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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

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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**

Over the years, there has been a growing mismatch between the surplus/deficit projected by the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) when it announces the yearly interest rate and the actual deficit/surplus. During years of bigger surpluses, this may not cause financial issues. For instance, in 2019-20, when the EPFO had announced an interest rate of 8.5 per cent, the actual surplus was Rs 954.62 crore, higher than the initial projection of Rs 700 crore. However, there is a cause for concern when there is an actual deficit as against the organisation's projection of a surplus. For example, in 2021-22, against the projection of a Rs 450 crore surplus, there was actually a deficit of Rs 197.72 crore. In July, the finance ministry had flagged this issue of the EPFO slipping into a deficit. And now, as reported in this paper, the Central Board of Trustees of the EPFO have been instructed not to declare the interest rate beginning from the ongoing financial year without the consent of the finance ministry, and to also examine the high interest rates announced by the organisation.

In the past, too, there has often been criticism of the EPFO announcing a higher interest rate that is not considered to be in line with the prevailing market scenario. For instance, for 2020-21, it had recommended an interest rate of 8.5 per cent, when in comparison, the 10 year G Sec yields had fallen to 6.23 per cent, and the SBI was offering 5.4 per cent on 5-10 year deposits. As a sizeable share of the funds with the organisation are allocated towards government/debt securities, paying its contributing members a higher rate-the 10-year G Sec yield is currently hovering around 7.1 per cent - would entail investing in higher interest yielding bonds or increasing the allocation towards equities. This shift in portfolio allocation would involve a change in the risk-reward profile of investments, and thus requires serious consideration. The EPFO's past investments in higher yielding securities of companies such as IL & FS, Dewan Housing Finance Corporation and Reliance Capital only highlight the risk this poses, and the need for carefully accessing such options.

Considering that the employees' provident fund forms an integral part of the social security framework in the country, it must adopt a cautious approach, even though its contributing members will be desirous of higher rates, and understandably so. It must carefully assess the risk-reward matrix of its investment portfolio, taking care to minimise the risks as it pursues greater returns, while also aligning the interest rate with the broader market realities. Alongside, the EPFO must not only be more careful in its assessment of its obligations, it should also be more transparent about its operations by releasing regular updates of its portfolio and investment decisions.

1. According to the passage, what was the reason behind finance ministry flagging the issue of the EPFO leading to the deficit?

- (a) The mismatch between the surplus and deficit projected by EPFO.
- (b) Actual deficit against the organisation's projection of a surplus.
- (c) Actual surplus higher than the initial projection.
- (d) Actual deficit against the organisation's projection of a deficit.

2. What can be deduced from the report of finance ministry to the Central Board of Trustees of EPFO?

- (a) It was issued to examine the interest rates announced by the organisation.
- (b) EPFO is mandated to restrain the declaration of interest rate without finance ministry's permission.
- (c) EPFO is mandated to restrain the declaration of interest rate at any cost.
- (d) Interest rate is not considered to be in line with the market scenario.

3. Why would the shift in portfolio allocation require serious consideration?

- (a) Because it will involve a change in the risk reward profile of investment.
- (b) Because investing in higher interest bonds is necessary.
- (c) Because the EPFO's past investments only highlighted the risk.
- (d) Because sizeable share of funds is allocated towards government.

4. What measure does the author suggest to the EPFO?

- (a) The EPFO must be more cautious while evaluating its obligations.
- (b) The EPFO should look after its contributing members.
- (c) The EPFO must avoid caring about risks as it pursues greater returns.
- (d) The EPFO must evaluate the risk-reward matrix of its investment portfolio.

5. What is the ongoing rate of the 10 year G Sec yields?

- (a) 5.4 percent
- (b) 8.5 percent
- (c) 7.1 percent
- (d) 6.2 percent

PASSAGE - II

For many in the diaspora and even in India, California is the shiny site of the "American dream". Among the richest states in the US it is home to Silicon Valley and the tech industry and has witnessed the rise of aspirational figures like Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai, Satya Nadella at Microsoft, et al. But the state has pioneered more than start-ups that

became unicorns. It has also been at the forefront of some of the most progressive legislation in the US including on pollution control, LGBTQIA+ rights and racial discrimination. Earlier this week, the California legislature passed SB-403, which amends extant disability legislation to make "ancestry" and caste-based discrimination illegal. It is the first US state to do so. While no form of discrimination-especially one as complex as caste-can be legislated away, the law is certainly a step forward.

