manuals. The petition filed by journalist a)\_\_\_\_\_, was based on a report compiled by the petitioner in 2020 alleging caste-based discrimination being perpetrated through jail manuals.

A bench headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud said, "This raises an important issue," as it asked solicitor general Tushar Mehta to assist the Court on behalf of the Centre. Senior advocate S Muralidhar, who argued the petition along with advocate S Prasanna, showed how work was allocated in prisons depending on the prisoner's caste. The petition highlighted a few instances from Madhya Pradesh, Delhi and Tamil Nadu jails, where cooking was undertaken by dominant castes while sweeping and other menial jobs such as cleaning toilets were to be undertaken by "specific lower castes". "The caste realities of the carceral system in India entail a range of discriminatory practices, including the division of labour determined based on caste hierarchy and caste-based segregation of barracks. The prison manuals of various states sanction such discrimination and forced labour on the ground of caste," the petition said.

It also pointed out the separation of Thevars, Nadars, and Pallars, who are allotted different sections in Palayamkottai Central Jail in Tamil Nadu, as a glaring instance of caste-based segregation of barracks. The petition further says that the 2003 Model Prison Manual clearly states that classification should be done based on security, discipline and institutionalised program. Additionally, no classification based on socio-economic status, caste or class may be attempted. SG Mehta told the Court that he had heard about segregation in jails based on convicts and undertrials. "...But if this (caste-based segregation) is there, this cannot be accepted."

Source: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/sc-issues-notice-to-centre-states-on-pil-alleging-caste-discrimination-in-jails-101704290208579.html>

49. Which Supreme Court Case held that a person does not lose fundamental rights or the equality code merely for being a prisoner?  
(a) Sunil Batra v. Delhi Administration (b) Hussainara Khatoon v. State of Bihar  
(c) Emperor v. Panchu Das (d) Mohd Afzal v. State

50. Three-judge Bench, headed by the Chief Justice of India, finds that prison manuals in over how many states support caste-based discrimination and forced labour?
- (a) 7 (b) 9  
(c) 10 (d) 17
51. The outlawing of manual scavenging happened by which act?
- (a) The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013  
(b) The Protection and Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013  
(c) The Prohibition as Employment (Manual Scavenging Prevention & Protection) Act, 2013  
(d) The Prohibition & Protection of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2015
52. Which of the following will come in place of a)\_\_\_\_\_ in the passage?
- (a) Swati Maliwal (b) Bhawana Sharma  
(c) Kailash Chopra (d) Sukanya Shantha

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**Legal Reasoning**

Each set of questions in this section is based on the reasoning and arguments, or facts and principles set out in the preceding passage. Some of these principles may not be true in the real or legal sense, yet you must conclusively assume that they are true for the purposes of this Section. Please answer each question on the basis of what is stated or implied in the corresponding passage. Do not rely on any principle of law other than the ones supplied to you, and do not assume any facts other than those supplied to you when answering the questions. In some instances, more than one option may be the answer to the question; in such a case, please choose the option that most accurately and comprehensively answers the question.

- XII.** Article 14 to 18 of the Indian Constitution guarantee the right to equality to every citizen of India. Article 14 embodies the general principles of equality before law and prohibits unreasonable discrimination among persons. Article 14 embodies the idea of equality expressed in the preamble while the succeeding Articles 15, 16, 17 and 18 lay down specific application of the general rules laid down in Article 14.

Article 14 declares that the state shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India. Article 14 uses two expressions 'equality before the law' and 'equal protection of the laws.' The phrase 'equality before the law' finds place in almost all written constitution that guarantees fundamental rights, both these expressions have, however been used in the universal declaration of Human Rights. The former one is of English origin and the latter one has been taken from the American Constitution.

The Concept of equality does not mean absolute equality among human beings which is practically impossible to achieve. The principle of equality is subject to reasonable classification. It implies absence of any special privilege conferred upon individual solely based on the reason of his place of birth, creed, race, nationality, etc. It subjects all individuals and classes to the ordinary law of the land. According to Dr. Jennings, 'equality before the law' means that among equals the law should be equal and should be equally administered, that like should be treated alike. The right to sue and be sued to prosecute and be prosecuted for the same kind of action should be same for all citizens of full age and understanding without distinctions of race, religion, wealth, social status or political influence. The guarantee of 'equal protection of laws' is similar as embodied in the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the American constitution - means that all persons under similar circumstances shall be treated alike, both the privileges conferred and liabilities imposed by the laws. There has to be an intelligible differentia in case of difference in treatment. A differentiation is said to be rational if the reason for creating difference has a nexus with the objective to be achieved by the difference.

The words 'any person' in Article 14 of the Indian constitution denotes that the right to equality is available to any person which includes any company or association or body of individuals. The same extends to both: citizens as well as non – citizens.

*Source:* <https://articles.manupatra.com/article-details/Article-14-Equality-Before-Law-and-Equality-protection-of-the-law>

53. Meera, a law graduate from GNLU, Gandhinagar, had received a job at a public sector enterprise headquartered in the metropolitan city of Mumbai. She graciously accepted the offer and performed the best of her abilities while working with the firm. During the appraisal process, she believes that the HR Team had treated her unfairly in the assessment of her performance. She alleged that the firm has adopted discriminatory practices and thus, challenges this treatment under Article 14 of the Indian Constitution. Which of the following statements, if true, would strengthen Meera's case for violation of her right to equality?
- (a) The firm has a policy of appraising employees based on their performance in technical assessments, which Meera consistently excelled in.
  - (b) Raghav, Meera's supervisor, had personal grudges against her.
  - (c) Meera, despite having the same qualifications and experience, was not considered for appraisal process while her colleague – Shabri with similar profile was selected.
  - (d) The firm's policy examines various factors in the appraisal process apart from performance. Meera's interpersonal skills, being one of the factors, were not well-aligned.
54. Geeta, Rita and Sangita are the citizens of UK. Getting influenced by the quality of education provided by Indian Universities in the field of Cyber Technology, they decided to pursue their master's from a well-known government university of Bangalore. However, they faced discrimination from the university authorities in terms of access to academic resources, solely based on their nationality. Can they collectively seek protection under Article 14 of the Indian Constitution?
- (a) Yes, as Article 14 applies to any person, including international students in India.
  - (b) No, as Article 14 does not entertain collective petitions.
  - (c) Yes, but only if they hold a valid visa for studying in India.
  - (d) No, as the private university is free to frame their own regulations.

55. Suresh Rambani, an Indian citizen and a seasoned entrepreneur, has made heavy investments in the development of corporate business in his home country. A new policy was passed by the Government of India mandating certain percentage of tax rate to be charged upon economic transactions done by foreign as well as domestic enterprises. Moreover, the tax rate charged from foreign companies were significantly lesser than those charged from Indian Companies. Mr. Rambani raises concerns about this change that appears to provide preferential treatment to foreign investors over domestic entrepreneurs. He believes that this policy is in violation of the fundamental right enshrined in Article 14 of the Indian Constitution. Can Mr. Rambani challenge this policy under the said legal provision?
- (a) No, since the government has the authority to formulate policies to attract foreign investments.
  - (b) Yes, if Mr. Rambani proves that he personally suffered financial losses due to the policy.
  - (c) No, unless Mr. Rambani can establish that the policy was implemented with malicious intent.
  - (d) Yes, if Mr. Rambani can show that the policy creates unreasonable discrimination between foreign and domestic investors.
56. The local government of Dholakpur decides to provide tax exemptions to businesses owned by certain communities, claiming it as a measure to uplift economically disadvantaged groups. The concerned communities were very happy with this recent amendment as it significantly benefits their profit margin. However, Mr. Kalia, a business owner, not falling within those communities, challenges this decision under Article 14. Can he do so provided that the laws applicable to the area are *pari materia* to that of Indian Jurisdiction?
- (a) He cannot challenge the decision unless intentional discrimination based on place of birth or caste is proved.
  - (b) He can challenge the decision because economic upliftment cannot be based on community distinctions. Hence, the classification does not have intelligible differentia.
  - (c) He cannot challenge the decision as the government has the right to design policies for the economic welfare of specific communities.
  - (d) He can challenge the decision only if he himself belongs to an economically disadvantaged group.

57. A multi-national company called Freliance Ltd. has inaugurated one of its subsidiary offices in India. They deal in multiple products ranging from home appliances to automobiles. The company is promoting “Customer-First” approach and are seriously committed towards the quality of goods they provide. They also do door-to-door marketing. Due to considerable amount of work, it becomes very difficult for an employee to sanction leave from superiors. Also, the company offers different maternity leave benefits to their Indian and foreign employees working at the same position in his office in Noida. Can an Indian employee challenge this discrepancy under Article 14, given that all other requirements are fulfilled?
- (a) No, because maternity leave benefits fall under the company’s internal policies, not constitutional provisions.
  - (b) Yes, as the concept of equality before the law ensures equal treatment irrespective of nationality.
  - (c) No, because Article 14 only applies to individuals, not corporate entities like Freliance Ltd.
  - (d) Yes, only if that Indian employee is a woman.

