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**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

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

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

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

**Right Method**

**Wrong Methods**


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

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

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

While Vladimir Putin is likely to come to India in July, South Africa is squarely in the sights of the pro ICC camp. Having ratified the ICC statute, South Africa needs to walk out of the body to enable Putin to attend the Johannesburg BRICS Summit in August. The ruling African National Congress says ICC has an "unfair" attitude towards "certain countries". The ANC should know. During Apartheid, West-backed white leaders perpetrated atrocities on ANC members as well as neighbouring countries. Even before the Ukraine conflict broke out, South Africa was alive to the possibility of misuse of the ICC warrant. In 2016, then President Jacob Zuma wanted to walk out of ICC. In 2019, it joined 55 nations in opposing the ICC's arrest of then Sudan President Omar al-Bashir. It had said the ICC was "acting as a neo-colonial force seeking to further empower western political and extractive interests in Africa".

There is ample evidence to convict many times over the former US President George Bush and successor Barack Obama for ordering the carpet bombing of cities in Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya and then following up with either ground forces or missile-tipped drones.

As India has not signed the ICC covenant, it can well argue that its pre-trial warrants against Putin are not applicable if he arrives here. India has scrupulously stayed away from signing the ICC statute. Though the ICC has a universal sounding ring to it much like the UN, in the past it has acted only against the Slavs (Serbia and Russia). And never against the razing of countries when the perpetrators were from the developed world. The first quarter of the 21st century is yet to be completed but there are already three glaring examples of Libya, Afghanistan and Iraq where the ICC turned a blind eye to the perpetrators of their barbarous and savage dismantling by military force. Their scars are yet to be healed by the legacy of violence left behind by the West in these 'civilising missions'. India was not a latter-day convert in opposing selective arraignments by international tribunals. The concept of sovereign jurisdiction within national territory is ingrained in the Indian national psyche. The earliest example of this Indian characteristic was on display as far back as in 1946 at 'The International Military Tribunal for the Far East', better known as the Tokyo Tribunal. The sole dissenting judge in a tribunal of 11 was the Indian Radha Binod Pal. He was a late addition to lend balance to what was fundamentally a white man's tribunal', closely argued 1,200-page dissent, Justice Pal rejected the legitimacy and authority of the Tribunal as an 'instrument of vic- leaders of all the charges.

**1.** What is the primary concern expressed by the ruling African National Congress (ANC) regarding the International Criminal Court (ICC) in the passage?

- (a) The ICC's alleged unfair attitude towards certain countries.
- (b) The ANC's support for the ICC's actions.
- (c) South Africa's indifference to ICC issues.
- (d) The ANC's historical ties with west-backed white leaders.

**2.** Why does the passage suggest India may argue against the applicability of ICC pre-trial warrants for Vladimir Putin's visit?

- (a) India's disagreement with the ICC statute.
- (b) India's historical opposition to international tribunals.
- (c) India's non-ratification of the ICC covenant.
- (d) India's support for Russia in the Ukraine conflict.

**3.** Which country mentioned in the passage has ratified the ICC statute but expressed concerns and considered walking out of the ICC?

- (a) India
- (b) Russia
- (c) South Africa
- (d) Sudan

**4.** According to the passage, which of the following is the primary reason for South Africa's consideration of walking out of ICC?

- (a) Disapproval of ICC's actions against Sudan.
- (b) Concerns about the potential misuse of ICC warrants.
- (c) Opposition to the ICC's arrest of former President Jacob Zuma.
- (d) Allegations of ICC acting as a neo-colonial force.

**5.** Which of the following statements best represents the author's view on the ICC approach, as indicated in the passage?

- (a) The ICC is universally effective and fair.
- (b) South Africa's concerns about the ICC are baseless.
- (c) India strongly supports the ICC's initiatives.
- (d) The ICC has shown selectivity with a perceived bias.

**6.** Which of the following words from the passage means, 'conscientiously'?

- (a) fundamentally
- (b) squarely
- (c) scrupulously
- (d) barbarous

**Passage – II**

Once again, there is more. Whereas the allures just described are largely neutral, or even beneficial to individual psyches, two others are especially congenial to institutions, and both are largely malign. One is the widespread presumption that souls are uniquely possessed by human beings, leaving all other living things bereft of divine connection and accordingly, denied moral legitimacy. To be sure, there are laws against abusing animals, but for the most part they are half-hearted and not zealously enforced. Scratch the surface, and much of the underlying substructure justifying maltreatment of animals derives from the unspoken but widespread instructions provided, for example, by the Hebrew Bible, in which *Homo sapiens* is given dominion over the Earth's creatures, a dichotomous distinction that is keyed to the theological distinction of soulful vs soul-less.

The most fundamental take-home message from evolution is the continuity of living things. We share more than 98 per cent of our DNA with other apes, and around 90 per cent with cats. And yet one of the most consistent messages of monotheistic religion, and one that relies heavily on the concept of the soul, is *discontinuity*: there are human beings, and then there is everything else, never mind that we share basic patterns of anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, neurobiology, embryology and the like with the rest of the organic world. As Rudyard Kipling's Mowgli understood: 'We be of one blood, ye and I.' We converge with the rest of life in every way imaginable, except, we are told, when it comes to souls. Never mind that basic biology demands that either souls are fictitious and no one has them, or we have souls and other animals do, too, perhaps to varying degrees: if each person has 100 per cent of a soul, then do chimps and bonobos luxuriate in perhaps 99 per cent, gorillas 98 per cent, and cats 90 per cent? No matter. When it comes to souls, we have 'em and they don't, so we can round them up, keep them in inhumane conditions, skin them and eat them.

The second malign allure involves the threat of eternal punishment. The soul has been an especially useful arrow in the quiver of religious institutions, inducing terrified followers to do as they are told, or else: 'Nice soul you've got there. A shame if it ends up in hell.' A long tradition, especially in Christian and Islamic theology, anticipates that evil-doers will get it in the end, if not in this life, then in the next. The Hindu and to a lesser extent Buddhist concepts of karma apply here as well, although with somewhat less terrifying resonance: be good, and your soul will end up in a happy, admirable body, or perhaps even achieve nirvana. Be bad, and you (ie, your atman) will find itself stuck inside a cockroach or a snake.

7. What is the main idea conveyed in the passage?

- (a) The passage argues that souls are universally recognized in all living beings.
- (b) The passage suggests the continuity in living things, challenging the notion of unique human possession of souls.
- (c) The passage emphasizes the importance of respecting animals' souls in monotheistic religions.
- (d) The passage discusses the positive impact of the threat of eternal punishment on the behaviour of followers.

8. What concept does the statement, "Nice soul you've got there. A shame if it ends up in hell", represents as mentioned in the passage?

- (a) The benevolent nature of souls in religious teachings,
- (b) The continuity of souls in different life forms.
- (c) The malign allure of using the threat as eternal punishment.
- (d) The Hindu concept of karma and its impact on the soul.

9. How does the passage suggest treatment of animals based on the term "half-hearted"?

- (a) The passage implies that animal abuse is vigorously criticized.
- (b) The passage implies that laws against animal abuse are not fully enforced.
- (c) The passage indicates that maltreatment of animals is justified in certain circumstances.
- (d) The passage implies that animals receive equal protection under the law.

10. Which of the following statements can be inferred from the passage?

- (a) The passage suggests that the animals receive adequate legal protection.
- (b) The passage implies that religious teachings universally promote humane treatment of animals.
- (c) The passage indicates a critical view on laws against animal abuse.
- (d) The passage emphasises the notion that animals are treated with kindness and empathy.

11. Why does the passage criticize the presumption that souls are uniquely possessed by human beings?

- (a) Because it is in accordance with the fundamental message of evolution.
- (b) Because it contradicts the teachings of monotheistic religions.
- (c) Because it undermines the continuity of living things highlighted by evolution.
- (d) Because it supports the idea of a continuity between humans and other species.

12. Which tradition in theology do Christians believe in?

- (a) If you do good, you can achieve nirvana.
- (b) They believed in the concepts of karma.
- (c) Evil doers will end up in hell in this life itself.
- (d) Evil doers will end up in hell if not in this life, then in the next.

**Passage – III**

The one major post-invasion change concerns eastern Ukraine (21 per cent of sample, including Donbas). There, fusion with Russia diminished significantly, while fusion with Ukraine and the European Union increased – although both remain stronger in the rest of Ukraine, as does readiness to sacrifice for freedom. Across Ukraine, fusion with freedom also strongly predicts sacrifice for Ukraine when tied to fusion with democracy.

We found a similar pattern in Spain, where more than 2,000 participants answered our questions over seven successive weeks. The best predictor of Spaniards' willingness to sacrifice for Ukraine is identity fusion with Ukraine, causally tied to perception of the strong spiritual formidability of Ukraine and of Zelensky, and trust in both.

In Spain, willingness to sacrifice for Ukraine also results from identity fusion with freedom, which Zelensky calls the paramount 'human value' at stake, and is tied to trust in democracy as well. In the past, we found relatively few Western Europeans expressing willingness to sacrifice for freedom and democracy, but now we find readiness to sacrifice even for a foreign country's freedom. What changed is that values underpinning Europe's open society, which mostly had been taken for granted, were suddenly imperilled, made salient, and made seemingly sacred again.

Addressing the US Congress, Zelensky stressed freedom as key to a worthy life in pursuit of happiness. This echoed what Thomas Jefferson, in his initial draft of the US Declaration of Independence in 1776, deemed humankind's 'sacred and undeniable' rights, absolute and non-negotiable, and for which its adherents pledged 'our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honour' in battle whatever the odds. That commitment is in sharp contrast to political and military decision-makers who ignore their own country's founding lessons by emphasising material over moral might in executing national security and intelligence strategy.

As with the US National Defense Strategy, the UK's integrated review of defence and foreign policy seeks ways to augment or offset hard power by building alliances through what Harvard's Joseph Nye has termed 'soft power' – persuading others through cultural influences, economic relationships and diplomatic tact. Will to fight is not about persuading others, however, but rather about harnessing inner conviction that one's cause is right and deeply shared by those who fight together. Of course, the spiritual formidability associated with the will to fight eventually may diminish in the face of persistent overwhelming force, as we found in our subsequent studies of ISIS supporters following its defeats in Iraq and Syria; however, it also can be readily rekindled once embedded in collective memory.

The current focus of US and NATO security strategy draws lessons from the Ukraine-Russia War. Our research recommends doing that analysis before, not after, a war begins. First assess which populations have the strongest spiritual and moral force, then channel hard power to them. For Ukraine, that analysis could have yielded a greater initial material edge to accompany spiritual and psychological strength. That same approach would stop us from disastrously funnelling resources to groups lacking spiritual and moral force (for example, Vietnamese, Iraqi and Afghan armies) compared with their adversaries (Viet Cong, ISIL, Taliban).

In sum, without rigorous attention to non-material sensibilities, cultural mores and core values of peoples in conflict, winning or attenuating conflict can seem intractable or only resolvable with massive force. Yet a nearly exclusive focus on material factors remains dominant in the West. This optic tends to disregard what Charles Darwin, in *The Descent of Man* (1871), deemed 'highly esteemed, or even held sacred' spiritual and moral virtues that 'give an immense advantage' to one group over another when possessed by devoted actors who by their 'example excite ... in a high degree the spirit' in others to sacrifice for cause and comrades, for ill or good. We have a chance to leverage this lesson, by honouring and supporting peoples with the will to fight in defence of the democratic freedoms that we, too, hold dear.