Earlier this year, Seattle became the first city to recognise caste discrimination and in 2020, Cisco was sued by the state because two Indian managers allegedly discriminated against a Dalit engineer. Universities as well as the Democratic Party have taken cognisance of caste. The law, then, is not merely a top-down imposition but both a part and consequence of a larger churning. Long seen as a "model minority", South Asians have been among the communities that have benefited from affirmative action, the push for diversity and America's larger reckoning with ideas of social justice. Many Indian-Americans carry their culture, religion and beliefs with them. Most may even want to discard the burden of caste in "the land of the free". Yet, some have carried prejudice with them too. If they act in an exclusionary manner, should they not face consequences? To label a move to address discrimination as "Hinduphobia" does disservice to both religion and ideas of natural justice.

Like every religious tradition, Hinduism has its warts-the treatment of the so-called "lower castes" has been chief among them. In India, attempts have been made to address them through reservation, broader conversations and stringent anti-discrimination laws. Including the SC/ST Atrocities Act. The confrontation with this legacy of inequality is ongoing and few would argue that either the country or religion is worse for it. In fact, that there are enough Indian migrants in the US with the means and courage to raise their voices against discrimination is to be welcomed. After all, if the Indian-American dream is merely financial, unwilling to confront its own demons, it is a fragile one.

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

- (a) The law passed in the US will entirely eradicate the caste discrimination.
- (b) South Asians have been struggling with caste discrimination in the US.
- (c) Hinduism is the epitome of the anti-discrimination laws.
- (d) Inequality is on the edge of finishing in the US.

7. Which among the following is the first US state to pass the law to make caste-discrimination illegal?

- (a) Seattle
- (b) San Francisco
- (c) California
- (d) Florida

8. What can be comprehended by "the land of the free"?

- (a) The US is the representation of diversity and its democratic representatives.
- (b) The US is the best example of healthy Indian-American relations.
- (c) The US carries people with their different cultures and beliefs gracefully.
- (d) The US shoulders the people who don't want to be coerced in the load of caste.

9. According to the passage, following are the attempts made by India to address religious discrimination, except?

- (a) Reservation
- (b) Anti-discrimination laws
- (c) The SC/ST Atrocities Act
- (d) Broader conversations about women empowerment

10. What is the meaning of the word "cognisance" as mentioned in the passage?

- (a) The literal taking away of discrimination.
- (b) The manipulation of cultural beliefs.
- (c) The act of recognising or being aware of something.
- (d) The impact of geographical diversity.

PASSAGE - III

Last week, central banks across developed economies tightened policy further as they continued their fight against inflation. On Wednesday, the US Federal Reserve raised interest rates by 25 basis points taking the federal funds rate to 5.25-5.5 per cent-the highest level in 16 years. A day later, the European Central Bank also raised interest rates by 25 basis points. The Bank of England, which is scheduled to meet this week, is also expected to follow suit. With inflation still above their target, central banks have left open the possibility of further hikes when they meet next in September. However, there are indications that the interest rate hike cycle is nearing its end.

The US economy has so far proven to be more resilient to tighter policy than expected. In the second quarter (April-June), it grew at an annualised rate of 2.4 per cent, surpassing expectations. The unemployment rate remains at a low of 3.6 per cent, while claims for unemployment benefits fell for the week ended July 22. And inflation, based on the consumer price index, has come down from 9.1 per cent last year to 3 per cent in June. In contrast, the European economy has been rather sluggish. In the latest update of its world economic outlook, while the International Monetary Fund has revised upwards its growth forecasts for France, Italy and Spain, it expects Germany to contract this year. Inflation in the Eurozone, while has fallen from a high of 10.6 per cent in October to 5.5 per cent in June, remains well above target. ECB president Christine Lagarde has said that the bank's governing council has "an open mind" on the decision in September. But, with inflation still way above the targets of central banks, it does suggest that interest rates are likely to stay higher for longer.