- XIII.** The Kerala High Court recently held that when a private company is not convicted for the offence of cheque bouncing under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act (NI Act), its Directors cannot be held vicariously liable for the same offence. Justice Sophy Thomas made the observation while allowing a revision petition filed by a Managing Director (MD) against his conviction by a Kottayam court in a cheque-bouncing case. The MD was convicted under Section 138 of the NI Act even though the company that he was part of, Omnitech Information Systems Pvt. Ltd (a private company), was acquitted in the case. “When the private company is found not guilty of the offence alleged, the Managing Director cannot be held vicariously liable for the offence,” the High Court observed. By way of background, the private company and its directors (including the Managing Director) were accused by the complainant of inducing him into investing Rs. 10 lakh. However, the company later failed to return the money and issued a cheque in February 2000, which allegedly bounced due to insufficient funds. Despite sending a notice, the accused persons (private company, Managing Director, and three other directors) allegedly did not respond, prompting the complainant to file a complaint under Section 138 of the NI Act.

The trial court convicted all the accused, but the appellate court acquitted everyone (including the private company) except the MD. The appellate court, however, reduced the penalty imposed on the MD to imprisonment till the rising of the court and a fine of Rs. 10 lakh. This prompted the MD to file a revision petition before the High Court against the appellate court’s decision.

The High Court noted that the cheque in question was not issued by the MD in his personal capacity. As such, with the company’s acquittal in the case, the MD could not be held personally liable for the cheque bouncing, the Court said. Relying on Pramod v. Velayudhan case, the High Court proceeded to conclude that even as per Section 141 of the NI Act, when a private company is found not guilty of the offence alleged under Section 138, the MD cannot

be held vicariously liable for the offence. Therefore, the High Court set aside the appellate court order and allowed the revision petition by the MD.

Source: <https://www.barandbench.com/news/director-not-vicariously-liable-cheque-bouncing-company-acquitted-kerala-high-court>

58. Aditi is pursuing her masters in Corporate Law from NLU Kochi. During some classroom discussion, she got deeply interested in the intricate world of stock market. Her batchmate, Rohan, suggested Aditi to invest in OpenAI, as the company was booming and had high chances of profitability in near future. Aditi followed his advice. However, after becoming a shareholder, she discovered that cheque issued by company was bounced. She filed a complaint under Section 138 of NI Act against the company and against Aditya, the majority shareholder of the company. The company got acquitted. Can the case be held against Aditya holding him vicariously liable for the matter?
- (a) No, because the recent Kerala High Court judgment establishes that directors cannot be held vicariously liable if the company is acquitted.
  - (b) No, because cheque was not issued by him in his personal capacity.
  - (d) Yes, as the majority shareholder, Aditya is responsible for all the actions done on behalf of the company.
  - (d) The information given is insufficient to decide the case.
59. Alia works as a Senior Associate at DiLegal, a leading law-firm. During her interaction with other colleagues, she came to know about a lucrative prospectus issued by a private company dealing in petrochemical products. She decided to invest her money there. However, in rush, she did not look into the company's background much. After some time, the Managing Director (MD) issued a cheque on behalf of the company, which bounced. Alia filed a complaint under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act. The company, however, was acquitted of the offence. Can the MD be held vicariously liable for the cheque bouncing?
- (a) Yes, the MD can be held vicariously liable as the company's acquittal does not absolve individual officers of their responsibilities.
  - (b) No, the MD cannot be held vicariously liable since the cheque was issued on behalf of the company, and the company was acquitted of the offence. [www.lawpreptutorial.com](http://www.lawpreptutorial.com)
  - (c) Yes, the MD can be held vicariously liable only if there is evidence of his personal involvement in the financial transactions leading to the cheque bouncing.
  - (d) No, the MD cannot be held vicariously liable as the acquittal of the company implies the absence of criminal liability for all individuals associated with it, without any investigation being required.

60. Anjali and Rahul are neighbours. Both remain very busy and occupied in their respective schedules. Anjali owns a boutique whereas Rahul works as an MD in publicly traded company. However, they both play football for the same team in their City Sports Club during weekends. While talking about their professional lives, Rahul introduced and encouraged Anjali for investing in his company's stocks. Anjali was sceptical about the performance of public company but on Rahul's numerous insurances decided to proceed further with the investment. Can he be held personally liable in case if the cheque issued by company is bounced, provided that the same judgment also applies to public listed companies?
- (a) Yes, Rahul can be held personally liable since he actively encouraged Anjali to invest in the company's stocks.
  - (b) No, Rahul cannot be held personally liable as the advice given by him was for the benefit of Anjali and his personal interests.
  - (c) Yes, Rahul can be held personally liable because the consent given by Anjali to invest was under undue authority he possessed as a friend.
  - (d) No, Rahul cannot be held personally liable since Anjali's decision to invest was her own, and Rahul's role as an MD does not imply vicarious liability.
61. Riya, a Finance Manager working in the private company Fortune Ltd., issued some cheques to the existing shareholders on the directions received from Managing Director, Sumit, of the same company. However, to her misfortune, she finds herself personally entangled in a cheque bouncing case along with that of the company. Which option will strengthen her case while filling application for her acquittal, considering that the company had recently undergone financial restructuring process?
- (a) Riya was not involved in the financial restructuring process.
  - (b) The bounced cheque was issued during routine business transactions.
  - (c) Riya was acting on the directions of MD and had no discretion to exercise in the specific issuance.
  - (d) Finance Managers cannot be held vicariously liable for the act performed by company.
62. Sundar is the Managing Director of Fresh Milk Ltd. He is currently facing charges under Section 138 of NI Act, along with the company. The complainant alleges that both Sundar and the company are jointly responsible for a bounced cheque issued. Sundar defended by saying that he could not be held vicariously liable merely based on the position that he holds in the company. Considering the recent Kerala HC Judgment, select the most appropriate argument that could be presented by the complainant's legal team to weaken Sundar's defence.
- (a) Sundar signed the cheque in his personal capacity rather than on behalf of the company.
  - (b) Sundar had signed the cheque and approved the payment despite knowing that there was shortage of funds in the bank account of the company.
  - (c) Sundar personally benefited from the business transaction in question as a managing director.
  - (d) The company has a history of financial misconduct and fraudulent dealings.



**XIV.** The first condition for contracts to develop is a meeting of minds between the parties, which results in an agreement, and those agreements that are enforceable by law result in a contract. All agreements are contracts, but not all contracts are agreements. The offeror/promisor is the one who proposes to do or not do anything, and the offeree/promisee is the party to whom the proposal is made. One of the most important aspects of contracts is a consideration. The Indian Contract Act of 1872 defines it under section 2(d): “When at the desire of the promisor, the promisee or any other person has done or abstained from doing, or does or abstains from doing, or promises to do or abstain from doing, something, such act, abstinence, or promise is considered a consideration.” The importance of consideration is demonstrated by the fact that it is frequently stated that “without consideration, there is no contract.” The consideration must be genuine, that is, it must have some legal worth. On the other hand, it does not have to be adequate, but judges can consider adequacy as a factor to decide if the parties freely consented. The consideration does not have to benefit the promisor personally. It suffices if the act or forbearance that constitutes consideration was performed at the promisor’s request. It’s also crucial that anything is done at the promisor’s request, not at the request of a third party.

Consideration must be lawful: Section 24 of the Indian Contract Act states that if the consideration is illegal, the agreements are regarded void. Section 23 establishes several requirements for lawful consideration. It states that if the consideration or object of an agreement is fraudulent or illegal, it is not legal. Also, if the consideration violates any law or causes harm to another person or property, it is regarded as illegal. One criterion for determining the legality of consideration or object is morality. The courts have the authority to determine whether a certain concept or object is immoral or against public policy.

Exceptions to Consideration: Section 25 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872, contains provisions for unusual circumstances in which a contract proves to be legitimate even without consideration. If a close relatives or family members have a written and registered agreement based on natural love and affection, that agreement is enforceable even if there is no consideration. Moreover, a pledge to pay for something done voluntarily for the promisor in the past is legally binding.