13. According to the passage, what is identified as best predictor of Spaniards' willingness to sacrifice for Ukraine?

- (a) Identity fusion with freedom.
- (b) Perception of spiritual formidability.
- (c) Trust in political decision-makers.
- (d) Economic relationships and diplomatic tact.

14. Which of the following is in line with the statement that Zelensky stressed freedom as key to a worthy life in pursuit of happiness?

- (a) An analysis of Western European's willingness to sacrifice for freedom.
- (b) A discussion on the values underpinning Europe's open society.
- (c) A comparison of US and NATO security strategy with the UK's integrated review.
- (d) An examination of the lessons drawn from the Ukraine-Russia War for US and NATO security strategy.

15. What is the main message conveyed in the last sentence of the passage?
- (a) The importance of supporting democratic freedom.
  - (b) The necessity of leveraging spiritual and moral virtues in conflict.
  - (c) The challenges faced by Western Europe and in sacrificing for freedom.
  - (d) The role of the US National Defence Strategy in conflict resolution.
16. What can be inferred about the change in eastern Ukraine from the passage?
- (a) Fusion with Russia changed insignificantly.
  - (b) Fusion with freedom remained unchanged.
  - (c) Fusion with Ukraine and the European Union increased.
  - (d) Readiness to sacrifice for freedom decreased.
17. Why does the passage recommend assessing spiritual and moral force of populations before a war?
- (a) To determine the economic stability of the population.
  - (b) To identify groups lacking material resources.
  - (c) To channel hard power to groups with strong spiritual and moral force.
  - (d) To prioritize groups with cultural influences.
18. Which of the following is not true as per the passage?
- (a) Across Ukraine, fusion with freedom and democracy is a strong predictor of sacrifice for Ukraine.
  - (b) The Western Europeans' willingness to sacrifice for a foreign country's freedom is on the rise.
  - (c) The political and military decision-makers adhere to their country's founding lessons by emphasising material over moral might in executing national security.
  - (d) None of the above.

#### *Passage - IV*

India has disowned the legacy of Justice Pal. Prof. Prabhakar Singh in his work Reading RP Anand in the Post-Colony: Between Resistance and Appropriation writes "Indian lawyers were left to choose between two parallel approaches to international law advanced by Prime Minister Nehru and Judge Pal after decolonization. Albeit politically distancing himself from the West, Nehru believed in the role of international law, even as Justice Pal was particularly against international adjudication given his characterization of the Tokyo Trials as "victor's justice." Ashis Nandy argues that "some saw Judge Pal repaying the Japanese warlords for their support of the Indian National Army created by the nationalist Bose in Singapore."

During the trial, the onus was on the prosecution to establish guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. All the accused pleaded not guilty. On the course of the trial, the question arose if the Japanese are to be put on trial for their acts, then why not the United States President Truman and his Chief of Staff be prosecuted for the horrendous nuclear bombing on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. However, the question fell on deaf ears.

Justice Pal wrote in his verdict, "I would hold that each and every accused must be found not guilty of each and every one of the charges in the indictment and should be acquitted of all those charges." In his view, the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were the worst crimes committed during the war, comparable with the Holocaust. He argued that Japan's purpose of going to war was largely dictated by security. At the end of the trial, Justice Pal's words were, "Tokyo Trial was conducted by demagogues of wartime propaganda. The purpose of the trial was to implicate Japan as responsible for all wrongdoings. I would have never believed how such deceit has crushed the spirit of Japanese people. The Tokyo trial has inflicted even greater damage than the Atomic Bomb."

In 1952, after the end of the American Occupation of Japan, Justice Pal's nearly 2, 50,000 words dissent judgement was published for the first time which was then used by Japanese nationalists to argue that the Tokyo Trials were meaningless and holds no value. In his dissent, Justice Pal writes on 'war', that, "war is a contention between two or more states through their armed forces, for the purpose of overpowering each other. Recourse to hostilities without a previous declaration of war, or a qualified ultimatum, is forbidden. But war can nevertheless break out without these preliminaries. A state might deliberately order hostilities to be commenced without a previous declaration of war. The armed forces of two states having a grievance against one another might engage in hostilities without having been authorized thereto, but at the same time, without the respective Governments ordering them to desist from further hostilities. War is actually in existence if the other party forcibly resists acts of force undertaken by a State."

Justice Pal held that "no category of war became criminal or illegal in international life." Since war is not illegal under the framework of international law, "individuals comprising the government and functioning as agents of that government incur no criminal responsibility in international law for the acts alleged." Japanese even dedicated a memorial to Justice Pal between the Yasukuni Shrine and Yushukan, a museum committed to the Japanese military to commemorate Japanese war heroes. While India's international legal studies rarely explore Justice Radhabinod Pal's approaches to imperialism, criminality, justice and victor's justice, contextualizing Pal's dissenting opinion can disinter third world approaches to international criminal law.

19. What was Justice Radhabinod Pal's stance on the guilt of the accused in the Tokyo Trials?  
(a) He found them guilty of all charges. (b) He held them partially guilty.  
(c) He believed they were not guilty of any charges. (d) He had no clear stance on the guilt.
20. What was Justice Radhabinod Pal's argument regarding the Tokyo Trials?  
(a) He supported the trials as a fair and just process.  
(b) He believed the trials were necessary for justice.  
(c) He questioned the legitimacy of the trials and criticized them.  
(d) He advocated for stricter punishments in the trials.
21. What is the tone of Justice Radhabinod Pal's dissenting opinion in the passage?  
(a) Neutral (b) Critical  
(c) Supportive (d) Ambiguous
22. What is the main idea conveyed in the passage?  
(a) Justice Pal's disagreement with the Tokyo Trials.  
(b) The impact of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.  
(c) Justice Pal's dissenting opinion and its reception in Japan.  
(d) The legal definition of war in international law.
23. Which of the following statements aligns with Justice Radhabinod Pal's views on war crimes?  
(a) Justice Pal agreed that individuals comprising the government could incur criminal responsibility for alleged acts in international law.  
(b) He held that war, under international law, could be categorized as criminal or illegal.  
(c) Justice pal believed that the Tokyo Trials were a meaningful pursuit of justice and accountability.  
(d) He argued that war, in itself is not illegal under international law, and individuals involved in government actions bear no criminal responsibility.
24. Which of the following can be best understood from the last line of the passage?  
(a) International legal studies include Pal's approach to criminality.  
(b) Pal's dissenting opinions are not explored for fear of revealing the third world approaches to international criminal law.  
(c) India's international legal studies conform to the international justice law.  
(d) None of the above.

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

In the year 2022, the global arms industry witnessed a remarkable upswing, reaching a staggering \$597 billion in sales and military services, a surge primarily propelled by Russia's incursion into Ukraine and the escalating geopolitical tensions across the globe. This pivotal development has been meticulously chronicled in the latest report by the SIPRI. In this intriguing revelation, it has come to light that Indian defense public sector undertakings (PSUs) have garnered notable positions within the coveted roster of the top 100 arms-producing companies. The rankings accorded to these Indian entities are emblematic of the substantive contracts secured from the Indian armed forces, culminating in a formidable aggregate of 14 lakhs. Notwithstanding this commendable feat, the collective sales amassed by these three Indian companies merely constitute a marginal fraction, representing a mere 1% of the colossal global arms trade figure of \$597 billion over the past year. This underscores the formidable dominance and expansive reach of the international arms market, wherein the Indian defense PSUs, while securing commendable positions, operate within a larger ecosystem where global dynamics and demands significantly shape the contours of this intricate landscape. In essence, the juxtaposition of India's defense industry within the broader context of the global arms trade illuminates both the significance of its contributions and the formidable challenges posed by the towering magnitudes characterizing the contemporary military-industrial complex.

25. Where is the headquarters of SIPRI located?  
(a) Geneva (b) New York  
(c) Stockholm (d) Brussels
26. What did SIPRI highlight as India's ranking in terms of military expenditure compared to other nations in 2022?  
(a) Second (b) Third  
(c) Fourth (d) Fifth



27. What are the names of the three Indian Public Sector Units (PSUs) which are listed in the Top 100 arms producing companies for the first time in 2022?

(a) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)

(b) Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), MIDHANI, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)

(c) Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited (AWEIL), Munitions India Limited (MIL), BEML Limited (BEML)

(d) MIDHANI, Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), BEML Limited

28 Which country dominates the Top 100 list of arms-producing companies?

(a) China

(b) USA

(c) Russia

(d) Saudi Arabia

29. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is an Indian public-sector aerospace and defense company, headquartered in Bangalore and is a Navratna company. How many Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) hold the Navratna status?

(a) 10

(b) 12

(c) 14

(d) 16

### Passage-VI

India has attained membership in the Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) Consortium, aligning itself with the initiative spearheaded by The Global Leadership Council (GLC) under the aegis of the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP). A pivotal stride was taken by the government last September when it endorsed viability gap funding to propel the development of BESS. Notably, this endorsement serves as a testament to India's commitment to advancing sustainable energy solutions. The significant announcement of the expansion of the BESS project in India was made by GEAPP during the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28). This conference, hosted by the UAE from November 30 to December 12, 2023, is a momentous occasion where urgent action is being sought in the face of escalating climate challenges. As the global community grapples with the alarming breach of temperature records and the relentless onslaught of severe wildfires, floods, storms, and droughts, COP28 emerges as a critical juncture for collective efforts to address climate change. The imperative underscored by COP28 is heightened by the stark reality articulated in the UN report, which contends that current efforts fall short of meeting the ambitious goals outlined in the Paris Agreement. Against this backdrop, COP28 represents a pivotal opportunity to recalibrate and fortify our collective resolve to usher in a more sustainable era. The urgency embedded in this conference resonates with the imperatives of the contemporary world, where the imperative for sustainable practices is no longer a choice but a mandate for safeguarding our planet's future.

30. During the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28), India became a member of the Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) Consortium, led by the Global Leadership Council (GLC) of the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP). Which event provided the platform for the launch of GEAPP?

(a) COP 25

(b) COP 26

(c) G-7 Summit

(d) COP 27

31. The GEAPP Alliance aims to unlock USD100 billion in public and private capital and tackle three profound human problems simultaneously. What are those problems?

(a) Power, Climate, Jobs

(b) Agriculture, Tourism, Climate

(c) Manufacturing, Climate, Jobs

(d) Manufacturing, Infrastructure, Agriculture

32 India has joined the Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) Consortium, at the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28). By the end of 2024, what is the targeted commitment in terms of gigawatts (GW) for BESS under the Consortium's initiative?

(a) 3 GW

(b) 4 GW

(c) 5 GW

(d) 6 GW

33. India has attained membership in the Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) Consortium, aligning itself with the initiative spearheaded by The Global Leadership Council (GLC). What is the primary purpose of the Global Leadership Council?