In its last meeting, the monetary policy committee of the RBI had chosen to maintain the status quo on rates and stance. Inflation in India has moderated-it fell to a low of 4.3 per cent in May, rising slightly thereafter to 4.8 per cent in June. However, there are indications that the hardening of food prices, vegetables in particular, will have pushed up headline inflation significantly in July. The RBI's own forecasts expect inflation to edge upwards in the second quarter. In this uncertain environment, the MPC, which is slated to meet in the second week of August, should continue to focus on price stability.

- 11.** As the result of inflation across developed economies, it can be inferred that;
- The state of inflation will not vary for the upcoming quarter.
 - The state of inflation is expected to increase for a period but eventually diminish.
 - The unemployment rate is increasing in developed countries.
 - All of the above
- 12.** According to the passage, what is the condition of European economy in the recent report?
- The European economy has finally dropped the inflation rates with drastic change.
 - The European economy has been slow in last two quarters.
 - The interest rates are expected to drop in Europe soon.
 - The inflation in Europe is still above the targets of central banks.
- 13.** According to the passage, how has the inflation been in India recently?
- Inflation in India is rising rapidly.
 - Inflation in India is uncertain and is fluctuating.
 - Inflation in India is expected to rise in the upcoming quarter.
 - Inflation is falling low steadily in the country.
- 14.** In the concluding paragraph of the given passage, the tone of the author can be best described as:
- Optimistic
 - Despairing
 - Concerned
 - Analytical
- 15.** From the passage, it is evident that India's inflation will most likely:
- Fall rapidly in the next quarter
 - Not affect the food prices
 - Maintain the status quo on rates and stance
 - Rise in the second quarter

PASSAGE - IV

The violence that has raged in Manipur since May seems to have abated somewhat. However, the state remains on edge. The Biren Singh government, found wanting on several fronts, must now work towards building bridges between ethnic groups and being, and being seen to be, above the bitter identity politics that has pushed the state to the brink. It did the right thing, last week, by lifting the ban on mobile internet. Singh had justified the ban as a policing tool to counter the spread of "fake news". But by all accounts, the measure had the opposite effect - it checked the flow of accurate information and sharpened polarisation amongst Manipur's warring communities, Kukis and Meiteis. Now, as the state takes steps towards restoring normalcy, the state government must heed the advice of a Supreme Court-appointed panel. Last week, the committee of three retired high court judges suggested that the government publish a list of the dead so that their next of kin can be identified, and "if no one comes forward, dispose of the bodies in a respectable manner". This could help bring a modicum of closure to many grieving families.

According to the Manipur police, the last rites of at least 96 of the deceased - more than half the official death count - have not taken place. This is largely because families of one community have not been able to visit mortuaries in areas dominated by the other. The issue became a flashpoint last month when the Indigenous Tribal Leaders Forum a largely Kuki group-announced that it would conduct a mass burial at Torbung village, along the border of the Kuki-dominated Churachandpur and Meitei-majority Bishnupur districts. It required an appeal by the Union home ministry for the group to call off the event. But tensions had escalated by then, leading to another round of violence in the two districts. The solution proposed by the SC panel could help soothe frayed nerves. It is disturbing that lessons from the nearly six-month-long conflict continue to elude the Biren Singh government. At a SC hearing, last month, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Manipur, said that "most bodies lying unclaimed in the morgues are of infiltrators". This is of a piece with Singh's persistent blaming of "outsiders" for the violence- a position that has invited accusations of partisanship. That the Manipur CM still doesn't recognise the need for an honest discussion on his governance and political failures is evident from his request last week to the Centre to wind up the free movement regime along the Indo Myanmar border. He cited porous borders as one of the reasons for "illegal migration and drug trafficking"- two things he has repeatedly blamed for the conflict. Manipur desperately needs a healing touch and a government sensitive to reconciling differences. Singh's hardline on the insider-outside divide is inimical to rebuilding trust in the border state. The Centre, which has been seen as soft on the Manipur CM's serial abdications, must push him to accept the SC panel's advice. It must not accede to Singh's proposal to close borders.