*Source:* <https://www.juscorpus.com/role-of-consideration-in-contracts%EF%BF%BC/>

63. Niyati promises to give a brand-new Apple watch that she had recently bought, as a gift to Muskan if she scores the highest marks in the upcoming test in the subject of 'law of contracts'. Muskan was extremely happy hearing the offer and started studying day and night for the same. Niyati also, intending to give away the watch, kept it aside safely and stopped wearing it. On the day of results, Muskan indeed secures highest marks. However, Niyati changes her mind and decides to keep the watch with herself only. Decide the enforceability of promise made by Niyati.
- (a) The promise made by Niyati to Muskan is enforceable as Muskan had worked very hard for it.
  - (b) The promise made by Niyati to Muskan is unenforceable as there is no consideration for Niyati. It does not benefit her in any way.
  - (c) The promise made by Niyati to Muskan is enforceable because the act as well as object of the agreement was lawful and done at the request of Niyati.
  - (d) The promise made by Niyati to Muskan is unenforceable as scoring highest marks does not constitute valid consideration.
64. Neha and Kunal were best friends from their childhood times. They had a great sync while doing classroom projects together. During the university internship break, both of them were quite free and decided to enter into an agreement where Neha promises Kunal to pay INR 1 Lakh for his assistance in smuggling prohibited goods across the border. After the agreement, Kunal fulfilled his part of the deal, but Neha refused to make the payment. Can Kunal enforce this agreement in the court of law?
- (a) No, as it was a personal agreement between two friends.
  - (b) Yes, because Kunal performed his part. Neha is obligated to perform her part too.
  - (c) No, as the object of agreement was illegal.
  - (d) No, because the agreement was not in writing.
65. Rama saved Kanta from a barking dog when they were in the market for shopping. Out of sheer gratitude, Kanta agrees to sell her vintage designer saree to Rama at a nominal amount of Rs. 1000. Kanta was aware that the market value of the saree is definitely more what she was offering but she was not sure about the exact price. Later, she realized the true value and insists that the contract is unfair and hence, void due to the vast difference in market and agreed-upon prices. Can Kanta challenge the said contract?
- (a) No, because the consideration, though nominal, is genuine, and adequacy is not a decisive factor in determining the validity of the contract.
  - (b) Yes, as there is a vast difference between in market value and the agreed-upon price.
  - (c) No, since the contract involves the sale of personal property, and adequacy is irrelevant in such transactions.
  - (d) Yes, because the adequacy of consideration is a mandatory requirement for the enforceability of contracts.

66. Manupama, a renowned chef, is approached by a prestigious restaurant, Elite Eats, with a tempting offer. It proposes Manupama to abstain from participating in any other culinary competitions for the next year and in return, they guarantee her a significant cash prize. Manupama accepted the offer. However, the restaurant denies the payment later on, contending that the contract was void as there is no valid consideration. The matter went to High Court and it seeks your advice. Decide whether Manupama's promise of such abstention be considered as a valid consideration under Indian Contract Act?
- (a) No, since abstaining from participating in competitions is against the principles of free competition and is void.
  - (b) Yes, as Manupama's promise of abstaining is made at the desire of Elite Eats and involves a reciprocal benefit.
  - (c) No, because promises related to culinary competitions are inherently unenforceable in contract law.
  - (d) Yes, if Manupama provides a notarized affidavit confirming her abstention.
67. Sony Singh, a talented musician, voluntarily organizes a free music concert to help raise funds for his cousin Preeta's charity event. In appreciation, Preeta drafts a written deed in favour of Sony Singh to pay him INR 50,000/- in future. She also registers it to the concerned sub-registrar's office. However, she refuses to pay the sum afterwards due to some altercation happened between the two cousins. Decide the enforceability of this agreement under the Indian Contract Act.
- (a) The agreement is not enforceable because the act done was voluntary in nature and was not done at the request of the promisor i.e., Preeta.
  - (b) The agreement is enforceable since a pledge to pay for something done voluntarily for the promisor in the past is legally binding under Section 25.
  - (c) The agreement is enforceable but only if Sony Singh agrees to provide additional services in the future.
  - (d) The agreement is not enforceable unless Sony Singh issues a legal notice demanding payment, making the pledge enforceable.

- XV.** A Kerala court on Thursday granted anticipatory bail to vlogger Shakir Subhan, popularly known as Mallu Traveller, in a case registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act on his ex-wife's complaint.

Special Judge hearing POCSO Cases granted relief to the Youtuber while deciding the anticipatory bail moved by him in the case registered earlier this month. Subhan has been booked under various provisions of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and provisions related to penetrative sexual assault and aggravated penetrative sexual assault under the POCSO Act. According to the prosecution, when the complainant was 15 years old in 2012, she had agreed to marry Subhan after reaching adulthood. However, a month after they performed Nikkah (Muslim marriage) on December 13, 2012, the accused allegedly took her to his home and committed multiple acts of penetrative sexual assault.

Recently in the case of Kathula Vs. State of Telangana, the Tel HC held that when the victim is a minor with a male and if she states in one word that "rape" was committed and considering there is no corroborating medical evidence, it is significant to know what she means by her narration of "rape." The court said that the victim if she is minor, might be subjected to questions under Section 165 of the Indian Evidence Act in order to seek clarifications.

The court held that "The use of word 'rape' by the victim girl in the present circumstances cannot be made sole basis for the Court to assume or draw inference that penetrative sexual assault had taken place". The court further said that it is understandable to accept the victim's statement when she is a married woman or mature enough what constitutes rape. But in the present case there was nothing on record to show that the girl had knowledge as to what a sexual act is or what constitutes "rape." The court set aside the conviction of the accused under Section 6 (aggravated penetrative sexual assault) of the POCSO Act and instead convicted him under Section 8 (sexual assault) of the Act.

The Act is gender neutral and regards the best interests and welfare of the child as a matter of paramount importance at every stage so as to ensure the healthy physical, emotional, intellectual, and social development of the child. The Act defines a child as any person below eighteen years of age, and regards the best interests and well-being of the child as being of paramount importance at every stage, to ensure the healthy physical, emotional, intellectual, and social development of the child.

*Source:* <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7131212469494050816>

*Source:* <https://barandbench-nluo.refread.com/news/kerala-court-grants-anticipatory-bail-vlogger-mallu-traveller-pocso-case>

68. Viraj and Antaragini were a couple living in Luninagar, Rajasthan. They were madly in love but their love was objected to by society and especially by Antaragini's father, Ramesh. They always planned to move to Jaipur, where they could live their dream and nobody would disturb them. Viraj was 16 years old and Antaragini was 17 years old. Getting frustrated by society, they eloped to Jaipur and had a wedding in front of the fire, followed by sexual intercourse in a hotel room. Meanwhile, Ramesh filed a complaint against Viraj. The police found them in the room and charged Viraj. Decide the liability of Viraj under the aforesaid provisions.
- (a) Viraj is not liable because it was consensual.
  - (b) Viraj is not liable because Antaragini is older than him. Rather, Antaragini should be held liable under POCSO
  - (c) Viraj is liable as he intentionally did sexual intercourse punishable under POCSO.
  - (d) Viraj is not liable as they were already wedded.
69. Ramya, a senior journalist was the daughter of the great businessman, Ramadhir. Ramadhir was defrauded by Raj, taking all his property. In vengeance, Ramya planned by first seducing Raj to form a bond of friendship. It was followed by the forming of physical relations. Following this, Ramya complained to the police by saying that Raj 'raped' here. There was no further evidence in the matter but sexual activity was confirmed by medical reports. Decide on the liability of Raj by the laws provided in the passage.
- (a) Raj can be held liable if Ramya shows possibility of force being used
  - (b) Raj is liable for rape as there is no evidence of forceful sex.
  - (c) Raj is liable for rape because it was all the planning of Ramya.
  - (d) Raj is liable for rape and only liable for fraud.
70. Given the facts in the above case Raj is a minor and Ramya seduces him dishonestly to have sexual intercourse. Decide the liability of Ramya in the case.
- (a) Ramya is liable for rape dishonestly inducing Raj and having sexual intercourse.
  - (b) Ramya is not liable for rape as there is no medical evidence.
  - (c) Ramya is not liable for rape because it was all the planning of Raj
  - (d) Ramya is liable under POCSO for having sexual intercourse with minor.
71. Bunty was a 13-year-old boy and went to St. Gayle school. He was a bright student and always remained attentive in class. Ms. Sanya was the Maths teacher of Bunty's class and was very much proud of him. One day after school, Ms. Sanya called Bunty to her chamber to give him some books but instead, she forced Bunty to have a Physical relationship with her. Bunty complained this to his parent and his parent went to the principal of the school, which in turn fired Ms. Sanya and made a police complaint to the police. Decide her liability.
- (a) Sanya is liable for rape.
  - (b) Sanya is liable under POCSO Act.
  - (c) Sanya is not liable, because of double jeopardy as she was already being fired.
  - (d) Sanya is not liable as Bunty is a male and Sanya is a female.