(a) Advancing global renewable energy agenda

(b) Promoting space exploration

(c) Facilitating international trade agreements

(d) Addressing cybersecurity challenges

34. What is the envisioned target for establishing BESS projects by the year 2030-31 under the government's scheme?

(a) 2,000 MWh

(b) 3,000 MWh

(c) 4,000 MWh

(d) 5,000 MWh

### Passage-VII

In a culmination of fervent anticipation and a modest temporal setback, Google has officially unveiled its latest and most advanced artificial intelligence (AI) system. Sundar Pichai, the Chief Executive Officer of Google, characterized this milestone as the "most extensive amalgamation of scientific and engineering endeavours" undertaken by the company, signifying a dedicated span of eight years immersed in the realm of AI innovation. The ambition, unabashedly articulated by Pichai, is to not only vie with existing AI systems but to potentially surpass them, with a particular nod towards eclipsing the prowess of OpenAI's ChatGPT. Pichai, in his elucidation, underscored the monumental nature of

the ongoing paradigm shift in AI, asserting that the current metamorphosis is poised to be the most profound and transformative in the span of our lifetimes. This resonates as a poignant recognition of the epochal transition catalysed by artificial intelligence, its imminent ubiquity, and the overarching influence it wields in shaping the future trajectory of technological evolution. The unveiled AI system, heralded as a quantum leap for Google, stands as a testament to its state-of-the-art performance, acing benchmarks that stand as yardsticks within the AI landscape. The discernible pursuit of excellence in technological innovation propels Google into a competitive arena where it aspires not merely to contend but to ascend as a preeminent force, positioning itself at the vanguard of the AI frontier.

**35.** What is the name of Google's latest AI system?

- (a) Orion (b) Gemini  
 (c) Apollo (d) Nebula

**36.** Which two AI research units were merged to develop Gemini?

- (a) DeepMind and Apple AI (b) Google Brain and IBM Watson  
 (c) DeepMind and Google Brain (d) Microsoft Research and Google AI

**37.** What are the three distinct modes introduced by Gemini AI?

- (a) Alpha, Beta, Gamma (b) Ultra, Pro, Nano  
 (c) Mega, Mini, Micro (d) High, Medium, Low

**38.** When was INDIAai officially launched?

- (a) 28th May 2020 (b) 20 June 2021  
 (c) 5 August 2022 (d) 2 January 2023

**39.** Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (CAIR), is the primary laboratory of DRDO for research and development in different areas of defense, Information and Communication Technology (ICT). Where is the Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (CAIR) located?

- (a) Bangalore (b) Mumbai  
 (c) New- Delhi (d) Hyderabad

### Passage-VIII

In a momentous recognition, Gujarat's traditional dance form, 'Garba,' has been officially inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). This prestigious acknowledgment was bestowed upon Garba during the session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage held on December 6. UNESCO, in its statement, expounded on Garba as a ritualistic and devotional dance deeply embedded in the cultural fabric of Gujarat and transcending its geographical boundaries to resonate across India. The dance form, Garba, is intrinsically tied to the fervour of the nine-day Navaratri festival, a period dedicated to the veneration of feminine energy or Shakti. UNESCO underscored the profound cultural, performative, and visual expressions encapsulated in Garba, elucidating its role as a manifestation of the divine feminine force. The dance unfolds as a vibrant spectacle, not confined to specific spaces but embraced within the intimate confines of homes, the sacred precincts of temples, bustling public spaces in villages, urban squares, streets, and expansive open grounds. UNESCO further articulated that Garba transcends mere artistic expression; it evolves into a unifying force, weaving together communities in a participatory and all-encompassing celebration. This acknowledgment by UNESCO solidifies Garba's status as a cultural treasure, emblematic of Gujarat's rich heritage, and a testament to its resonance as a cherished communal event that transcends regional boundaries to encapsulate the spirit of a diverse nation.

**40.** Where is UNESCO's headquarters located?

- (a) Geneva (b) New York (c) Paris (d) London

**41.** How many World Heritage Sites does India currently have?

- (a) 30 (b) 34 (c) 42 (d) 50

**42.** How many cultural items from India, including Garba, are currently on the UNESCO list of Intangible Cultural Heritage?

- (a) 14 (b) 15 (c) 16 (d) 17

**43.** The inclusion of Garba has been made under the provisions of the Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage. When was UNESCO's Convention for Safeguarding the Intangible Heritage adopted?

- (a) 2000 (b) 2002 (c) 2003 (d) 2005

**44.** Where did the 18th session of the Intergovernmental Committee take place when 'Garba of Gujarat' was inscribed on the Representative List?

- (a) Paris, France (b) Kasane, Botswana  
 (c) New York, USA (d) Tokyo, Japan

**Passage-IX**

In a momentous legislative development on Wednesday, December 6, the Lok Sabha deliberated upon and subsequently passed two consequential bills, namely the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2023, and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2023. These bills, originally introduced to the Parliament in July of this year, are currently under scrutiny due to their perceived strategic implications by the Union government in the run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. It is imperative to note that the purported impact of these legislative measures might be deemed somewhat inconsequential. A judicious approach to this matter would have entailed a deferment of these alterations, awaiting the imminent pronouncement by the Supreme Court on the legal validity of both the annulment of special status and the subsequent division of the erstwhile State. The absence of the participation of elected representatives from Jammu and Kashmir in this legislative process renders the modifications proposed in the Lok Sabha as fait accompli, seemingly imposed upon the Union Territory's citizens. This assertion gains added significance when considered in conjunction with the backdrop of the last five and a half years, characterized by the suspension of political and civil liberties, arbitrary arrests and detentions, communication blackouts, a stifling effect on the media, and, most recently, prolonged power shortages. Any alteration to the political landscape of Jammu and Kashmir, under the pretext of its designation as a region grappling with separatism and terrorism, should be executed in a manner that does not foster a sense of alienation among its citizenry.

**45.** Which Act is targeted for amendment by the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2023?

- (a) Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019
- (b) Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2016
- (c) Jammu and Kashmir Constitutional Amendment Act, 2019
- (d) Jammu and Kashmir Special Status Act, 2019

**46.** What is the primary effect of the Reorganisation Bill on the number of seats in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly?

- (a) The total number of seats decreases from 107 to 98.
- (b) The total number of seats increases from 107 to 114.
- (c) The total number of seats increases from 107 to 120.
- (d) The total number of seats decreases from 107 to 100

**47.** The Reorganisation Bill empowers the Lieutenant-Governor to nominate three members in the Assembly - two members from the Kashmiri migrant community including one woman. Who is the third nominated member according to the Reorganisation Bill?

- (a) A representative of people from PoK
- (b) A tribal leader
- (c) A prominent Cultural figure
- (d) A representative from the business community

**48.** How many seats are reserved for Scheduled Tribes under the new Reservation Act?

- (a) Five seats
- (b) Seven seats
- (c) Nine seats
- (d) Eleven seats

**Passage-X**

S&P Global Ratings, in its recent report titled 'Global Credit Outlook 2024: New Risks, New Playbook,' prognosticates that India is poised to ascend in terms of economy, concurrently projecting it as the fastest-growing major economy in the impending three-year period. However, the impending challenge lies in the manifestation of this economic metamorphosis, as India grapples with the imperative task of recalibrating its economic landscape. As the global economic landscape undergoes transformative shifts, the report underscores the impending significance of India's strategic positioning within this dynamic framework. The looming spectre of elections in 2024 across pivotal emerging economies, including Indonesia, India, South Africa, and Mexico, introduces an additional layer of complexity. The report aptly notes that the prevailing low levels of policy predictability have the potential to erode investor sentiment and jeopardize existing investment potentials. The report contends that while emerging markets hold promising structural opportunities, realizing a bonanza from these prospects necessitates concerted efforts. One imperative aspect highlighted is the enhancement of policy visibility, serving as a linchpin in attracting investments that align with the evolving trends in these burgeoning economies.

**49.** What is the forecasted global ranking for India's economy by the year 2030 according to the 'Global Credit Outlook 2024 report?

- (a) Second-largest
- (b) Third-largest
- (c) Fourth-largest
- (d) Fifth-largest

**50.** Which country is the largest economy in the world?

- (a) USA
- (b) China
- (c) Japan
- (d) Germany

**51.** What is identified as a key opportunity for India in the 'Global Credit Outlook 2024 report?

- (a) Expanding agricultural exports
- (b) Becoming a global manufacturing hub
- (c) Focusing on tourism industry
- (d) Enhancing service sector exports

52. In which year is India projected to have a growth rate of 7%, according to S&P Global?  
(a) 2024-25 (b) 2026-27 (c) 2023-24 (d) 2022-23

### Section C-Legal Reasoning

#### Passage-XI

Recently, the Supreme Court briefly summarised the settled principles with respect to Section 313 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973. The provision deals with the power to examine the accused. The Trial Court is vested with the power to put questions to the accused at any stage of the trial to enable them to explain any circumstances appearing in evidence against him. It is the duty of the Court to question the accused generally on the case, once the prosecution witnesses have been examined and before the accused is called on for his defence. As per Section 313(4) the answers given by the accused may be taken into consideration in the trial and put in evidence for or against them in any other trial for any other offences, which the answer would suggest they have committed.

The Bench summarised the well settled principles as under -

“a. section 313, Cr. P.C. [clause (b) of sub-section 1] is a valuable safeguard in the trial process for the accused to establish his innocence;

b. section 313, which is intended to ensure a direct dialogue between the court and the accused, casts a mandatory duty on the court to question the accused generally on the case for the purpose of enabling him to personally explain any circumstances appearing in the evidence against him;

c. when questioned, the accused may not admit his involvement at all and choose to flatly deny or out-rightly repudiate whatever is put to him by the court;

d. the accused may even admit or own incriminating circumstances adduced against him to adopt legally recognized defences;

e. an accused can make a statement without fear of being cross-examined by the prosecution or the latter having any right to cross-examine him;

f. the explanations that an accused may furnish cannot be considered in isolation but has to be considered in conjunction with the evidence adduced by the prosecution and, therefore, no conviction can be premised solely on the basis of the section 313 statement(s);

g. statements of the accused in course of examination under section 313, since not on oath, do not constitute evidence under section 3 of the Evidence Act, yet, the answers given are relevant for finding the truth and examining the veracity of the prosecution case;

h. statement(s) of the accused cannot be dissected to rely on the inculpatory part and ignore the exculpatory part and has/have to be read in the whole, inter alia, to test the authenticity of the exculpatory nature of admission; and

i. if the accused takes a defence and proffers any alternate version of events or interpretation, the court has to carefully analyze and consider his statements;

j. any failure to consider the accused's explanation of incriminating circumstances, in a given case, may vitiate the trial and/or endanger the conviction.”

**Source:** Extracted (with edits and revisions) from an article titled ‘Well-Settled Principles Relating to Section 313 Cr.P.C.: Supreme Court Summarises’, published at Live Law (March 8, 2023).

53. Vidhan, a resident of Indore, was accused of causing the death of Vidhyut during a heated argument. The prosecution presented evidence suggesting that Vidhan had a motive to harm Vidhyut due to a longstanding property dispute. A knife with Vidhyut's blood was found in Vidhan's car, and an eyewitness testified seeing Vidhan near the crime scene on the night of the incident. During the trial, after the examination of the prosecution witnesses, the Trial Court, under Section 313 Cr.P.C., questioned Vidhan to explain the circumstances appearing in evidence against him. Vidhan admitted to the longstanding property dispute but stated that they had recently resolved their differences amicably. He also explained that the knife in his car was used for camping trips and he had no idea how Vidhyut's blood got on it. He mentioned being near the crime scene as he was visiting a friend who lived nearby but had no involvement in Vidhyut's death. Given the above facts and the principles laid down by the Supreme Court regarding Section 313 Cr.P.C., choose the most appropriate statement:

- (a) The Trial Court can solely rely on Vidhan's statement under Section 313 to convict him.  
(b) The Trial Court should ignore Vidhan's statement as it is not on oath and does not constitute evidence under Section 3 of the Evidence Act.  
(c) Vidhan's statement under Section 313, though not on oath, is relevant for finding the truth and examining the veracity of the prosecution's case.  
(d) Vidhan's admission of the property dispute can be taken in isolation to prove his motive without considering his explanation about the resolution of their differences.