16. According to the passage, what was the result of banning internet in Manipur?
- It downright stopped the spread of fake news around.
 - It united the two warring communities, Kukis and Meiteis.
 - It caused differentiations between the two friendly communities Kukis and Meiteis.
 - It fuelled the segmentation of the two communities Kukis and Meiteis.
17. What advice did the Supreme Court appointed panel give to the state government?
- Allow the families of diseased people to enter the mortuaries.
 - Issue the names of dead for their families to conduct their last rites.
 - To conduct a mass burial at Kuki.
 - Not letting outsiders in the states.
18. Which of the following seems to be the author's main concern regarding the Centre's decision on CM's request?
- Centre should acknowledge CM's concern and help the state by sealing the borders.
 - Centre must completely agree with the CM to finish free movement regime along Indo Myanmar border.
 - Centre should decline the CM's request as he is not understanding the need of discussion within the governance.
 - Centre must dismiss the CM's request to close the borders and propel him to work on the SC Panel's advice.
19. All of the following statements are true, except:
- According to the CM, Manipur needs a healing touch and a government sensitive to reconciling differences.
 - The mass burial at Torbung village resulted in reigniting the war between the two districts.
 - Biren Singh has been accused of being partisan for his governance.
 - CM of Manipur refuse to realise that there must be a meeting held for the discussion for the governance and political failure.
20. Which of the following options captures the meaning of the last sentence best?
- Author accompanies the thought of CM for keeping the borders open amidst the conflict.
 - The Centre has been hushed on Manipur's case now it is high time to abdicate the CM's request to close borders.
 - The Centre has been soft with CM's decision, it is high time for the Centre to refuse the request of keeping the borders opened.
 - The Centre needs to take over the governance of Manipur as the CM is not able to handle the conditions there.

PASSAGE - V

Modern Stoicism has become an industry. And a mega-industry at that. For the consumers seeking wisdom on how to live the good life — and there are a lot of them — there are daily digests of Stoic quotations, books and websites packed with Stoic wisdom to kick-start your day, podcasts, broadcasts, online crash courses and more.

In some ways, Stoicism is well suited to a program of self-improvement. It has always been a sort of athletic training for the soul. Founded in the third century B.C.E. by the Greek philosopher Zeno of Citium and mainly associated today with Roman practitioners like the emperor Marcus Aurelius and the statesman Seneca, Stoicism stresses ethics, virtue and the attainment of that elusive good life.

But today, Stoicism is not so much a philosophy as a collection of life hacks for overcoming anxiety, meditations for curbing anger, exercises for finding stillness and calm — not through “oms” or silent retreats but through discourse that chastens a mind: “The pain isn’t due to the thing itself,” says Marcus Aurelius, “but to your estimate of it.” In this mindset, the impact of the outer world can fade away as the inner self becomes a sanctuary. The focus narrows to that self — me, isolated from the social structures that support me or bring me down.

This may be one strand of Stoicism, hyperbolized in the much-quoted epigrams of the Greek Stoic Epictetus, but it is by no means the whole of it. The me-focused view misses ancient Stoicism's emphasis on our flourishing as social selves, connected locally and globally. The early Stoics taught that we are world citizens connected to all of humanity through our reason. Marcus Aurelius paints a graphic image in his “Meditations.” He jots his notes in the quiet of nightfall after a day of battle during the Germanic campaigns. The detritus of the battlefield is on his mind: Picture a hand and head lying apart from the rest of the body. This is what a person makes of himself when he cuts himself off from the world. We can't be “at home in the world,” a Stoic catchphrase, if the good is reduced to self-interest, or grit is defined as go-it-alone self-reliance.

While self-focused pop Stoicism has thrived in the marketplace, in the classrooms at Georgetown where I teach ancient Stoicism to graduates and undergraduates, it's the promise of that connected self and the potential of contributing to the common good that animate students. This semester, deep into a year of loss, isolation and racial reckoning, we grappled with hard philosophical texts and discussed the raw fact that our campus was financed, in part, by the Jesuits' sale of 272 enslaved people in 1838. When we read Epictetus, one student said to the class: “I hope this is not a philosophy about me and my self-interest. Because if it is, then it is really not ethics.” He couldn't have said it better.

We learned about Stoics like Hierocles, a lesser-known second-century Roman philosopher, who offered a concrete exercise for building the kind of connectivity that Marcus Aurelius was after: Draw concentric circles around a point — the self — and then extend the circles from kith and kin to the whole of humanity. Then shrink the space between the

circles, Hierocles writes, “zealously transferring” those from the outside to the inside. It’s the task of a good person, he says, to adopt this initiative, to make this moral commitment.