72. Given the facts in the above-said question. Bunty is 18 years old and was drugged by Ms. Sanya and was forced to have physical relations with him. Decide the liability of Ms. Sanya in the case.
- (a) Sanya is liable for rape.
  - (b) Sanya is not liable because Bunty was a male.
  - (c) Sanya is not liable because Bunty was a major.
  - (d) Both (b) and (c)

**XVI.** The provision related to divorce by mutual consent under the Hindu law has been inserted in the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, as Section 13B, by the Hindu Marriage [Amendment], Act in the year of 1976. In cases where both the parties to a divorce do not want to live together due to the non-compatibility and they want to end their marriage, they can go for a petition of divorce with mutual consent under section 13B of the same act. The following requirements have to be fulfilled: The parties must have to live separately for at least one year, The parties are unable to live together, and both the parties must have agreed to dissolve the marriage.

In the case of Sureshta Devi v. Om Prakash, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India while pronouncing judgment stated that the expression living separately indicates the parties not living like husband and wife even if they are living under the same roof. What is important is that the parties have no desire to live together or to perform the marital obligations and both the parties are living separately for a period of at least one year before the presentation of the case. Non-compatibility between the spouses plays an important role and should try to protect their marriage.

However, after fulfilling all of the above requirements and after filing a petition for divorce by mutual consent of both husband and wife, the parties must have to wait till the period of six months which is termed as the 'cooling period' unless there are any reasonable and exceptional circumstances. Jurisdiction of the court should not be a major issue in filing for divorce as the petition can be filed within the local limits of the ordinary civil jurisdiction of where the marriage was solemnized or where either of the parties currently resides. The parties to a marriage must be living separately for at least one year before filing the petition.

The doctrine of irretrievable break-down of marriage as a ground of divorce as per the recommendations of the 71st report of the Law Commission of India is not available to the various High Courts as it is solely and exclusively exercised by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India under Article 142 of the Constitution of India, thus in case of requirement, such cases shall be referred to the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

Source: <https://www.lawyered.in/legal-disrupt/articles/divorce-mutual-consent-dushyant-tiwari/>

73. Reema and Suresh got married in May 2021. Suresh was placed in an esteemed law firm, Kabutra and Kabutra in New Delhi, and his wife, Reema was a doctor at AIIMS, Bhubaneswar. Due to their professions, they have been living in different cities separately for the last two and a half years. One fine day on mutual agreement, they decided to take divorce, as they found no meaning to their marriage as both were living in different cities. Can they get a divorce under Section 13B?
- (a) No, because merely living separately does not grant the permission of divorce under Section 13B.
  - (b) Yes, because the divorce can be granted on mutual agreement under Section 13B.
  - (c) No, because marriage is a sacred meeting of two souls that cannot be separated by way of divorce under the Hindu Marriage Act.
  - (d) Yes, because the circumstances of the case compel them to do so.
74. Aashi and Ajay got married in the year of 2016. However, both have realized, during lockdown, that they have huge compatibility issues, which have been creating chaos in their lives since they got married in 2016, which was solemnized in Jaipur, Rajasthan. They were living separately for the past six months; Aashi lived in Jaipur and Ajay lived in Delhi. After realizing this, they mutually decided to file a divorce application in the Hon'ble High Court of Rajasthan at Jodhpur. Decide the matter?
- (a) They cannot be granted divorce as living separately for at least one year before the filing of the application is a statutory requirement under the Act. [www.lawpreptutorial.com](http://www.lawpreptutorial.com)
  - (b) They cannot be granted divorce as the application can be filed only in Jaipur, where the marriage was solemnized.
  - (c) They can be granted divorce as they mutually decided to get separate through divorce under Section 13B of the Hindu Marriage Act.
  - (d) None of the above.
75. Vansh and Shreya, are a Hindu couple, married in 2022 under the Special Marriage Act. They have been living separately for more than one year due to non-compatibility in their marital relations. They want to seek divorce by mutual consent under Section 13B of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955. Therefore, they filed a petition for divorce before the district magistrate in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh by mutual consent. Decide whether the divorce will be granted to them under Section 13B of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955.
- (a) They can get the divorce under Section 13B because they have mutually decided to do so and circumstances strengthen their application.
  - (b) They cannot get a divorce as they were married under the Special Marriage Act.
  - (c) They cannot get a divorce as Section 13B does not apply in their case.
  - (d) They can get a divorce under Section 13B because even if they married under the Special Marriage Act, Hindu marriage is governed under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955.

76. Alok and Aarti got married on 23 December 2019 as per Hindu rites and ceremonies. However, soon thereafter differences started arising and both of them did not want to stay together anymore. Alok started torturing Aarti and tried to poison her once. Aarti could not bear this any longer and decided to file a divorce petition, however, the court directed Aarti to stay in her matrimonial house as the 6-month cooling period is necessary. Alok also apologized to Aarti for his behaviour. However, Aarti has filed a petition in the High Court. Evaluate the options.
- (a) The High Court has the jurisdiction, as divorce is a family law matter and it has the exclusive power to decide on the matters of family and personal laws.
  - (b) Aarti had no legal recourse as the cooling period is necessary to maintain the sanctity of the institution of marriage.
  - (c) The matter should be referred to the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India under Article 142 as the waiting period mentioned in the act can be waived depending upon the nature and circumstances of the case.
  - (d) Aarti should file a case of mental and physical harassment and attempt to murder Alok.

**XVII.** The Supreme Court in its recent judgment holding that the public ways cannot be occupied indefinitely in the name of protests, have referred to a constitution bench judgment in *Himatlal K. Shah v. Commissioner of Police, Ahmedabad*. This piece is an explainer about the said judgment delivered in 1972 by a five-judge bench headed by the then CJI SM Sikri. In *Himatlal*, the rules framed by the Commissioner of Police, Ahmedabad, by the powers conferred under Section 33(1)(o) of the Bombay Police Act, 1951, were under challenge. The Rules provided that, no public meeting with or without loudspeaker, shall be held on the public street or a public place within the jurisdiction of the Commissionerate of the Police, Ahmedabad City unless the necessary permission in writing has been obtained from the officer authorised by the Commissioner of Police. The Gujarat High Court dismissed the petitions challenging these Rules and thus it reached before the Supreme Court.

Justice SM Sikri, who wrote the lead judgment (also on behalf of Justices A.N. Ray, P. Jaganmohan Reddy) observed that there is nothing wrong in requiring previous permission to be obtained before holding a public meeting on a public street. It held that the right which flows from Art. 19 (1) (b) is not a right to hold a meeting at any place and time. However, it was found that the impugned Rules confers arbitrary powers on the officer authorised by the Commissioner of Police and therefore, it must be struck down. It will be open to the Commissioner of Police, Ahmedabad, to frame a proper rule or rules, the court said. Following observations were made in the judgment:

The real point in this case is whether the impugned rules violate Art. 19(1)(b). Rule 7 does not give any guidance to the officer authorised by the Commissioner of Police as to the circumstances in which he can refuse permission to hold a public meeting. Prima facie, to give an arbitrary discretion to an officer is an unreasonable restriction. It was urged that the Marginal Note of s. 33-power to make rules for regulation of traffic and for preservation of



order in public place, etc.-will guide the officer. It is doubtful whether a marginal note can be used for this purpose, for we cannot imagine the officer referring to the marginal note of the section and then deciding that his discretion is limited, especially as the marginal note ends with 'etcetera'. It is also too much to expect him to look at the scheme of the Act and decide that his discretion is limited.

Source: <https://www.livelaw.in/know-the-law/what-sc-constitution-bench-held-in-himatlal-case-about-right-to-assembly-in-public-roads-164254>

77. Raavan, Indrajit and Kumbh Karan were neighbours and lived on the same street; in fact, they were the only three who lived and used that street. The electricity had fluctuated for the past few days, so they got frustrated and decided to protest outside their houses, in the same street. However, on the first day itself, Vibhishan filed a case against them for protesting on a public road. Choose the best option in the light of the given passage.
- (a) The case will be taken up because they are indeed protesting on a public road.
  - (b) The case will not be taken up because the street is more private in nature and only used by them.
  - (c) The case will be taken up because they must have taken permission from the magistrate before protesting.
  - (d) The case will not be taken up because it would be a violation of their fundamental rights.
78. A group of BBA students at National Degree University Kalka wanted to protest against the college administration, so they started protesting in the classroom itself. Sahil, a student, filed a complaint against them near Police Station, since the college is a government college, the students are protesting on a public road, and therefore, they should be stopped and removed from there. Choose the best option in light of the given passage.
- (a) The students ought to be removed because they were indeed protesting on a public road.
  - (b) The students cannot be removed because a college premise is not a public road.
  - (c) The students ought to be removed because they did not obtain permission from the magistrate.
  - (d) The students cannot be removed as it is their fundamental right to protest for their rights.