**54.** Vidhan, a renowned artist from Ranchi, was accused of stealing a priceless painting from Delhi's National Art Gallery. The prosecution presented CCTV footage showing Vidhan entering the gallery on the day of the theft. A sketch, which appeared to be a preliminary drawing of the stolen painting, was found in Vidhan's studio. During the trial, after the examination of the prosecution witnesses, the Trial Court, under Section 313 Cr.P.C., questioned Vidhan. Vidhan admitted to visiting the gallery but stated it was for inspiration for his next artwork. He explained that the sketch found in his studio was an homage to the stolen painting, which he had been working on for months before the theft. He also produced receipts of art supplies, dated months before the theft, which matched the materials used in the sketch. Given the above facts and the principles related to Section 313 Cr.P.C., choose the most appropriate statement:

- (a) Vidhan's admission of visiting the gallery can be used against him without considering his reason for the visit.
- (b) The Trial Court should consider Vidhan's explanation about the sketch in conjunction with the evidence of the sketch found in his studio.
- (c) Vidhan's explanation about the sketch is irrelevant since the sketch closely resembles the stolen painting.
- (d) The CCTV footage is conclusive evidence of Vidhan's involvement in the theft, making his statement under Section 313 redundant.

**55.** Vidur, a renowned artist from Bangalore, was accused of stealing a rare painting from an art gallery in Delhi. The prosecution presented CCTV footage showing Vidur entering the gallery on the day of the theft. Additionally, a witness testified seeing Vidur near the gallery around the time of the theft. During his examination under Section 313 Cr.P.C., Vidur admitted to being at the gallery but explained that he was there to meet the curator for discussing an upcoming exhibition. He further stated that he had an appointment with the curator and presented emails as proof of his correspondence. The prosecution argued that the emails could have been fabricated to create an alibi. The Trial court without giving due consideration to Vidur's statements, and relying on arguments provided by the prosecution, held Vidur guilty. Given the above facts and the principles related to Section 313 Cr.P.C., choose the most appropriate option:

- (a) The trial is vitiated as Vidur's explanation was not given due consideration in light of the evidence.
- (b) The trial is not vitiated as the CCTV footage and witness testimony are strong evidence against Vidur.
- (c) The trial is void and has led to a miscarriage of justice as Vidur's explanation is not considered.
- (d) The trial is vitiated only if the email correspondence is proven not to be fabricated.

**56.** In which of the following situations the conviction of the accused is endangered?

- (a) That the accused refused to admit his involvement in the case and flatly denied whatever is put to him by the court and such refusal was not the sole basis for convicting the accused.
- (b) That the accused admitted to the incriminating circumstances adduced against him and such admission along with other relevant information was taken into consideration by the Court before conviction.
- (c) That the accused takes a defence and provides alternate version of events or interpretation and such alternate version along with other relevant information was taken into consideration by the Court before conviction.
- (d) The court failed to consider accused's explanation of incriminating circumstances before conviction.

**57.** Which of the following statements is not true regarding the principles related to Section 313 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 as summarized by the Supreme Court?

- (a) Section 313 is intended to ensure a direct dialogue between the court and the accused, casting a mandatory duty on the court to question the accused.
- (b) The accused can be cross-examined by the prosecution with regards to his statements under Section 313.
- (c) The explanations that an accused may furnish have to be considered in conjunction with the evidence adduced by the prosecution.
- (d) Statements of the accused in course of examination under section 313, since not on oath, do not constitute evidence under section 3 of the Evidence Act.

**58.** Based on the passage, decide:

Assertion (A): The prosecution is not allowed to cross examine accused with regards to Statements made under Section 313 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Reason (R): As per the principles laid down by the Supreme Court with regards to Section 313, an accused can make a statement without fear of being cross-examined by the prosecution or the latter having any right to cross-examine him.

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

### **Passage-XII**

To deal with instances of hate speech, the Supreme Court has directed all States/UTs to register suo motu FIRs in offences such as Section 153A, 153B, 295A and 506 of IPC etc, even if no complaint is forthcoming. The Court also warned the authorities that "any hesitation to act in accordance with this direction will be viewed as contempt of court and appropriate action shall be taken against the erring officers". While India does not have a formal legal framework

for dealing with hate speech, a set of provisions of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), loosely defining hate speech, are invoked. These are primarily laws to deal with offences against religions. Section 295A of the IPC defines and prescribes a punishment for deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs. “Whoever, with deliberate and malicious intention of outraging the religious feelings of any class of citizens of India by words, either spoken or written, or by signs or by visible representations or otherwise, insults or attempts to insult the religion or the religious beliefs of that class, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to [three years], or with fine, or with both,” the section reads. Section 295A is one of the main provisions in the IPC Chapter dealing with penalization of religious offences. In order to establish the ingredient of Section 295A to be applicable in a case it is to be established that the author had the requisite mens rea (**deliberate and malicious intention**) to outrage the religious feelings of a class of citizens of India and to insult or to attempt to insult the religion and religious beliefs of that class of citizens of India. If it is inflicted in good faith by an author in his/her endeavour or object to facilitate some measure on social reform by administering such a shock to the followers of the religion, as would ensure notice being taken by any criticism so made, would not attract the mischief of Section 295A. The State often invokes Section 295A along with Section 153A, which penalizes promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc, and doing acts which lead to disharmony or feelings of enmity, hatred or ill will between people of different communities; and Section 505 of the IPC that punishes statements conducing to public mischief. As per Section 505, whoever makes, publishes or circulates any statement, rumour or report, with intent to cause, or which is likely to cause, fear or alarm to the public, or to any section of the public whereby any person may be induced to commit an offence against the State or against the public tranquillity. Section 66A of the Information Technology Act is added when such speech is made online. The section punishes sending offensive messages through communication services. It was declared unconstitutional in 2015. The broad, vague terms in the laws are often invoked in its misuse. Lower conviction rates for these provisions indicate that the process — where a police officer can arrest without a warrant — is often the punishment.

**Source:** Extracted (with edits and revisions) from an article titled ‘SC directions on hate speech: How courts have read IPC Sec 295A, other provisions’, published at The Indian Express (October 22, 2023).

**59.** Vidhan, a resident of Mumbai, writes a blog post criticizing a religious practice followed by a certain community. He argues that the practice is outdated and should be reformed. He provides concrete arguments to show how practice can be reformed. The blog post gains traction and is widely shared on social media. A member of the community, Vidhyut, files a complaint against Vidhan under Section 295A of the IPC for outraging religious feelings. Based on the legal principles outlined in the passage, what would be the likely outcome of case against Vidhan under Section 295A?

- (a) Vidhan will be convicted under Section 295A because his deliberate and malicious criticism of the religious practice has outraged the religious feelings of the community.
- (b) Vidhan will not be convicted under Section 295A because he did not have a deliberate and malicious intention to outrage religious feelings.
- (c) Vidhan will be convicted under Section 295A because his act is prejudicial to maintenance of harmony in society.
- (d) Vidhan will not be convicted under Section 295A but he can be punished under section 66A of the Information Technology Act.

**60.** Vidhan, an individual from community Y, exaggerates religious differences through an article which criticizes the religious practices of a community X, stating that their rituals are “backward and superstitious.” His article lacks sufficient grounds and it is drafted with the primary aim of showcasing community X in a negative light. He argues that his article is a form of social commentary aimed at reforming these practices. However, his article concludes by saying that religious principles from community Y should be followed by everyone as their practices are not superstitious. The article gains widespread attention and leads to protests between members of the community X and Y. Accordingly, an FIR has been filed against Vidhan under Section 153A of the IPC. In light of the facts mentioned, decide whether Vidhan is liable for the offence as provided under Section 153A?

- (a) No, because Vidhan's article is a form of social commentary aimed at bringing reforms in the religious practices followed by the community.
- (b) No, because Vidhan did not have a deliberate and malicious intention to outrage religious feelings.
- (c) Yes, because his article is baseless and is drafted with an aim of targeting a particular community.
- (d) Yes, because Vidhan's article promoted enmity between different groups on the grounds of religion and disrupted the harmony.

**61.** Vidhyut, a journalist in Ranchi, in good faith publishes an article in newspaper reporting that a specific religious group is planning a large gathering which will violate public health guidelines amid a pandemic. The article is shared widely on social media, causing panic among public and leading to increased police presence at religious sites. However, it is later discovered that the information in the article was not verified and is false. Which of the following is most appropriate with regards to Vidhyut's liability under Section 505 of the IPC?

(a) Vidhyut is liable under Section 505 because the article outraged the feelings of the community and was shared widely on social media, amplifying its impact.

(b) Vidhyut is not liable under Section 505, because Vidhyut is a journalist and was performing his duty in good faith to inform the public and had no malicious intention to conduce public mischief.

(c) Vidhyut is liable under Section 505, because his article led to public mischief by causing panic among the people.

(d) Vidhyut is not liable under Section 505, because Vidhyut's article did not specifically target any religious group or promote enmity between groups.

**62.** In 2013, Vidhan, a resident of Delhi, posts a series of tweets that contain offensive and derogatory comments about a religious leader, causing significant distress among the followers of that leader. The tweets are reported immediately, and a case is filed against him under Section 66A of the Information Technology Act. Can Vidhan be held liable under Section 66A of the Information Technology Act for his tweets?

(a) No, because Section 66A of the Information Technology Act has been struck down and is no longer applicable.

(b) Yes, because Vidhan's tweets were prejudicial to maintenance of harmony.

(c) No, because Vidhan was exercising his fundamental right to free speech, guaranteed under the Constitution.

(d) Yes, because the tweets were made online and were offensive in nature.

**63.** Vidur is a professor from a prestigious Indian University. He teaches constitutional law. In one of his recent class on freedom of speech, he commented on the political situation in India. One of his students asked Vidur to write a detailed article on this topic as it will generate awareness for all the students. Accordingly, Vidur writes a detailed article on threat to freedom of speech in India. In a section of his article, he has presented a detailed analysis and criticism of the religious intolerance present in the nation. Due to this, a large section of the society is offended as they do not align themselves with views presented in the article. In light of the facts mentioned, choose the most appropriate option with regards to filing of FIR against Vidur:

(a) Vidur has committed an offence punishable under Section 295A and therefore police should register suo-moto FIR against him.

(b) Vidur has committed an offence punishable under Section 505 and therefore police should register suo-moto FIR against him.

(c) Vidur has committed an offence punishable under Section 505. However, an FIR against him cannot be filed in the absence of any complaint against him.

(d) Vidur has committed no offence and hence there is no need to register an FIR against him.

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

(a) Deliberate and malicious intention to outrage the religious feelings is an essential ingredient under Section 295A of IPC.