What’s rarely noticed when Stoicism is presented as self-help is that the very tools that can put a buffer between the outer world and our spin on it are the same ones that can help us change that outer world for the better. We see through personal biases we don’t even know we possess. The Stoics offer techniques for slowing down impulsive thinking that can cloud our judgment.

Seneca puts it this way: We can often insert attention and will and monitor “impulsive impressions” and the quick bodily responses that follow — nip them in the bud — before we yield to them in irrational ways. Sure, he acknowledges, we are wired by nature to respond to life threats; that’s what it is to live “in accord with nature.” But he also teaches that we are not always good judges of estimating those threats. Fear and anger too often “outleap reason.” We need to learn how and when to press the pause button. We need to mobilize attention, he says, to lessen the impact of near-automatic responses that are subject to distortion and error.

Ultimately, this is a life hack not just for me and my impulse control but also for us in thinking about how to build a community so that fear and rage don’t rip us apart. The goal of daily meditation is not just my equanimity. It is equanimity rooted in virtue, and virtue, for the ancient Greeks and Romans, the Stoics included, is always about how I live well as a cooperative member of a commonwealth.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/05/14/opinion/stoics-self-help.html>

21. What is the author’s primary argument about the difference between modern Stoicism and ancient Stoicism?
- (a) Modern Stoicism focuses on commercial self-help, while ancient Stoicism had a broader philosophical context.
 (b) Both modern and ancient Stoicism are primarily concerned with individual well-being.
 (c) Ancient Stoicism was commercialized and focused on individual well-being, similar to modern Stoicism.
 (d) Modern Stoicism and ancient Stoicism share the same philosophical principles.
22. What is the central thesis of the author regarding modern Stoicism?
- (a) Modern Stoicism emphasizes on individual well-being and self-help.
 (b) Ancient Stoicism focused on our interconnectedness and contributing to the common good.
 (c) Stoicism has remained unchanged throughout history.
 (d) Both (a) and (b).
23. Which of the following statements is the author most likely to agree with?
- (a) Stoicism is primarily concerned with self-centered life hacks.
 (b) Stoicism emphasizes the interconnectedness of individuals and the importance of contributing to the common good.
 (c) The marketplace’s focus on self-help Stoicism aligns perfectly with the ancient Stoic teachings.
 (d) None of the above.
24. What is the antonym of “indifference” as implied in the passage?
- (a) Apathy (b) Empathy (c) Nonchalance (d) Stoicism

Section B-Current Affairs with GK

PASSAGE - VI

In a momentous legal development, the Supreme Court delivered a resounding verdict on Monday, rendering null and void the contentious decision of the Gujarat government to extend remission to 11 convicts implicated in the heinous gangrape of Bilkis Bano and the brutal murder of seven members of her family during the cataclysmic 2002 riots that engulfed the state. The case has been emblematic of the tragic repercussions stemming from the communal unrest triggered by the incendiary Godhra train-burning incident. Bilkis Bano, then a 21-year-old woman with the added vulnerability of being five months pregnant, found herself in the harrowing clutches of a reprehensible crime while attempting to escape the tumult of the communal riots that erupted in the aftermath of the aforementioned train-burning incident. The brutality of the assault meted out to her was compounded by the heart-wrenching loss of seven family members, including her three-year-old daughter, whose lives were tragically extinguished amid the rampant chaos of the riots. The crux of the legal imbroglio lay in the controversial decision by the Gujarat government to grant remission to the 11 convicted individuals, who had previously been held culpable for their involvement in the appalling crimes perpetrated against Bilkis Bano and her family. This gubernatorial act led to their release on the auspicious date of August 15, 2022, a move that drew substantial scrutiny and public consternation. The Supreme Court, in its unwavering commitment to justice, intervened decisively, deeming the governmental reprieve as antithetical to the principles of justice and societal norms. The annulment of the remission bestowed upon the convicts serves as a potent affirmation of the judiciary’s role as the guardian of the moral fabric of society, resolutely rejecting any dilution of accountability for those responsible for such grievous offenses. This landmark ruling not only reverberates through the corridors of legal precedent but also stands as a symbolic vindication for victims of heinous crimes, reinforcing the imperative for unwavering adherence to the tenets of justice and the preservation of the social compact.