79. A few people of the 'Reckless' Party wanted to protest against the central government. Therefore, they sent an application to obtain permission for the same and the clerk of the magistrate informed them via WhatsApp that their application would get approved for sure, so they started protesting outside the residence of the governor while some used very harsh slogans for the governor and Prime minister of the state such as "PM Chor", "PM Panauti", and many more, but the police of the state removed them. Were the police right in doing so? Decide.
- (a) Yes, since they have used inappropriate slogans against the Hon'ble Prime Minister, who is a hardworking and honest PM.
  - (b) No, since they have already obtained permission from the magistrate.
  - (c) Yes, since they failed to obtain permission from the magistrate.
  - (d) Yes, since they have no right to do a violent protest in a public place.
80. A group of citizens decided to organize a protest in a public park to raise awareness about environmental issues. They informed the local authorities about their plan and received acknowledgment but not formal permission. On the day of the protest, the police arrived and asked them to disperse, citing the lack of official permission as they were causing difficulty to the people playing and jogging there in the park. Assess the situation and choose the most appropriate option:
- (a) Yes, the protesters were within their rights since they had informed the local authorities, and acknowledgment should be sufficient for a peaceful demonstration.
  - (b) No, as formal permission is a legal requirement for any public gathering, and the police were correct in dispersing the crowd.
  - (c) Yes, because the protest was for a noble cause, and the police should have allowed them to continue without formal permission.
  - (d) No, because they were causing trouble to other people in the park.

**XVIII.** Article 16 of the Indian Constitution guarantees equal opportunity to all citizens in matters related to employment in the public sector. Article 16(1) states that there shall be equal opportunity for the citizens in the matter of employment or appointment to any office under the State. The provision of equality is only applicable to the employment or offices which are held by the State. The State is still free to lay down the requisite qualifications for the recruitment of employees for the Government services. Article 16(2) lays down the grounds on which the citizens should not be discriminated against for the purpose of employment or appointment to any office under the State. The prohibited grounds of discrimination under Article 16 (2) are religion, race, caste, sex, descent, birthplace, residence, or any of them. Article 16(1) and (2) lay down provisions for equal opportunity of employment in the public sector. However, it is stated in clause 3 of Article 16 that nothing in this article shall prevent Parliament from making any law which prescribes to the citizens who are appointed to any office under the State in regard to any requirements as to residence within that State or Union territory prior to employment or appointment to any office under the State.

Article 16(4) of the Indian constitution provides for the reservation of services under the State in favor of the backward class of citizens. The State shall decide whether a particular class of citizens is backward or not. Therefore, the State shall lay down acceptable criteria in order to ascertain whether a particular class of citizens is a backward class or not.

Untouchability has been abolished by the Indian Constitution through Article 17. The Article states that the practice of untouchability is prohibited in all forms. Article 17 of the Constitution abolishes the practice of untouchability. The practice of untouchability is an offense under the Untouchability Offences Act of 1955 (renamed to Protection of Civil Rights Act in 1976) and anyone doing so is punishable by law. This Act states that whatever is open to the general public should be open to all the citizens of India.


The Article 18 of the Constitution forbids the State from conferring any titles on the citizens of India and also they are prohibited from accepting any title given by a foreign State. However, Military and academic distinctions can be conferred upon. The title which comes along with awards such as Bharat Ratna and Padma Vibhushan do not fall within the constitutional prohibition and thus, they do not fall under the definition of title under Article 18 of the Constitution.

Source- <https://blog.ipleaders.in/right-to-equality-article-16-17-18/>

81. Sameer is a young man of 24 years of age. He holds a degree of bachelor's in arts and was looking for a job. There was a vacancy open for the post of a government teacher. The requirements provided that a suitable candidate must hold at least a master's degree and also 2 years minimum experience. Sameer did not meet these requirements as he did not have a master's degree and no experience either. So he was rejected for the position. Sameer went to court alleging that his fundamental right under Article 16 has been violated. Decide:
- (a) Article 16 has been violated because he was denied public employment.
  - (b) Article 16 has been violated because the state had a duty to provide guaranteed employment to Sameer.
  - (c) Article 16 has not been violated because the government can lay down qualifications for employment in public sector.
  - (d) Article 16 has not been violated because the job did not come under the state.
82. Aashu is a judiciary aspirant belonging to general category. She was preparing to enter into judicial services for almost 3 years and had only one attempt left to clear the exam. In her last attempt, she cleared the two levels but in the third and last interview level, she and one other candidate named Gautam scored the same. Gautam belonged to a caste that was recognised as a "backward class" by the government. So, he got the benefit of reservation and was promoted over Aashu. Has Aashu's fundamental right under Article 16 been violated?
- (a) Yes, the right has been violated because equality of opportunity was not provided.
  - (b) Yes, the right has been violated because Aashu was discriminated against.
  - (c) No, the right has not been violated because Article 16 validates reservation of seats for backward classes.
  - (d) No, the right has not been violated because Aashu was not qualified enough for the post.
83. Mr Ranbir is the principal of the "Angels Public School" which is a government school. Alia is a student in the school who recently completed 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Alia has always been a talented student, she excelled in studies, sports and other extra-curricular activities. In her 10<sup>th</sup> board exams, she scored 98.5% marks and was the topper of her district. To honour her achievement and to provide a reward for her excellence, she was awarded with the title of "Outstanding Female Student of the year". Other students considered this a violation of Article 18. Decide:
- (a) This is in violation of Article 18 because the state cannot confer any titles according to this article.
  - (b) This is in violation of Article 18 because it is discriminative against other students.
  - (c) This is not in violation of Article 18 because the school did not come under the state.
  - (d) This is not in violation of Article 18 because academic titles are not barred under this Article.

84. The Central Legislature of an India named P framed a law which provided that to enter into the police force of the state, up to the level of a commissioner, a basic requirement has to be met. The requirement was that the candidate must have been a resident of the state P for 5 years prior to entering the service. This was framed with the objective that the police force should be familiar with their surrounding in order to keep up the law enforcement and that the locals should get more opportunities in public employment. A candidate, Shyam, who did not meet this requirement challenged this law as violative of Article 16. Decide:
- (a) The law violates Article 16 because it is not providing equality of opportunity in public employment.
  - (b) The law does not violate Article 16 because such a provision made by the Parliament is valid under this Article.
  - (b) The law violates Article 16 because this is not a valid criterion.
  - (d) Adequate information is not provided to decide the validity of the law.

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**Logical Reasoning**

Each set of questions in this section is based on the reasoning and arguments set out in the preceding passage. Please answer each question on the basis of what is stated or implied in the corresponding passage. Do not rely on any information or facts other than the ones supplied to you. In some instances, more than one option may be the answer to the question; in such a case, please choose the option that most accurately and comprehensively answers the question.

- XIX.** A U.S. strike on Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi militants in the Red Sea while they were attacking a container ship is the latest sign that the Gaza war is widening beyond Israel-Palestine. Three Houthi boats were sunk and 10 militants killed in a rare close combat with the rebels who control much of Yemen. The Houthis say that to express solidarity with the Palestinians, they would continue to attack commercial vessels passing through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, through which the Red Sea opens into the Gulf of Aden. Since late November, at least 20 commercial tankers have come under Houthi attacks, including a chemical vessel off the Indian coast, forcing some of the world's largest shipping companies, including Maersk, Hapag-Lloyd and MSC, to suspend trading on the Red Sea routes, and use the circuitous route around Africa. Traffic through the Red Sea, a crucial link between the Mediterranean and the Arabian Seas through the Suez Canal, has dropped by some 35% in recent weeks, increasing shipping and insurance costs. The crisis has prompted the U.S. to announce a new naval task force to ensure security in one of the world's busiest shipping lanes. But the U.S.'s attempt to deal with the Houthi threats as a stand-alone security crisis might run into its own limitations. No Red Sea basin country has joined the U.S.-led task force, which includes even Egypt, whose economy has taken a hit due to the drop in the Suez traffic. This shows the growing anger in the Arab world towards the Biden's administration's unconditional support for Israel's offensive in Gaza, which has killed at least 22,000 people in 11 weeks. The Houthi control of Yemen's Red Sea Coast, including the port of Hodeidah, which is some 250 km north of the Bab el-Mandeb, just 29 km wide at its narrowest point, gives them a natural advantage in carrying out sea denial attacks in and around the Strait. Over the past few weeks, the U.S. has shot down several Houthi missiles and drones over the Red Sea. But that has not stopped the Houthis from launching new attacks. Even if the U.S. carries out airstrikes in Yemen, it is not clear whether aerial attacks could deter the Houthis, who survived intense Saudi bombing for seven years. Beefing up security in the Red Sea and the Arabian Sea has now become inevitable, but the U.S. should first work towards achieving a ceasefire in Gaza, addressing the core issue behind the escalation. That would help Washington build a regional consensus against the Houthis. But if the U.S. turns a blind eye towards the indiscriminate killing of Palestinians by its ally and stays focused only on the Houthis, it risks getting dragged deeper into a widening regional conflict.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/widening-war-the-hindu-editorial-on-the-gaza-war-going-beyond-israel-palestine/article67695764.ece>