(b) Section 153A of the IPC deals with promoting enmity between different groups on various grounds including religion and race.

(c) Section 66A of the Information Technology Act is invoked only when hate speech is made in physical public gatherings.

(d) Violations of directions issues by the Supreme Court with regards to hate speech will be treated as contempt of court.

### **Passage-XIII**

On February 24, an Apex Court bench headed by CJI D Y Chandrachud reprimanded a law student for filing a caveat in "Shailendra Mani Tripathi v. Union of India & Others", a petition seeking menstrual leave for female students and working women across Indian institutions while adding that "this is a publicity-oriented caveat" and the student had "no business here." In common parlance, a caveat refers to "warning" or "caution". However, legally it connotes a "formal notice requesting the court to refrain from taking some specified action without giving prior notice to the person lodging the caveat." The person lodging the caveat is called a "caveator". Inserted by the Amendment Act of 1976, added after the Law Commission's recommendation, Section 148A of the Civil Procedure Code (CPC) explains when a person has a right to lodge a caveat as "where an application is expected to be made, or has been made, in a suit or proceeding instituted, or about to be instituted, in a Court, any person claiming a right to appear before the Court on the hearing of such application may lodge a caveat in respect thereof." The caveator or the person lodging is also required to serve a notice of the caveat by "registered post" to the person on whose plea they are lodging the application. However, the term "caveat" is not expressly defined anywhere except in the Calcutta High Court's 1978 ruling in "Nirmal Chandra Dutta vs Girindra Narayan Roy" where the court defined the term as a "caution or warning giving notice to the Court not to issue any grant or take any step without notice being given to the party lodging the caveat."

Section 148A specifies who is eligible to file a caveat petition. This is provided under clause 1 of Section 148A, which states that a person who claims to have a right to appear in court may file a caveat petition in the following circumstances:

1. Where there is the apprehension of application; or

2. Where an application has already been submitted;

In a suit that is expected to be filed against him; or In an already instituted suit.

In the case of *Kattil Vayalil Parkkum Koiloth v. Mannil Paadikayil Kadeesa Umma*, the court made it clear that a third party or complete stranger, someone who has no interest in the matter, cannot file a caveat application.

The consequence of a situation in which notice was not served by the court was explained in the case of *C Seethaiah v. Government of A.P.* It was decided that an order issued by the court without giving notice to the caveator is illegal, but not null and void.

**Source:** Extracted (with edits and revisions) from an article titled “CJI reprimands student for filing a caveat in petition seeking menstrual leave: What is a caveat?” published in *The Indian Express*.

**65.** Vidhan Kumar, a successful businessman, learns that his business rival, Vishesh, intends to file a suit against him for alleged breach of a commercial contract. Anticipating that Vishesh may also move an application seeking an interim injunction to restrain Vidhan from certain business operations, Vidhan decides to file a caveat to ensure he is heard before any such interim order is passed. Simultaneously, Vidhan's college friend, Virat, who is aware of the feud also decides to file a caveat out of solidarity with Vidhan. Soon after, Vishesh indeed moves an application seeking an interim injunction. What would the court's decision be regarding the caveats filed?

- (a) The court will consider both Vidhan's and Virat's caveats before passing any interim order.
- (b) The court will consider only Vidhan's caveat and disregard Virat's caveat since Virat has no interest in the matter.
- (c) The court will disregard both caveats on the ground that multiple caveats on the same matter create confusion.
- (d) The court will consider Virat's caveat as it acknowledges all caveats irrespective of the party's interest in the matter.

**66.** Vidhan, an Indore-based businessman, entered into a contract with Vishesh, a supplier in Delhi, to procure custom-made machinery. Upon receiving the machinery, Vidhan discovered some discrepancies and withheld payment. Vishesh threatened to seek an interim injunction from the court, preventing Vidhan from using the machinery. Having heard about this, Vidhan, not wanting to be caught off guard, is considering lodging a caveat. If he does so, and Vishesh later moves the court for an injunction, which of the following will be the appropriate course of action?

- (a) The court will issue the injunction without informing Vidhan as the machinery rightfully belongs to Vishesh.
- (b) The court will dismiss Vishesh's application since Vidhan has already lodged a caveat against any such move.
- (c) The court will inform Vidhan before deciding on the injunction due to the caveat.
- (d) The court will ask Vidhan to first return the machinery and then lodge a caveat if he still wishes.

**67.** Vidhyut, a prominent landowner in Indore, entered into an agreement with a construction company to develop a mall on his land. However, midway through the project, the construction company alleged that Vidhyut was attempting to lease out part of the under-construction mall to another party, violating their agreement. Vidhyut, anticipating that the construction company might seek a court injunction to halt the leasing process, lodged a caveat to ensure he would be informed before such action to seek injunction. Two weeks later, Vidhyut learns that the construction company filed a suit, alleging defamation against him for maligning their reputation in a local daily newspaper. Based on the facts, which of the following holds true regarding Vidhyut's caveat and the suit for defamation?

- (a) Vidhyut will be informed before any interim order is passed in the defamation suit as he has already filed a caveat.
- (b) Vidhyut's caveat will protect him from any proceedings taken against him after the filing of the caveat.
- (c) The court will dismiss the defamation suit, since Vidhyut had previously lodged a caveat.
- (d) Vidhyut must file a fresh caveat for the defamation suit if he wants to be informed about any action in that particular case.

**68.** Assume in the previous case an additional fact is introduced. While filing the caveat with respect to leasing dispute, Vidhan explicitly stated in his caveat that it would apply to any suits, including but not limited to defamation. What effect would this additional fact have on the Court hearing the defamation suit?

- (a) The additional fact would have no effect on the Court hearing defamation suit.
- (b) The court hearing the defamation suit will have to issue notice to Vidhan before taking any action in such proceeding.
- (c) The court hearing the defamation suit can ignore such application as law does not recognise any form of caveat.
- (d) The court hearing the defamation suit will have to issue notice to Vidhan as his caveat specifically covers all suits filed against him.

**69.** Vidhi, entered into a contract with Vishesh, a supplier in Delhi, to procure tomatoes. As per the contract, Vidhi was required to make payment immediately after receiving the order. Upon receiving the order, Vidhi discovered that the tomatoes were stale and refused to make payment. Vishesh threatened to seek an interim injunction from the court for ordering Vidhi for payments. Having heard about this, Vidhi, not wanting to be caught off guard, filed a caveat in the civil court. Vishesh filed a suit against Vidhi. Court, without considering the caveat, ordered Vidhi to pay 50% of the amount as interim payment. In the light of the information provided in the passage, decide upon the validity of the interim order of the court.



- (a) The interim order is valid but Vidhi can challenge the order in High Court.  
(b) The interim order is valid because as per the contract, Vidhi was bound to immediately make payment to Vishesh upon receiving the order.  
(c) The Interim order is void as the tomatoes were stale and Vidhi is not required to pay any amount to Vishesh.  
(d) The Interim order is illegal because Vidhi should have been informed before passing interim order as she has filed a caveat.

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

- (a) Person filling the caveat is required to serve a notice of the caveat by “registered post” to the person on whose plea they are lodging the application.  
(b) Section 148A of the Code of Civil Procedure explicitly defines a caveat as caution or warning giving notice to the Court not to issue any grant or take any step without notice being given to the party lodging the caveat.  
(c) Right to appear before the court is a relevant factor in determining the eligibility to file a caveat application.  
(d) Caveat can be filed even on mere apprehension of an application in a suit or proceeding.

#### **Passage-XIV**

The Supreme Court, recently, held that compassionate appointment is not a vested right. A claim for compassionate appointment by the dependent of the deceased employee may not be entertained after a lapse of a considerable period since the death. The Court summarised the well-settled principles as under -

1. That a provision for compassionate appointment makes a departure from the general provisions providing for appointment to a post by following a particular procedure of recruitment. Since such a provision enables appointment being made without following the said procedure, it is in the nature of an exception to the general provisions and must be resorted to only in order to achieve the stated objectives, i.e., to enable the family of the deceased to get over the sudden financial crisis.
2. Appointment on compassionate grounds is not a source of recruitment. The reason for making such a benevolent scheme by the State or the public sector undertaking is to see that the dependents of the deceased are not deprived of the means of livelihood. It only enables the family of the deceased to get over the sudden financial crisis.
3. That compassionate appointment should be provided immediately to redeem the family in distress. It is improper to keep such a case pending for years. The authorities must consider and decide such applications, at the earliest, but not beyond a period of six months from the date of submission of such completed application.
4. In determining as to whether the family is in financial crisis, following relevant aspects must be borne in mind- the income of the family, its liabilities, the terminal benefits if any, received by the family, the age, dependency and marital status of its members, together with the income from any other source and accumulated assets.

The Court noted that the sine qua non for allowing a claim of compassionate appointment is that the family of the deceased employee would be unable to make ends meet if one of their dependents is not employed on the compassionate ground. It observed -

*“The financial condition of the family of the deceased, at the time of the death of the deceased, is the primary consideration that ought to guide the authorities’ decision in the matter.”* Noting the considerable delay in claiming/deciding the claim, the Court opined that in such cases the sense of immediacy is lost. It was of the view that in such cases the Court or the relevant authority are required to take into consideration the fact that during the period of delay, the dependents were able to sustain themselves. In another case, the Supreme Court has held that Compassionate employment is permissible only to one of the dependents of the deceased/incapacitated employee viz. parents, spouse, son or daughter and not to all relatives.

**Source:** Extracted (with edits and revisions) from an article titled ‘Compassionate Appointment: Supreme Court Summarises Principles’, Live Law (March 9, 2023).

**71.** Vidhan, an employee of the Delhi Municipal Corporation, passed away in a tragic accident in 2010. He left behind his wife, Vidhi, and two minor children. At the time of his death, Vidhan was the sole breadwinner, and the family faced severe financial hardships. Vidhi, unaware of the provisions for compassionate appointments, took up small jobs to support her family. In 2018, upon learning about the possibility of a compassionate appointment, she approached the Municipal Corporation for the same. The Corporation rejected her application. Vidhi then approached the court for relief. Based on the principles laid down by the Supreme Court regarding compassionate appointments, decide the most probable outcome of Vidhi's claim.

- (a) Vidhi's claim will be accepted because she was unaware of the provisions for compassionate appointments at the time of Vidhan's death.  
(b) Vidhi's claim will be rejected due to the considerable delay in making the claim, and the fact that she managed to sustain her family during that period.  
(c) Vidhi's claim will be accepted as the primary objective of compassionate appointments is to provide relief to families facing financial hardships.

(d) Vidhi's claim will be accepted because the Municipal Corporation failed to inform her about the provisions for compassionate appointments at the time of Vidhan's death.

**72.** Vidur was a dedicated employee of the Delhi Municipal Corporation for over 25 years. Tragically, he passed away in a car accident in 2005. At the time of his death, his son, Vishal, was just 10 years old. Vidur's wife, Vidhi, managed to secure a teaching job in a private school in Ranchi and took care of the family's needs. In 2021, after completing his studies, Vishal approached the Delhi Municipal Corporation seeking compassionate appointment, citing he was just 10 years old at the time of death of his father. The Corporation is now contemplating the validity of Vishal's request. Based on the principles laid down by the Supreme Court regarding compassionate appointments, decide the most probable outcome of Vishal's claim.