25. Under which Constitutional Article can Governors exercise the power to pardon, suspend, remit, or commute a sentence?
- (a) Article 72 (b) Article 161
(c) Article 74 (d) Article 167
26. After exhausting all legal reliefs, who is eligible to submit a Mercy Petition on behalf of the convict?
- (a) Legal counsel (b) Any concerned citizen
(c) The convict in person or his relative (d) A government official
27. How does "remission" differ from "commutation"?
- (a) Remission involves total absolution, while commutation involves a reduction in punishment.
(b) Remission reduces the punishment without changing its nature, while commutation involves a less harsh punishment.
(c) Remission and commutation are synonymous terms.
(d) Remission involves a delay in the execution of a sentence, while commutation does not.
28. Under which section of the CrPC do state governments have the power to suspend or remit a sentence?
- (a) Section 432 (b) Section 400
(c) Section 420 (d) Section 211
29. How long must convicts serving life sentences generally serve before being entitled to seek remission?
- (a) 7 years (b) 10 years
(c) 14 years (d) 20 years

PASSAGE - VII

An Indian expedition vessel has successfully ventured into Antarctic waters as part of its Indian Southern Ocean Expedition (ISEA) voyage. This significant milestone marks the vessel's entry into the frigid expanses of the Antarctic region, symbolizing a noteworthy achievement in its scientific and exploratory journey across the Southern Ocean. The ISEA expedition's penetration into Antarctic waters not only demonstrates India's dedication to marine research but also contributes substantially to the global comprehension of the distinctive ecosystems and environmental dynamics present in the Southern Ocean. To support the mission, two helicopters are providing crucial air support. The vessel underwent loading operations in Goa, where it was equipped with containerized cargo, living modules, heavy machinery, breakbulk spares, and vessel fuel. Subsequently, in Cape Town, additional items such as station fuel tank containers, specialized reefers containers, fresh supplies, Combined Heat and Power (CHP) equipment, vehicle spares, and additional fuel for both the vessel and helicopters were loaded onto the vessel. This comprehensive approach ensures the expedition is well-equipped for the challenges and research objectives it aims to address in the Southern Ocean.

30. What is the name of the expedition vessel chartered by India for the 43rd ISEA Voyage to Antarctica?
- (a) MV India Explorer (b) MV Vasiliy Golovnin
(c) Snow Angel (d) MV Ice Fairy
31. When was the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) established?
- (a) 1975 (b) 1981
(c) 1998 (d) 2000
32. Which of the following research base stations is not established under the Indian Antarctic Program?
- (a) Dakshin Gangotri (b) Maitri
(c) Bharati (d) Mitra
33. Maitri is India's second permanent research station in Antarctica. What is the name of the freshwater lake built around Maitri?
- (a) Lake Ganga (b) Lake Swarna
(c) Lake Priyadarshini (d) Lake Icicle
34. Which is India's first committed research facility in Antarctica?
- (a) Maitri (b) Bharati
(c) Dakshin Gangotri (d) Sagar Nidhi

PASSAGE - VIII

The Union Cabinet, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has granted approval for the comprehensive scheme named "PRITHvi Vgyan (PRITHVI)" within the Ministry of Earth Sciences, with an overarching financial outlay of Rs. 4,797 crores. This scheme encapsulates five ongoing sub-schemes, aligning with the Ministry's mandate to bridge the gap between scientific knowledge and societal services, particularly in the realms of weather, climate, oceanography, hydrology, seismology, and the study of natural hazards. Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)

assumes the crucial responsibility of converting scientific insights into practical services for the community. These services span a spectrum from weather forecasts, including those for marine areas, to warnings related to various natural calamities such as tropical cyclones, storm surges, floods, heatwaves, thunderstorms, lightning, tsunami alerts, and earthquake monitoring. The utilitarian nature of these services becomes evident as they are effectively employed by diverse agencies and state governments, contributing to the preservation of human lives and the mitigation of damages caused by natural disasters. MoES, in its holistic approach, not only provides essential services but also engages in sustainable exploration and management of marine resources, both living and non-living. The ministry extends its exploratory purview to the Earth's extremities, covering the Arctic, Antarctic, and Himalayan regions. This expansive framework underscores the multifaceted role of MoES in advancing our understanding of Earth System Sciences and furnishing dependable services for the nation's benefit. The PRITHVI scheme, as approved by the Cabinet, operates in an interconnected manner, with various components synergizing efforts across MoES-affiliated institutes. This integrated approach aims to comprehensively address all facets of Earth System Science, reinforcing our ability to comprehend and respond effectively to the complex dynamics of our planet.