85. What is the central idea of the passage as conveyed by the author?
- (a) The Houthis' attacks in the Red Sea represent a critical threat to global shipping and necessitate increased maritime security.
  - (b) U.S. military actions in Yemen are escalating regional conflicts and undermining efforts to secure vital shipping lanes.
  - (c) The Gaza war's expansion and its global implications highlight the need for a comprehensive approach to Middle Eastern conflicts.
  - (d) Arab nations' reluctance to join the U.S.-led naval task force indicates a broader discontent with American foreign policy in the region.
86. Which of the following, if true, would most decisively fortify the author's argument?
- (a) Reports from neutral international observers indicate a direct correlation between the escalation of the Gaza conflict and increased Houthi activity in the Red Sea.
  - (b) Empirical studies show that past ceasefire agreements in Gaza have led to a temporary reduction in regional hostilities, including Houthi attacks. [www.lawpreptutorial.com](http://www.lawpreptutorial.com)
  - (c) Recent geopolitical analyses reveal that the majority of Red Sea basin countries favour a military-centric approach to Houthi threats.
  - (d) Data from maritime security agencies show no significant change in Houthi activities following increased U.S. naval presence in the region.
87. Which of the following, if substantiated, would most critically undermine the author's contention regarding the impact of Houthi activities on maritime operations in the Red Sea?
- (a) Advanced naval tactics employed by the U.S. have been demonstrably efficacious in preempting and neutralizing Houthi assaults.
  - (b) Detailed maritime reports have ascertained a consistent rise in commercial shipping traffic in the Red Sea, unaffected by Houthi actions.
  - (c) Economic analysis divulges that insurance premiums for vessels navigating the Red Sea have escalated dramatically, congruent with heightened Houthi threats.
  - (d) Strategic assessments by independent security firms have validated the effectiveness of alternate maritime routes in mitigating risks posed by Houthi attacks.

88. Which of the following can be inferred from the statement: "But the U.S.'s attempt to deal with the Houthi threats as a stand-alone security crisis might run into its own limitations..."
- (a) The inherent complexities of regional geopolitics diminish the efficacy of a unidimensional military strategy by the U.S. against the Houthis.
  - (b) The Houthi rebels' strategic control of key maritime locations necessitates an international coalition, beyond U.S. unilateral action, for effective containment.
  - (c) The U.S. military's focus on conventional warfare is ill-suited to counteract the asymmetric warfare tactics employed by the Houthis.
  - (d) The U.S.'s singular focus on military solutions overlooks the potential for non-military repercussions, including political and economic ramifications in the broader Middle East region.
89. What intricate inference can be drawn from the statement: "Beefing up security in the Red Sea and the Arabian Sea has now become inevitable, but the U.S. should first work towards achieving a ceasefire in Gaza, addressing the core issue behind the escalation..."
- (a) The efficacy of enhanced maritime security measures in the Red Sea is contingent upon the resolution of geopolitical tensions in Gaza.
  - (b) While necessary, augmenting naval security in the Red Sea is a secondary priority to diplomatic endeavours aimed at resolving the Gaza conflict.
  - (c) The perpetuation of conflict in Gaza is the primary catalyst for increased maritime threats in the Red Sea and Arabian Sea regions.
  - (d) The U.S. strategy in the Red Sea is symptomatic of a broader foreign policy approach that prioritizes military solutions over diplomatic engagements.
90. What is the most apt title for the passage, considering its multifaceted content and implications?
- (a) The Escalating Maritime Crisis in the Red Sea: A Reflection of Broader Middle Eastern Conflicts
  - (b) U.S. Naval Interventions and Houthi Aggression: Unravelling the Dynamics of the Red Sea Conflict
  - (c) The Geopolitical Ripple Effects of the Gaza Conflict on Global Shipping and Regional Security
  - (d) Addressing the Houthi Threat: Challenges and Limitations of the U.S. Security Approach in the Red Sea



**XX.** In the 1980s, as sales of video recorders boomed, a trade sprang up in converting grainy old 8mm home movies of festive celebrations and first steps to VHS tapes. Later, camcorder footage of family holidays was transferred on to DVDs. Those, too, have had their day. But even those who now hold their childhood memories in digital files on their laptops know they face the risk of obsolescence. Conversion to more modern formats can prove more complicated than it looks. Digitising archives brings huge benefits – even more so when they are public rather than private. Files can be duplicated and distributed, reducing the risk that they will be lost entirely through physical damage such as fire or flooding. Studying digital versions reduces wear and tear on the originals. Scholars from around the world can easily access records and collaborate with others elsewhere. The International Dunhuang Project, for example, has catalogued and digitised items such as manuscripts and textiles from the Mogao caves in China. Founded by the British Library almost 30 years ago, it now includes 22 institutions across 12 countries.

But the news that the Ministry of Justice is proposing to scan the 110 million wills it holds and destroy all but a handful of the originals after 25 years has appalled historians. The consultation presents this as a way of providing easier access for genealogists and other researchers. But that explains the digitisation, not the destruction of the paper copies. The ministry notes that the change would save around £4.5m a year while, it argues, retaining all the essential information.

Scholars disagree. Physical records can themselves carry important information – the kind of ink or paper used may be part of the story that historians are uncovering. Errors are often made in scanning. And digital copies are arguably more vulnerable to damage than material items, just in different ways. The cyber-attack on the British Library in October has prevented scholars from accessing digitised materials it holds: imagine if researchers could not return to the originals. Even without bad actors, digitised information can easily be lost within a few decades. Much will depend on what formats the Ministry of Justice chooses and what safeguards are put in place.

The government says that it will save the original wills of “famous people for historic record”, such as those of Charles Darwin or Diana, Princess of Wales. It is extraordinarily arrogant to assume that we know who will matter to posterity. Mary Seacole, the pioneering nurse who now appears on the national curriculum, was largely forgotten in the UK for almost a century.


*Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2024/jan/01/the-guardian-view-on-digital-only-archives-material-items-still-matter-to-historians>*

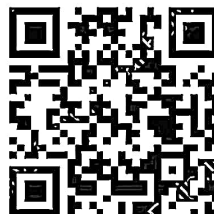
91. What inference can be drawn about the impact of digitizing archives, as exemplified by the International Dunhuang Project?
- (a) The digitization of archives predominantly serves to enhance the physical preservation of original historical documents.
  - (b) Digitizing archives transforms them into a globally accessible resource, fostering international scholarly collaboration.
  - (c) The primary objective of archive digitization, as demonstrated by the International Dunhuang Project, is to safeguard against potential natural disasters.
  - (d) Digital archives mainly reduce the administrative burden of managing and cataloging historical records.
92. Which of the following, if substantiated, would most robustly reinforce the author's argument regarding the limitations and risks associated with digitizing archives?
- (a) A recent study reveals that advanced digital restoration techniques can accurately reproduce historical documents, including the minutiae of ink and paper characteristics.
  - (b) Historical researchers have expressed a strong preference for working with physical records over digital copies for interpretative accuracy.
  - (c) Technological advancements have led to the development of digital formats that are impervious to cyber-attacks and data degradation.
  - (d) An archival survey shows that scanning errors in digitized historical documents are significantly more common than previously estimated.
93. What is the most profound underlying assumption in the statement: "It is extraordinarily arrogant to assume that we know who will matter to posterity"?
- (a) Future generations will likely have differing criteria for valuing historical figures and their contributions.
  - (b) The judgment of posterity is inherently unpredictable and subject to the evolving perspectives of successive generations.
  - (c) Historical significance is an objective measure that remains constant over time, irrespective of contemporary interpretations.
  - (d) The assessment of an individual's impact on history is a subjective process, heavily influenced by current societal norms and values.