- (a) Vishal's claim will be accepted because his father had a long tenure of service with the Corporation.
- (b) Vishal's claim will be rejected as compassionate appointments cannot be claimed after such a long lapse of time, especially when the immediate financial crisis post the death has been addressed.
- (c) Vishal's claim will be accepted as he is now of legal age and can be employed.
- (d) Vishal's claim will not be rejected as he is educated and can get work elsewhere.

**73.** In the previous scenario, assume that after Vidur's death in 2005, the Delhi Municipal Corporation had verbally assured Vidhi that once Vishal completes his education and reaches a suitable age, he would be considered for a compassionate appointment. Decide the impact of this additional fact on Vishal's claim in 2021.

- (a) The additional fact would strengthen Vishal's case because a verbal assurance from the Delhi Municipal Corporation provides a basis for his claim and expectation of a compassionate appointment.
- (b) The additional fact would weaken Vishal's case because verbal assurances are not legally binding and can be considered hearsay without proper documentation.
- (c) The additional fact would have no effect on Vishal's case as the primary consideration is the financial condition of the family at the time of the deceased's death, not subsequent assurances.
- (d) The additional fact would make Vishal eligible for immediate appointment because the assurance directly links his eligibility to the completion of his education and reaching a suitable age.

**74.** Vidhan was a senior engineer at the Indore Metro Rail Corporation. In 2015, he met with an unfortunate accident during work and passed away, leaving behind his wife, Vaishali, and a daughter. His daughter claimed that she should be given the job of her father on ground of compassionate appointment. Which of the following statements would not be considered by Indore Metro rail Corporation while determining whether the family is in financial crisis, and thus eligible for compensatory appointment?

- (a) That Vidhan was a senior employee of the company and had generated substantial amount of savings and assets during his tenure.
- (b) That his daughter has completed her engineering degree from a reputed college
- (c) That the family has a loan of Rs. 1 crore from a Bank.
- (d) That the family owned 2 houses which they have rented out, generating a substantial rental income.

**75.** Municipal Corporation of Indore brought a new recruitment policy for recruitment at Level-4 posts in the corporation. The notification mentioned that for the next 5 years, only the family members of deceased employees of the corporation can apply for the abovementioned posts. This was done to enable the family of the deceased employees to get immediate relief in case of financial crisis. Vidhan, a serious candidate who was aspiring to get recruited in the corporation, could not apply for the job due to this condition. He decided to challenge the recruitment notification in court. In light of the information provided in the passage, choose the most appropriate option:

- (a) The Court will not allow the petition as Vidhan is a serious candidate and can get other jobs as well.
- (b) The Court will allow the petition since the corporation is allowed to help family of deceased employee.
- (c) The Court will not allow the petition as appointment on compassionate grounds is not a source of recruitment for everyone.
- (d) The Court will allow the petition as the notification is discriminatory against Vidhan.

**76.** Vidhita's father was a government employee who died in service. After his death, the family is facing a serious financial crisis. Immediately after the death, Vidhita's uncle informed her to apply for compassionate appointment. Accordingly, Vidhita applied for compassionate appointment on 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2023. On 20<sup>th</sup> February, the authorities informed Vidhita that her application is incomplete as it is missing certain documents. Vidhita arranged for the documents and filed the revised application by 17<sup>th</sup> April. The authorities are considering the revised application. However, there is no response from the authorities as on 19<sup>th</sup> July. In light of the facts mentioned, choose the most appropriate option:

- (a) The authorities are at fault as they have not decided the application within 6 months from the date of submission of completed application.
- (b) The application for compassionate appointment will be rejected as Vidhita should have filed a proper application.

(c) Both Vidhita and authorities are at fault and therefore application for compassionate appointment should be rejected.

(d) None of the above.

77. In light of the passage, which among the following is not true with regards to eligibility for compassionate appointment?

(a) Wife of the deceased employee is eligible for compassionate appointment.

(b) Father of the deceased employee is eligible for compassionate appointment.

(c) Either son or daughter of the deceased employee are eligible for compassionate appointment.

(d) Both the parents of the deceased employee can be appointed at the same time.

### *Passage-XV*

Passive euthanasia was legalised in India by the Supreme Court in 2018, contingent upon the person having a 'living will' or a written document that specifies what actions should be taken if the person is unable to make their own medical decisions in the future. In case a person does not have a living will, members of their family can make a plea before the High Court to seek permission for passive euthanasia. A Constitution Bench said that the guidelines would be in force until Parliament passed legislation on this. However, this has not happened, and the absence of a law on this subject has rendered the 2018 judgment the last conclusive set of directions on euthanasia. The guidelines pertained to questions such as who would execute the living will, and the process by which approval could be granted by the medical board. "We declare that an adult human being having mental capacity to take an informed decision has right to refuse medical treatment including withdrawal from life-saving devices," the court said in the 2018 ruling.

The petition was filed by a non-profit association that submitted that the 2018 guidelines on living wills were "unworkable". Though the detailed judgement is yet to be released, the Court dictated a part of their order in open court. As per 2018 guidelines, a living will was required to be signed by an executor (the individual seeking euthanasia) in the presence of two attesting witnesses, preferably independent, and to be further countersigned by a Judicial Magistrate of First Class (JMFC). Also, the treating physician was required to constitute a board comprising three expert medical practitioners from specific but varied fields of medicine, with at least 20 years of experience, who would decide whether to carry out the living will or not. If the medical board granted permission, the will had to be forwarded to the District Collector for his approval. The Collector was to then form another medical board of three expert doctors, including the Chief District Medical Officer (CMO). Only if this second board agreed with the hospital board's findings would the decision be forwarded to the JMFC, who would then visit the patient and examine whether to accord approval.

This cumbersome process will now become easier as in 2023 another Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court has agreed to significantly ease the procedure for passive euthanasia as laid down in its 2018 judgment.

Instead of the hospital and Collector forming the two medical boards, both boards will now be formed by the hospital. The requirement of 20 years of experience for the doctors has been relaxed to five years. The requirement for the Magistrate's approval has been replaced by an intimation to the Magistrate. The medical board must communicate its decision within 48 hours; the earlier guidelines specified no time limit. The 2018 guidelines required two witnesses and a signature by the Magistrate; now a notary or gazetted officer can sign the living will in the presence of two witnesses instead of the Magistrate's countersign. In case the medical boards set up by the hospital refuses permission, it will now be open to the kin to approach the High Court which will form a fresh medical team. The revised guidelines shall exclusively apply to living wills created after the latest judgement.

**Source:** Extracted (with edits and revisions) from an article titled "What is a living will, and the new Supreme Court order for simplifying passive euthanasia procedure," published in The Indian Express.

78. Vidhan, a resident of Indore, was diagnosed with a rare, incurable neurological disorder. Over the years, his condition deteriorated, leaving him in a permanent vegetative state. His wife, Vidhi, and their two adult children are emotionally and financially drained due to Vidhan's prolonged medical treatment. Vidhi discovers the 2018 Supreme Court ruling on passive euthanasia and believes it could be a humane option for Vidhan. However, Vidhan never created a living will specifying his wishes regarding medical treatment in such scenarios. She consults with various family members, and they are divided on how to proceed legally to seek permission for Vidhan's passive euthanasia. In light of the facts mentioned, what is the most appropriate legal step for Vidhi and her family to take in order to seek permission for Vidhan's passive euthanasia?

(a) Vidhi should approach the District Collector of Indore directly for immediate approval of removing life support.

(b) Vidhi should file a plea before the High Court of Indore, presenting Vidhan's medical records and family consent.

(c) Vidhi should consult Vidhan's treating physician to immediately constitute a medical board of three expert doctors to decide on the passive euthanasia.

(d) Vidhi should draft a living will on behalf of Vidhan, and get the thumb impression of Vidhan in presence of 2 witnesses, and then have it countersigned by a Judicial Magistrate of First Class (JMFC) in Indore.

**79.** Vidhan, is diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer that leaves him bedridden and in excruciating pain. He has a living will that was drafted according to the latest Supreme Court ruling, specifying that he wishes to opt for passive euthanasia if his condition becomes unbearable. The will was signed in the presence of two independent witnesses and countersigned by a Notary. However, the medical boards constituted by the hospital, deliberated on his living will and his medical condition and decided against carrying out the requested medical measures. What actions can Vidhan's family take after such refusal?

- (a) Vidhan's family can approach the district collector and request him to constitute a medical board of three expert doctors headed by CMO to decide on the passive euthanasia.
- (b) Vidhan's family can approach the civil court for constitution of a fresh medical team.
- (c) Vidhan's family can shift him to a separate hospital and ask the new doctor to constitute separate medical board.
- (d) Vidhan's family can approach High Court for constitution of a fresh medical team.

**80.** Vidhyut, has been suffering from a debilitating illness that has left him in a semi-conscious state after 2017. His daughter, Vidhi, discovers an old living will drafted by Vidhyut in 2016, which was countersigned by a JMFC and had two independent witnesses. The will clearly states Vidhyut's wish to opt for passive euthanasia under specific medical conditions. Vidhi consults a lawyer, who informs her that the guidelines have changed. Vidhi is concerned about the legal validity of her father's living will under the new guidelines. Will Vidhyut's living will be considered legally valid under the updated guidelines for passive euthanasia?

- (a) No, because the living will was countersigned by a JMFC, and the new guidelines require a notary or gazetted officer's signature.
- (b) Yes, because the living will was valid at the time it was made and countersigned by a JMFC, which was a requirement then.
- (c) Yes, but only if Vidhi gets the living will revalidated by a notary or gazetted officer in the presence of two witnesses.
- (d) No, because Vidhyut is in a semi-conscious state and therefore lacks the mental capacity to take an informed decision regarding right to medical treatment.

**81.** Vidhit, is in the late stages of a terminal illness. He has a living will that specifies his wish for passive euthanasia under certain conditions. His wife, Vidhi, and their adult son, Vidhan, decide it's time to act on Vidhit's living will. They consult the treating hospital, which forms a medical board as per the updated guidelines. The board takes four days to communicate its decision, citing the complexity of Vidhit's medical condition as the reason for the delay. Will the medical board's delayed decision on Vidhit's passive euthanasia have legal implications?

- (a) Yes, because the updated guidelines specifically state that the medical board must communicate its decision within 48 hours.
- (b) No, because the medical board's decision, even if delayed, is the final authority on the matter.
- (c) Yes, but only if Vidhit's condition worsens significantly during the delay, making the initial assessment obsolete.
- (d) No, because the 48-hour time frame is merely a guideline and not a strict legal requirement considering the complex nature of the case.

**82.** The Parliament brings a law and incorporates all the guidelines regarding living will mentioned in the 2018 judgement of the Supreme Court. In the law, Parliament also adds a condition, that after the decision of JMFC, District Judge will finally take decision within 48 hours, whether to allow passive Euthanasia or not. What impact will the new law have on the guidelines related to living wills?

- (a) The new law will ease the procedure by clearly stating the time limit within which District Judge has to act after the decision of JMFC to carry out the living will.
- (b) The new law would have no impact on the guidelines on living will.
- (c) The new law would make the procedure cumbersome as an additional permission would be required before implementing the living will.
- (d) The new law would shift the responsibility from JMFC to District Judge.