35. Under the overarching scheme "PRITHvi Vigyan (PRITHVI)," approved by the Union Cabinet, what is the allocated period for implementation?

- (a) 2016-2021 (b) 2018-2023
 (c) 2021-2026 (d) 2024-2029

36. Which of the following is one of the five sub-schemes encompassed by the "PRITHvi Vigyan (PRITHVI)" scheme?

- (a) Atmospheric & Climate Research-Observing Systems & Services (ACROSS)
 (b) Mountain Science and Biodiversity Conservation (MSBC)
 (c) Coastal Surveillance and Security System (CSSS)
 (d) Space Exploration and Research Initiative (SERI)

37. Which of the following is not one of the components comprehensively addressed by the PRITHVI scheme?

- (a) Geosphere (b) Cryosphere
 (c) Anthroposphere (d) Hydrosphere

38. What is the full form of SAGE in the context of the Earth Sciences scheme?

- (a) Seismic Assessment and Geological Exploration
 (b) Solidification of Atmospheric and Geological Elements
 (c) Seismology and Geosciences
 (d) Sustainable Analysis of Geological Environments

39. What does BCWC stand for in the context of the sub-schemes under REACHOUT?

- (a) Biodiversity Conservation and Wildlife Center (b) BIMSTEC Centre for Weather and Climate
 (c) Building Construction and Waste Control (d) Bioinformatics and Climate Workshop Center

PASSAGE - IX

Poachers executed a nefarious act at the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, breaking nearly a year of respite, targeting and fatally injuring an adult female rhino. The heinous incident is believed to have occurred during the night of January 21. While awaiting the post-mortem report, both the Forest Department and the police have escalated their vigilant combing operations in response to this alarming breach. Preliminary investigations indicate that the poachers clandestinely infiltrated the park by navigating the Brahmaputra via boat, demonstrating a calculated and clandestine approach. Notably, this marks the third rhino fatality in the past 40 days within the precincts of the Kaziranga National Park in Assam. The discovered carcass, bereft of its horn and other vital body parts, lay abandoned within a concealed pit. The Forest Department's patrol teams swiftly responded to the telltale sound of gunshots, converging on the riverbank—the perceived point of entry for the audacious animal thieves—specifically within the Bagori range. As efforts intensify to unravel the circumstances surrounding this reprehensible act, the ongoing spate of rhino killings underscores the pressing need for fortified conservation measures and stringent action against those perpetrating these crimes against wildlife.

40. Which organization recently published the report "State of the Rhino, 2023" documenting population estimates and trends for rhino species?

- (a) World Wildlife Fund (WWF) (b) International Rhino Foundation (IRF)
 (c) African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) (d) Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

41. Where was the 3rd Asian Rhino Range Countries Meeting held, which concluded with the adoption of the Chitwan Declaration for Asian Rhino Conservation, 2023?

- (a) India (b) Nepal
 (c) Indonesia (d) Malaysia

42. Which of the following countries signed the Chitwan Declaration for Asian Rhinos Conservation (2023)?
 (a) India, Bhutan, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Nepal (b) India, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Myanmar
 (c) India, Thailand, Malaysia, Nepal, and Bhutan (d) India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Nepal
43. When was the Indian rhinoceros down-listed from endangered to vulnerable in the IUCN Red List?
 (a) 2005 (b) 2008
 (c) 2010 (d) 2015
44. Which tiger reserve has been selected as a potential site under the National Rhino Conservation Scheme for the reintroduction of rhinos?
 (a) Sundarbans Tiger Reserve (b) Periyar Tiger Reserve
 (c) Valmiki Tiger Reserve (d) Bandipur Tiger Reserve