94. Which of the following can be concluded from the given statement:  
Digitising archives brings huge benefits – even more so when they are public rather than private...”?
- (a) The digitization of archives, especially public ones, is fundamentally transforming the accessibility and preservation of historical documents.
  - (b) Private archives, when digitized, offer the same level of accessibility and preservation advantages as public archives.
  - (c) The intrinsic value of digital archives lies predominantly in their enhanced security measures compared to physical archives.
  - (d) Public digital archives primarily serve to democratize access to historical information, transcending geographical and institutional barriers.
95. It can be inferred from the statement that,  
"The consultation presents this as a way of providing easier access for genealogists and other researchers. But that explains the digitisation, not the destruction of the paper copies...”?
- (a) The rationale for digitization as a means to facilitate research accessibility does not inherently justify the elimination of original archival materials.
  - (b) Digitization, while enhancing the efficiency of research, may inadvertently lead to the neglect of preserving original archival sources.
  - (c) The consultation's emphasis on digital accessibility reflects a contemporary trend towards prioritizing convenience over historical authenticity in archival practices.
  - (d) The distinction between digitization for accessibility and the destruction of originals implies a potential oversight in the consultation's archival preservation strategy.
96. What is the primary theme articulated by the author in this passage?
- (a) The inexorable transition from physical to digital archives poses multifaceted challenges, including the risk of losing critical historical information and the inherent vulnerability of digital formats.
  - (b) The digitization of archives, while advantageous for broad accessibility, incurs significant historical costs, particularly when accompanied by the destruction of original documents.
  - (c) The evolution of media formats from physical to digital highlights the transient nature of technology and the consequent risks to the preservation of historical records.
  - (d) The decision to digitize and potentially destroy physical archives reflects a broader societal undervaluation of historical artifacts and their intrinsic value.

**XXI.** With the government refusing to extend the deadline for Aadhaar details of workers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) to be seeded to their job cards beyond December 31, 2023, to enable payments through an Aadhaar-based payment system (ABPS), the system has now become mandatory. Alarming, the decision would now affect nearly 35% of job card holders for this mode of payment and 12.7% of 'active' workers (those who have worked at least one day in the last three financial years), thereby putting a dampener on the demand-driven scheme for many, ABPS implementation, the Union government claims, will ensure that payments are quick, reduce rejection and plug all leaks. The government also contends that as the ABPS has been in place for MGNREGS from 2017, and because Aadhaar number availability is near universal in India, the ABPS is a robust and a safer way to transfer wages. However, the over-reliance on technical tools has resulted in problematic implementation, with beneficiaries devoid of a proper recourse for corrections in the system. Data analysed by LibTech India suggest that the names of 7.6 crore workers have been deleted over the past 21 months due to discrepancies between the Aadhaar and the job card, among other reasons, with many of these done erroneously. There are other issues with the use of the Aadhaar-based payments — where errors in any step of the process result in payment failures. Apart from the spelling discrepancy issue between the Aadhaar and the job card of the worker, there is also the problem of mapping the Aadhaar to the wrong bank account for many. In a number of cases, payments can be diverted to some other account than the one beneficiaries prefer, and also without their consent. Claims by the government that Aadhaar use has reduced delays in wage payments have also not been borne out, according to LibTech India, with wage delays largely due to insufficient funds in the first place. Without cleaning up Aadhaar seeding and mapping with bank accounts, making the ABPS mandatory will only create further issues. The Union government must revisit this decision, and work out a way to correct the faulty seeding and mapping problems before imposing ABPS. The Ministry of Rural Development has said that it may consider an exemption from ABPS on a case-to-case basis for gram panchayats if there are technical issues, but it would be better if the Ministry conducts social audits to ascertain the extent of the problem before insisting on ABPS. MGNREGS remains a vital demand-driven welfare scheme that helps the rural poor and its implementation must not be dependent upon a faulty technological system.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/faulty-compulsion-on-the-issue-of-mgnregs-and-aadhaar-seeding/article67698468.ece>

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97. Which of the following best captures the central theme of the passage as conveyed by the author?
- (a) "Evaluating the Technological Efficacy of Aadhaar-Based Payment System for MGNREGS Workers: A Multi-faceted Analysis"
  - (b) "The Aadhaar Conundrum: Balancing Technological Integration with Beneficiary Rights in MGNREGS"
  - (c) "Challenges and Implications of Implementing Aadhaar-Based Payment Systems in MGNREGS: A Critical Examination"
  - (d) "The Aadhaar Paradigm: A Technological Leap Forward or a Setback for MGNREGS Beneficiaries?"
98. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the author's argument regarding the problematic implementation of the Aadhaar-based payment system (ABPS) in the MGNREGS?
- (a) Empirical evidence from multiple sources indicates that the introduction of the ABPS has significantly reduced the incidence of fraudulent wage claims within the MGNREGS, thereby enhancing the overall integrity of the scheme.
  - (b) Detailed analytics from a reputed economic research institute reveal that the adoption of ABPS in MGNREGS has led to a marked decrease in administrative costs associated with wage disbursement, contrary to criticisms of the system's inefficiency.
  - (c) A longitudinal study conducted over several years shows that the ABPS has consistently improved the timeliness of wage payments to MGNREGS workers, with a substantial reduction in payment delays reported since its implementation.
  - (d) Recent surveys among MGNREGS beneficiaries demonstrate a predominant preference for the ABPS over traditional payment methods, citing its convenience and reliability in ensuring timely receipt of wages.
99. What can be inferred from the statement, "Alarming, the decision would now affect nearly 35% of job card holders for this mode of payment and 12.7% of 'active' workers (those who have worked at least one day in the last three financial years), thereby putting a dampener on the demand-driven scheme for many,
- (a) The mandatory implementation of the Aadhaar-based payment system will significantly enhance the efficiency and inclusivity of wage disbursement for the majority of MGNREGS workers.
  - (b) A considerable proportion of MGNREGS workers, including 'active' workers, are likely to face challenges due to the new payment system, potentially reducing their participation in the scheme.
  - (c) The mandatory Aadhaar-based payment system is anticipated to increase the number of active workers in MGNREGS, as it promises greater transparency in wage payments.
  - (d) The decision to mandate the Aadhaar-based payment system will primarily affect new or infrequent workers in MGNREGS, with minimal impact on regular, 'active' workers.

100. What inference can be drawn from the statement, "The Union government must revisit this decision, and work out a way to correct the faulty seeding and mapping problems before imposing ABPS"?
- (a) The ABPS is fundamentally incompatible with the current administrative framework of the MGNREGS, necessitating a radical restructuring of the entire payment system.
  - (b) There is an implicit acknowledgment of the technical feasibility of the ABPS, contingent upon resolving specific operational flaws related to Aadhaar seeding and mapping.
  - (c) The Union government's decision to implement the ABPS is primarily influenced by external pressures, rather than an assessment of the system's effectiveness in the context of MGNREGS.
  - (d) The statement implies a complete lack of confidence in the Union government's capability to rectify the issues associated with ABPS, suggesting an alternative payment mechanism might be more appropriate.
101. Which of the following most closely aligns with the underlying assumption in the statement, "Claims by the government that Aadhaar use has reduced delays in wage payments have also not been borne out"?
- (a) The efficaciousness of Aadhaar in expediting wage payments is contingent upon a multifaceted matrix of administrative efficiency and technological infrastructure that remains unoptimized.
  - (b) The discrepancy between governmental claims and the on-ground reality of wage disbursement implies a potential divergence in the conceptual framework and the pragmatic execution of Aadhaar-based systems.
  - (c) There exists an inherent and unmitigated lacuna within the Aadhaar system itself that precludes its effective integration into the wage disbursement framework of MGNREGS.
  - (d) The assertion of Aadhaar's role in reducing payment delays is a presupposed notion that is not substantiated by empirical evidence within the operational context of MGNREGS.
102. Suggest a suitable title for the passage from amongst the given titles:
- (a) "The Paradox of Technological Advancements in MGNREGS Wage Disbursement"
  - (b) "Aadhaar Implementation in MGNREGS: A Critical Analysis of Systemic Challenges"
  - (c) "Evaluating the Efficacy of ABPS in MGNREGS Amidst Technical and Administrative Hurdles"
  - (d) "The Dichotomy of Aadhaar Integration in MGNREGS: Progressive Intentions and Problematic Realities"

**XXII.** As January 22 approaches, an unprecedented fervour grips the nation as we prepare for the inauguration of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. While all the competitive politics surrounding it, especially in an election year, is inevitable and also insignificant for several of us, a confident expression of hope and faith for a multitude of common Indians who have no overt political or ideological tilts is unmissable.

It is truly an epochal moment when the soul of a civilisation long suppressed seems to be finally finding utterance—75 years after the nation found that voice. Mass prayers and lighting of lamps across temples in cities and villages, marathon chanting sprees, people placing earthen lamps in front of their homes to commemorate the return of Ram from his exile—everyone being that proverbial squirrel that did its tiny bit in building Ram’s ambitious bridge to Lanka.

For the longest time, a Hindu was called upon to look at herself with sheer apologetics, and made to believe that we were a rootless civilisation that ran merely on a sterile codification of laws. Every other community in India could proudly wear its identity and faith on their sleeve. But for a Hindu to do so was deemed regressive and communal. [www.lawpreptutorial.com](http://www.lawpreptutorial.com)

Hindus are hammered with hysterical harangues of them having a disaggregated faith that did not believe in congregation—their teerth yatras and shahi snaans notwithstanding. Hence their expression of their faith had to be muted. After all, making the minorities comfortable was the only goal of Indian secularism as was perversely practiced. This belief has received a massive jolt with the upcoming inauguration.