**83.** Based on the passage, decide:

Assertion (A): Passive Euthanasia has always been legal in India provided the person had a 'living will' or a written document specifies what actions should be taken if the person is unable to make their own medical decisions in the future.

Reason (R): Passive euthanasia was legalised in India by the Supreme Court in 2018.

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

**84.** With regards to the principles laid down by the Supreme Court, which of the following statements can be concluded from the passage?

- (a) As per the Supreme Court, Passive euthanasia can be done only in case the individual has a 'living will' or a written document.
- (b) Everyone irrespective of their mental capacity is eligible to refuse medical treatment.
- (c) The revised guidelines makes the procedure for passive euthanasia burdensome.
- (d) The guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court in 2018 would continue to be a conclusive set of directions on euthanasia until Parliament passes legislation.

### **Section D-Logical Reasoning**

#### **Passage-XVI**

It is quite a feat. Making Rabindranath Tagore vanish from the astonishing spaces he created for art and learning, where he built a university in which home and world would meet, and for which he struggled to find funds till his health failed cannot be easy. But Bidyut Chakrabarty, the vice-chancellor of Visva-Bharati University, is famous for his many feats that, doomsayers claim, are destroying the institution. Now he has achieved the apparently impossible by placing plaques that celebrate UNESCO's acknowledgment of Santiniketan as a world heritage site with two names on them: the prime minister's and his own. Mr Chakrabarty's logic is not famed for being accessible, so why a UNESCO world heritage site, awarded the honour specifically because of Tagore's inimitable creation, should have the name of the chancellor and vice-chancellor of the moment is not clear, let alone why Tagore should not be mentioned at all. Evidently, Mr Chakrabarty feels that these spaces belong to him, or rather, to the chancellor, because Visva-Bharati is under the Centre. This must be true of the whole of Santiniketan, for which the UNESCO label was awarded. So he has made the plaques himself, without waiting for anything from UNESCO or the Archaeological Survey of India, which has objected to the whimsical placing of the concrete-based plaques that should have been done with the ASI's selection of suitable spots for them.

Commemorating a UNESCO heritage site requires a descriptive plaque about the special qualities of the place and its history and impact. It is not a foundation stone with the name of a politician or official of the time. If it is a bit of a stretch to accept that Mr Chakrabarty believes he, or perhaps Narendra Modi, is founding Tagore's university anew and Santiniketan with it, then the reason must lie elsewhere. It might be an attempt to please the prime minister and make his own name indelible in the process. But it has to be asked if the Prime Minister was totally ignorant of the vice-chancellor's intention. Or if the indulgence extended to Mr Chakrabarty and his many feats also means carte blanche for his actions as long as they honour Mr Modi. There is no place for Tagore among such urgent political transactions, surely? He would not survive in ugliness.

**Source: Vanished, The Telegraph Online, October 26, 2023**

**85.** Which of the following is the author most likely to agree with, regarding Bidyut Chakrabarty's actions?

- (a) Bidyut Chakrabarty is enhancing the reputation of Visva-Bharati University.
- (b) Bidyut Chakrabarty's actions are in line with Rabindranath Tagore's vision for the university.
- (c) Bidyut Chakrabarty's actions are undermining the legacy of Rabindranath Tagore.
- (d) Bidyut Chakrabarty's actions are a result of his deep understanding of the university's history.

**86.** Based on the author's arguments, which of the following must necessarily be true about the plaques commemorating the UNESCO heritage site?

- (a) The plaques were created in consultation with the Archaeological Survey of India.
- (b) The plaques should ideally contain a descriptive history of the place and its special qualities.
- (c) The plaques were made to honour the current prime minister and vice-chancellor only.
- (d) The plaques were immediately approved by UNESCO.

**87.** Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the author's arguments against Bidyut Chakrabarty?

- (a) Rabindranath Tagore had initially intended for the university to be under the Centre's control.
- (b) Bidyut Chakrabarty has a history of making decisions that have positively impacted the university.
- (c) The prime minister was unaware of the vice-chancellor's intentions regarding the plaques.
- (d) UNESCO explicitly requested that the plaques feature the names of the current chancellor and vice-chancellor.

**88.** As per the passage, which one of the following is a likely motive behind Bidyut Chakrabarty's decision to include his and the prime minister's names on the plaques?

- (a) To adhere to UNESCO's guidelines for world heritage sites.
- (b) To make his own name indelible in the process of pleasing the prime minister.
- (c) To honor the original vision of Rabindranath Tagore for the university.
- (d) To comply with the Archaeological Survey of India's recommendations.

- 89.** How does the author suggest that the plaques should have been made?
- (a) With the names of all past and present chancellors and vice-chancellors.
  - (b) Solely with Rabindranath Tagore's name to honour his legacy.
  - (c) In collaboration with the Archaeological Survey of India for suitable names and placement.
  - (d) With a detailed history of the political transactions that led to the university's founding.
- 90.** With which of the following will the author least likely agree, considering his ideas regarding the plaques?
- (a) The plaques created do not justify Tagore's profound creations..
  - (b) A plaque created for a site should be strongly impactful.
  - (c) The plaques created were placed at suitable spots around the site.
  - (d) The plaques were not created in accordance with the ASI's suggestions.

### *Passage-XVII*

Historically, India has been one of the largest trading partners of the EU. However, unfortunately, we've not been able to see the India-EU relationship reach its full potential. The two partners can have a great relationship but regrettably it has not been granted its due attention as is needed. Both sides have been slow in acknowledging the importance of this relationship.

At the same time, there have been many positive developments in the India-EU relationship in recent years. In 2021, the two sides launched the Trade and Technology Council, which is a high-level forum for discussing trade, technology, and security issues. The Trade and Technology Council is seen as a sign of the growing importance of the India-EU relationship. It is also noteworthy that the first Ministerial meeting of India-EU Trade and Technology Council was held earlier this year in May of 2023 in Brussels with key and senior ministers—S. Jaishankar, Piyush Goyal and Rajeev Chandrasekhar—in attendance with senior EU ministers and bureaucrats. There is great thrust and focus on understanding and partnering in the ongoing rapid technological developments, particularly in Artificial Intelligence between India and EU.

India and the EU have also worked together on a number of green energy initiatives, such as the International Solar Alliance and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure. They have also agreed to cooperate on issues such as climate change and sustainable development.

The recent geopolitical tensions between China and the West have also highlighted the need for India and the EU to diversify their supply chains.

Both are looking to reduce their reliance on China for goods and services, and they are seeing each other as potential partners in this effort. For example, India is looking to the EU to provide it with technology and investment, while the EU is looking to India as a market for its goods and services. The diversification of supply chains is a complex process, but it is essential for both India and the EU. By working together, they can reduce their reliance on China and build a more resilient and sustainable economy.

We have also relaunched the negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement after a hiatus of nine long years. There is political will and renewed vigour to iron out long-standing concerns on both sides such as about flow of digital data for the EU and giving greater access to high skilled professionals to the EU market for India. India is poised, able and willing to attract companies that wish to partner with a democratic partner in Asia with strong developmental, economic and demographic credentials. One major impediment stems from their varied priorities. While India seeks broader market access for its products and services, the EU emphasizes safeguarding its intellectual property rights alongside ensuring adherence to labour and environmental standards. Furthermore, sectors like agriculture, pharmaceuticals, and automobiles are proving to be contentious areas in the discussions due to their significance for both parties. The FTA should be signed and completed at the earliest in light of upcoming delays such as elections.

- 91.** Which of the following can be inferred about the significance of the Trade and Technology Council in the context of the India-EU relationship?
- (a) The Council symbolizes India's shift from China-centric trade relationships to focus more on the EU.
  - (b) It showcases a commitment to explore new technological advancements, especially in Artificial Intelligence.
  - (c) The Council is seen as a stepping stone to finalize the much-anticipated Free Trade Agreement.
  - (d) Both India and the EU view the council as an initial engagement towards a deeper bilateral alliance.
- 92.** The passage suggests that the first Ministerial meeting of the India-EU Trade and Technology Council is a reflection of the growing importance of the bilateral relationship. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen this assertion?
- (a) The meeting led to immediate resolutions on previously contested trade disputes.
  - (b) The meeting received significant media attention in both India and the EU.
  - (c) Leaders of other global superpowers attended as observers due to its importance.
  - (d) Key agenda items from prior bilateral talks were fast-tracked for this meeting.

93. Given the discussion on the diversification of supply chains, which of the following assumptions underlies the mutual interest of India and the EU in reducing their reliance on China?
- (a) A diverse supply chain strengthens the overall global economic system.
  - (b) Dependence on a single nation poses significant economic and strategic risks.
  - (c) India and the EU aim to become entirely self-reliant in the near future.
  - (d) China's economic growth is perceived as unsustainable in the long run.
94. The author mentions the International Solar Alliance and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure to highlight which of the following aspects of the India-EU partnership?
- (a) The commercial advantages of mutual investments in renewable energy sectors.
  - (b) The geopolitical implications of strengthening ties in sustainable initiatives.
  - (c) Their joint commitment to environmental and sustainable development causes.
  - (d) Their competitive edge over other nations in green energy technology.
95. In the context of the passage, which of the following can be considered a potential reason for the delay in finalizing the Free Trade Agreement between India and the EU?
- (a) The rapid technological advancements taking precedence in their partnership.
  - (b) Varied priorities like market access and adherence to environmental standards.
  - (c) Concerns over the EU providing technology and investment to India.
  - (d) Discussions around the implications of the recent geopolitical tensions.
96. Which of the following underlying assumptions can be logically inferred from the sentence given in the passage, 'By working together, they can reduce their reliance on China and build a more resilient and sustainable economy.'?
- (a) The EU is more concerned about ensuring adherence to labour.
  - (b) Both India and the EU will be successful in overcoming the impediments and will come on the same page for FTA.
  - (c) Priorities of India and the EU vary from those of China.
  - (d) India and the EU will have to face obstructions in achieving sustainable economy.

#### *Passage-XVIII*

One of the collateral damages of conflict is civilian casualty. It can be both steep and brutal. The ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas is no exception. Over the years, the Israel-Palestine conflagration has extracted incalculable losses in terms of lives and livelihood. But what is disheartening is that modern conflicts, be it in Gaza or that between Russia and Ukraine, no longer honour some of the internationally acknowledged protocols of engagement. For instance, Israel and Russia have both been accused of killing civilians and destroying civilian institutions that have immunity from adversarial conduct. The alleged Israeli airstrike on the Al-Ahli Baptist Hospital, which left unmatched scenes of death and destruction and claimed more than 500 lives, is a case in point. Elsewhere, in Europe, Ukraine has also alleged that Russia has specifically targeted civilians: Moscow's assault on a maternity hospital in Mariupol and the bombing of other health facilities in the ongoing conflict have been held up as examples. The malaise, evidently, is global. The United States of America, which claims to be the protector of global conventions, has been a party to this transgression: the 2015 airstrike on a trauma care centre in Afghanistan is but one example of the US's complicity. These instances - there are many others - are suggestive of a basic erosion. There can be no moral justification for war. But even then, conflicts are supposed to adhere to specific codes of conduct. Protecting the lives of civilians as well as doctors and humanitarian aid workers should ideally be a part of this code. But the mounting body bags of not just civilians but also doctors, aid workers and journalists caught in the crossfire are a testament to the continuing failure - erasure - of morality on the global theatres of conflict.