Much is known now about the history of the Ayodhya case itself. It is a testimony of 500 years of dogged resilience that Hindus showed to reclaim one of their holiest spaces. Foreign travellers and British administrators, from William Finch, Thomas Herbert, Joseph Tieffenthaler, Robert Montgomery Martin and several others recounted how, despite its destruction by Babar, the shrine received the quiet adoration of devout Hindus.

From the efforts of the Marathas and Nihang Sikhs to numerous litigations that went on in British courts since 1858, the desire to consecrate a grand Ram temple here is not a recent phenomenon. The wealth of literary, historical and legal proofs, as also archaeological evidence that emerged through the Archaeological Survey adds further credence. That it was always called Masjid-e-Janamsthan and not Babri Masjid was a further giveaway as to whose birthplace it was commemorating.

Yet Hindus had to wait patiently for five centuries and, even after freedom, go through tortuous legal processes to get back what was rightfully theirs. Today, when that cherished dream is being realised, we are asked not to celebrate it too much. In a way, the Ayodhya consecration demolishes for good this very warped Nehruvian idea of India where the ancient had to be eased out and replaced with a new India that had a tenuous connection with its past at best.

*Source: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/opinions/2024/jan/02/when-the-soul-of-a-civilisation-finds-utterance-2646879.html>*

Difficulty Level: M

103. Based on the passage, what inference can be drawn about the historical and cultural significance of the Ayodhya case for the Hindu community?
- (a) The Ayodhya case represents a peripheral event in Hindu history, with its cultural and religious significance largely overstated in contemporary narratives.
  - (b) The resilience and devotion of Hindus to the Ayodhya shrine, as evidenced over five centuries, signify a deep-rooted cultural and religious attachment, challenging the notion of a disaggregated Hindu faith.
  - (c) The historical recounting by foreign travellers and British administrators suggests that the Ayodhya shrine's importance is a recent development, not deeply embedded in Hindu tradition.
  - (d) The Ayodhya case underscores the uniformity and congregation-centric nature of Hindu faith, in contrast to the individualistic spiritual practices traditionally associated with Hinduism.
104. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?
- (a) The resurgence of Hindu identity and its public expression represents a shift from a previously apologetic stance to one of assertive pride, challenging historical narratives of a rootless civilization.
  - (b) The current public expressions of Hindu identity indicate a newfound synthesis between traditional religious practices and modern codified laws in India.
  - (c) The passage suggests a uniform acceptance of public expressions of Hindu identity across all communities in India, reflecting a harmonious cultural integration.
  - (d) The revival of Hindu identity and customs is primarily a result of recent legal reforms in India that promote religious expression over secular values.
105. Which of the following best captures the central idea of the passage as conveyed by the author?
- (a) "The Ayodhya Consecration: A Symbol of Resilient Faith and the Reclamation of Cultural Identity in Modern India"
  - (b) "Analyzing the Political Dynamics and Electoral Implications of the Ram Mandir Inauguration"
  - (c) "The Ayodhya Case: A Detailed Historical and Legal Account from Ancient Times to the Present"
  - (d) "The Transformation of Indian Secularism: A Shift from Nehruvian Ideals to a New Cultural Paradigm"



106. Which of the following most closely aligns with the underlying assumption in the statement, "For the longest time, a Hindu was called upon to look at herself with sheer apologia, and made to believe that we were a rootless civilisation that ran merely on a sterile codification of laws"?
- (a) The critique of Hindu civilization as lacking foundational roots is a reflection of the broader societal consensus, rather than a perspective imposed externally.
  - (b) Hindus have traditionally prioritized legalistic frameworks over cultural and religious practices, leading to a self-perception rooted in regulatory adherence rather than spiritual identity.
  - (c) The historical narrative imposed on the Hindu community emphasized a disconnection from their ancestral roots, fostering a perception of a civilization devoid of intrinsic cultural and spiritual heritage.
  - (d) The portrayal of Hindu civilization as rootless is a recent phenomenon, emerging primarily in contemporary discourse rather than being a longstanding issue.
107. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the author's argument regarding the historical and cultural significance of the Ayodhya consecration and its relation to the Nehruvian idea of India?
- (a) Recent archaeological discoveries in Ayodhya provide indisputable evidence linking the site directly to ancient Hindu scriptures, thereby reinforcing the historical claims of Hindus.
  - (b) A nationwide survey reveals that a majority of Indians, regardless of religious affiliation, view the Ayodhya consecration as a mere political manoeuvre with no real cultural significance.
  - (c) Scholarly research indicates that the Nehruvian model of secularism has been widely appreciated for successfully integrating diverse cultural histories in modern India.
  - (d) Historical records from the colonial era show that British administrators recognized the site in Ayodhya as an important cultural and religious landmark for Hindus.
108. What can be inferred from the statement, "Hindus are hammered with hysterical harangues of them having a disaggregated faith that did not believe in congregation—their teerth yatras and shahi snaans notwithstanding"?
- (a) The perception of Hinduism as a faith lacking in congregational practices is a misconception, contradicted by traditional practices like teerth yatras and shahi snaans.
  - (b) Hinduism inherently discourages congregational activities, as evidenced by the long-standing traditions of teerth yatras and shahi snaans.
  - (c) The criticism of Hinduism for not believing in congregation is largely supported by the practices of teerth yatras and shahi snaans, which emphasize individual spirituality over collective worship.
  - (d) The traditions of teerth yatras and shahi snaans in Hinduism are recent developments, marking a shift from an originally disaggregated faith to one that embraces congregation.

**Quantitative Techniques**

Each set of questions in this section is based on a single passage, graph or other representation. Please answer each question by deriving information from such passage, graph, or other representation, or applying mathematical operations on such information as required by the question.

- XXIII.** Four friends Ram, Shyam, Hari and Monu started a business together by investing the amount of Rs. 40000, Rs. 60000, Rs. 20000 and Rs. 80000 respectively. After 4 months, Ram and Hari increased the initial investment by 20% and 40% respectively and Monu decreases his initial investment by 20%. At the end of the year, they earned a total profit of Rs.1,80,000. Deepak and Paras borrow Ram's and Hari's share respectively. They are giving 8% simple interest for 4 years. Lalit borrows Shyam's profit for 2 years at the rate of 10% compound interest.
109. Find the interest paid by Deepak to Ram after 4 years.  
(a) Rs. 7542 (b) Rs. 13056  
(c) Rs. 8152 (d) Rs. 12074
110. The profit of Shyam is approximately what percentage of the profit of Monu at the end of the year of business?  
(a) 90 % (b) 87 %  
(c) 82 % (d) 93 %
111. Find the total interest, which Deepak and Paras have to pay to Ram and Hari.  
(a) Rs. 15264 (b) Rs. 19562  
(c) Rs. 20352 (d) Rs. 10562
112. Find the value of compound interest that Lalit has to pay to Shyam.  
(a) Rs. 8505 (b) Rs. 9340  
(c) Rs. 10340 (d) Rs. 11340
113. Find the average profit share of Ram and Monu at the end of the year of business.  
(a) Rs. 42500 (b) Rs. 38700  
(c) Rs. 39400 (d) None of these

**XXIV.** Every year, a survey on 2000 people is conducted by government in the city. It was found that in the year 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 the percentage of people affected by malaria were 20%, 30%, 40%, 30% and 20% respectively. Also every year out of the affected people 40% were students, 30% were house-wives and 30% were government officials. The number of students, house-wives, and government officials were in the ratio 9: 7: 4, every year.

114. In the year 2021, find the number of house-wives affected by malaria.  
(a) 220 (b) 240  
(c) 230 (d) 260
115. In the year 2023, find the number of government officials who were not affected by malaria.  
(a) 340 (b) 225  
(c) 280 (d) 390
116. What is the difference in the number of students affected and not affected by malaria in the year 2020?  
(a) 240 (b) 300  
(c) 320 (d) 420
117. Find the ratio of the number of house-wives affected by malaria in the year 2019 to that affected by malaria in the year 2022.  
(a) 5 : 3 (b) 9 : 4  
(c) 2 : 3 (d) 2 : 1
118. Which year had the minimum number of students not affected by malaria?  
(a) 2019 (b) 2020  
(c) 2021 (d) 2022

**XXV.** There are 120 students in a class, who read Maths or History or English. It is known that no student can read all three subjects. 24 read only Maths and History, 8 read only History and English and 21 read only Maths and English. 32 read only Maths and 13 only History.

119. How many students read English?  
(a) 22 (b) 30  
(c) 51 (d) 54
120. If 9 of the students who read only Maths start to read all three subjects, find the percentage of students read History.  
(a) 50% (b) 53.33%  
(c) 60% (d) 45%

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