What makes these losses all the more ironic is that statutes exist to prevent them. The International Humanitarian Law based on the 1949 Geneva Convention postulates a set of principles to limit the consequences of armed conflicts and ensure the protection of non-combatants, such as civilians, wounded and sick soldiers, health and humanitarian workers and prisoners. But combatants seldom take heed of these words. War crimes such as these are usually met by international outrage but there is little by way of penalty or accountability. Perhaps it is time for global bodies to recalibrate their responses to the crisis and come up with a new framework that would make it difficult for such transgressions to take place.

**Source: Blood on hands, The Telegraph Online, October 24, 2023**

97. Which of the following would most strengthen the author's argument that modern conflicts no longer honor internationally acknowledged protocols of engagement?
- (a) Israel and Russia have been praised for their precision airstrikes that minimize civilian casualties.
  - (b) The United States has never been involved in any conflict that resulted in civilian casualties.
  - (c) The International Humanitarian Law based on the 1949 Geneva Convention is outdated and irrelevant.
  - (d) War crimes such as these are usually met by international outrage but there is little by way of penalty or accountability.

98. Based on the author's arguments, which of the following must necessarily be true?
- (a) All modern conflicts result in civilian casualties.
  - (b) The United States claims to be the protector of global conventions but has been a party to transgressions.
  - (c) The International Humanitarian Law is effective in preventing war crimes.
  - (d) Global bodies are effective in holding combatants accountable for their actions.
99. Which of the following is the author most likely to agree with?
- (a) Conflicts can have a moral justification if they adhere to specific codes of conduct.
  - (b) The erosion of morality in global conflicts is a localized issue, not a global malaise.
  - (c) Protecting the lives of civilians, doctors, and humanitarian aid workers should be part of the code of conduct in conflicts.
  - (d) Statutes like the International Humanitarian Law are sufficient to prevent civilian casualties in conflicts.
100. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the author's arguments?
- (a) The majority of modern conflicts strictly adhere to the International Humanitarian Law.
  - (b) The United States has taken significant steps to minimize civilian casualties in recent conflicts.
  - (c) The International Humanitarian Law is currently under revision to address its shortcomings.
  - (d) Israel and Russia have been falsely accused of targeting civilians in conflicts.
101. How does the author suggest global bodies should respond to the crisis of modern conflicts not adhering to international protocols?
- (a) By praising nations that adhere to international protocols.
  - (b) By recalibrating their responses to make it difficult for such transgressions to take place.
  - (c) By imposing economic sanctions on nations that violate international protocols.
  - (d) By disbanding and forming new international bodies that can better enforce the rules.
102. Which of the following is an underlying assumption in the author's argument considering US to be a party to the war time moral transgressions?
- (a) The US justifies these transgressions on the wartime code of conduct.
  - (b) Countries across the world would adhere to Geneva Convention postulates if enforced by the US.
  - (c) The US considers the basic principles of the Geneva Convention as worthwhile.
  - (d) All of the above.

### *Passage-XIX*

The recent Labour conference in Liverpool was overshadowed by the eruption of violence in the Israel-Gaza conflict. Initially, the party stood united in condemning the atrocities and supporting Israel. However, that unity has since fractured, exposing deep-seated tensions within the party over its stance on the conflict. Sir Keir Starmer, the Labour leader, found himself in hot water for a poorly handled interview in which he seemed to condone Israel's actions in Gaza. Although he later clarified his position, the damage was done. The delay in clarification has led to some of the most tumultuous days of his leadership, overshadowing what should have been a week of celebrating electoral victories and pressing the Tories on domestic issues. Even Starmer's closest allies, like Shabana Mahmood and Wes Streeting, have privately warned him that the party risks appearing indifferent to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. The internal divisions are not just ideological but also electoral; MPs representing Muslim-majority constituencies are under intense pressure. Some speculate that the party could lose as many as 30 seats in the next general election due to this issue, although others dismiss this as alarmist.

Starmer's call for "humanitarian pauses" aligns him with Rishi Sunak and Joe Biden, but it does little to address the root causes of the conflict. Calls within the party for an immediate ceasefire are growing, led by figures like Yasmin Qureshi, Sadiq Khan, and Andy Burnham. However, Starmer's allies see these calls as virtue signaling, arguing that neither Hamas nor Israel is likely to heed a ceasefire called by British politicians. The Israel-Gaza conflict is not just a problem for Labour; it's causing divisions in left-leaning parties across the Western world. Starmer's challenge is twofold: to navigate a path that maintains party unity while also presenting Labour as a credible alternative government. With events beyond his control dictating the narrative, it's a precarious position for any leader. The party's stance on the conflict may have zero influence on the ground, but the internal divisions it's causing could have a lasting impact on Labour's future.

**Source: The Guardian, October 29, 2023**

103. Which of the following is a correct expression of the author's opinion as stated in the passage regarding Sir Keir Starmer's handling of the Israel-Gaza conflict?
- (a) Starmer's call for "humanitarian pauses" is a strong and effective stance.
  - (b) Starmer has successfully navigated the party's internal divisions on the issue.
  - (c) Starmer's poorly handled interview has led to tumultuous days in his leadership.
  - (d) Starmer's stance aligns him more closely with right-leaning parties.



- 104.** As per the passage, which one of the following is a significant electoral concern for Labour MPs?
- (a) The party's initial united stance on supporting Israel.  
 (b) The call for "humanitarian pauses" by Sir Keir Starmer.  
 (c) MPs representing Muslim-majority constituencies are under intense pressure.  
 (d) The party's stance on the conflict may have zero influence on the ground.
- 105.** Which of the following would support the author's conclusion that the Israel-Gaza conflict could have a lasting impact on Labour's future?
- (a) The party initially had a united stance on condemning the atrocities.  
 (b) There would be long lasting internal divisions within the party over its stance on the conflict.  
 (c) Sir Keir Starmer's alignment with Rishi Sunak and Joe Biden.  
 (d) The calls within the party for an immediate ceasefire are growing.
- 106.** Based on the author's arguments, which of the following must necessarily be true?
- (a) Sir Keir Starmer's closest allies fully support his stance on the Israel-Gaza conflict.  
 (b) The Labour party will lose as many as 30 seats in the next general election due to this issue.  
 (c) The Israel-Gaza conflict is causing divisions in left-leaning parties across the Western world.  
 (d) Calls for an immediate ceasefire are universally supported within the Labour party.
- 107.** Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the author's arguments about the impact of the Israel-Gaza conflict on the Labour party?
- (a) The Labour party regains unity quickly after Sir Keir Starmer clarifies his stance.  
 (b) The Israel-Gaza conflict is resolved peacefully in a short period.  
 (c) Sir Keir Starmer's call for "humanitarian pauses" gains widespread public support.  
 (d) MPs representing Muslim-majority constituencies publicly support the party's stance.
- 108.** Which of the following cannot be a logical inference from the sentence, 'The recent Labour conference in Liverpool was overshadowed by the eruption of violence in the Israel-Gaza conflict. Initially, the party stood united in condemning the atrocities and supporting Israel.'?
- (a) Not all members of the Labour Party support Israel.  
 (b) There are inherent tensions within the party.  
 (c) Soon all members would strongly condemn the conflict.  
 (d) None of the above.

### Section E-Quantitative Techniques

#### Passage-XX

**Directions: (109- 114) Study the following information carefully and answer the questions given below.**

There are 3 shopkeepers (Vidhi, Vidhan, Vidyut) who are selling laptops of 5 different brands DELL, HP, LENOVO, ACER and APPLE. Out of the total laptops sold by Vidhi, 10% were of DELL brand, 18% were HP, 12% were LENOVO, 25% were ACER and remaining were of APPLE brand. Out of the total laptops sold by Vidhan 13% were DELL, 15% were HP, 17% were LENOVO, 33% were ACER and the remaining were APPLE. Out of the total laptops sold by Vidyut 19% were DELL, 23% were HP, 24% were LENOVO, 16% were ACER and remaining were APPLE.

- 109.** If the total no. of laptops sold by the shopkeeper 'Vidhi' is 1500, then what is the no. of APPLE laptops sold by the shopkeeper 'Vidhi'?
- (a) 525 (b) 515 (c) 535 (d) None of these
- 110.** If the total no. of laptops sold by the shopkeeper 'Vidhan' is 1700, then what is the no. of DELL laptops sold by the shopkeeper 'Vidhan'?
- (a) 211 (b) 212 (c) 221 (d) None of these
- 111.** If the total no. of laptops sold by the shopkeeper 'Vidyut' is 1900, then what is the no. of HP laptops sold by the shopkeeper 'Vidyut'?
- (a) 427 (b) 437 (c) 447 (d) None of these
- 112.** If 'Vidhi' sold a total of 2100 laptops and 'Vidyut' sold a total of 2200 laptops then find the ratio of LENOVO laptops sold by 'Vidhi' to the LENOVO laptops sold by 'Vidyut'.
- (a) 16:18 (b) 13:19 (c) 21:44 (d) None of these
- 113.** If the total no. of laptops sold by the shopkeeper Vidhi, Vidhan and Vidyut are same, then which shopkeeper sold the maximum number of ACER laptops?
- (a) Vidhi (b) Vidhan (c) Vidyut (d) Can't be determined
- 114.** If the total no. of laptops sold by the shopkeeper Vidhi and Vidhan are same, then the total number of HP laptops sold by Vidhi is what percent more or less than the total number of HP laptops sold by Vidhan?
- (a) 16.66% more (b) 20% less (c) 16.66% less (d) 20% more

*Passage-XXI*

**Directions (115 -120): Study the following information carefully and answer the questions given below.**

There are three teams Alpha, Bravo and Charlie who participated in a game of PUBG. All teams use only four type of guns that is AMW, M416, AKM and M762. Team Alpha had 5 kills with AMW. Team Bravo had number of kills with AMW which is 2 more than that of Alpha. Team Charlie had number of kills with AMW which is the average of kills with AMW by Alpha and Bravo. Team Bravo killed 10 with M762, which is least among all the teams. Team Alpha killed 12 with M762 which is one less than team Charlie with same gun. Team Charlie had 4 kills with M416 gun. Kills by M416 gun by team Alpha is 3. Kills by M416 gun by team Bravo is half of the kills by team Charlie with the same gun. Team Bravo used AKM rifle to kill 3. The total kill by Team Charlie is equal to 28. Team Alpha's total kills are 2 less than the total kills of Team Charlie.

**115.** The no. of kills by Team Charlie with AKM Rifle is?

- (a) 3 (b) 4 (c) 5 (d) 6

**116.** The total no. of kills by team Bravo is?

- (a) 22 (b) 25 (c) 26 (d) 28

**117.** The total kills by team Alpha by M416 and AKM gun?

- (a) 9 (b) 8 (c) 7 (d) 6

**118.** The respective ratio of kills with AMW by Alpha and Bravo together to kills with AMW by Charlie is?

- (a) 1:1 (b) 2:1 (c) 12:13 (d) 13:12

**119.** The number of kills with AMW by Alpha is approximately what percent more or less than the number of kills with M762 by Charlie?

- (a) 61.53% less (b) 16.66% less (c) 61.53% more (d) 16.66% more

**120.** Find the approximate average of total kills by all three teams?

- (a) 25 (b) 22 (c) 27 (d) 29

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