PASSAGE - X

The consecration, or 'pran pratishtha,' of the idol of Lord Ram at the auspicious Ram Temple in Ayodhya transpired on Monday, enveloped by the resonant chants of hymns and the meticulous execution of rituals, with the distinguished presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other eminent dignitaries. Mr. Modi, an active participant in this profound ceremony, characterized the occasion as a pivotal juncture in history, drawing parallels to a nation emancipating itself from the shackles of a submissive mindset, forging resilience from the tribulations of yore, and thereby etching a novel narrative. Functioning as one of the yajmans—endowed with the authority to officiate the ritual—Mr. Modi undertook the 'sankalp' for the pran pratishtha, subsequently traversing the hallowed precincts of the temple adorned with a silver 'chattar' placed atop a crimson folded sheet, a tableau emblematic of the ongoing rites. In addressing a congregated assembly of approximately 8,000 dignitaries and esteemed guests, the Prime Minister articulated that Ram Lalla, the divine entity, would no longer inhabit a provisional 'tent.' This allusion harks back to the makeshift arrangement necessitated after the unfortunate demise of the Babri Masjid. The significance of the moment, Mr. Modi expounded, transcended mere triumph; it was equally a manifestation of humility, encapsulated by the term "vinay." In a gesture of inclusivity, he extended an invitation to those who had previously contested the construction of the Ram Temple, urging them to partake in and embrace the profound sentiment that pervaded the occasion.

45. Who is the chairperson of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust overseeing the construction of the Ram Mandir?
 (a) Mahant Nrityagopal Das (b) Mahant Durga Das
 (c) Mahant Devyagiri (d) Mahant Maheshwar Das
46. Which deities will have dedicated structures at each corner of the temple compound?
 (a) Lakshmi, Saraswati, Parvati, Durga (b) Surya, Bhagwati, Ganesh, Shiv
 (c) Vishnu, Brahma, Shiva, Indra (d) Hanuman, Radha, Krishna, Yamuna
47. Which institution has been advising on the construction of the temple, providing a fusion of modern and traditional techniques?
 (a) IIT Mumbai (b) IIT Delhi
 (c) IIT Chennai (d) IIT Kanpur
48. How many mandaps (halls) are there in the Ayodhya temple?
 (a) Three (b) Four
 (c) Five (d) Six

PASSAGE - XI

The commemoration of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) Raising Day serves as an invaluable occasion to extend profound gratitude and admiration to the dedicated men and women comprising the NDRF, whose unwavering commitment places them on the front lines in the pursuit of safeguarding and serving our nation. Moreover, it stands as a pivotal moment to advocate for heightened awareness regarding the imperative facets of disaster planning and response, concurrently fostering a collective consciousness that underscores the necessity of pre-emptive measures to shield both individuals and communities in the event of a catastrophe. Addressing the 19th Raising Day celebration in New Delhi, the Minister of State for Home Affairs, Nityanand Rai, articulated a strategic vision for the NDRF. He underscored the ambitious goal of training over 70 thousand individuals in disaster management by the culmination of the year. Notably, Mr. Rai elucidated that the NDRF has already imparted training to over 13 thousand volunteers, accentuating the organization's proactive efforts in enhancing the nation's resilience and preparedness. The Minister eloquently highlighted the remarkable achievements of the NDRF, particularly citing instances of exemplary rescue operations during the cyclone Biparjoy in Gujarat and the Silkyara Tunnel collapse in Uttarakhand. Significantly, these endeavors stood out as major triumphs, as they were executed with utmost precision, ensuring the preservation of lives even in the face of adversities. Functioning as the primary agency entrusted with the mandate of disaster rescue operations, the NDRF plays a pivotal role in responding to an array of crises, encompassing drowning incidents, building

collapses, landslides, severe floods, earthquakes, and cyclones. Through its tireless efforts, the NDRF epitomizes the nation's resilience and fortitude in confronting multifaceted challenges, thereby solidifying its indispensable role in the realm of disaster management and humanitarian response.

49. On which date is the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) Raising Day observed annually?
- (a) December 15 (b) January 19
(c) February 19 (d) March 15
50. Who is current director general of NDRF?
- (a) Shri R.K. Jain (b) Shri Atul Karwal
(c) Shri Nityanand Rai (d) Shri Rajiv Gauba
51. Which year has the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) decided to observe as the year of chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) preparedness and response?
- (a) 2022 (b) 2023
(c) 2024 (d) 2025
52. Who manages the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)?
- (a) State Governments (b) Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)
(c) Central Government (d) None of the Above

Section C-Legal Reasoning

PASSAGE - XII

Section 34(2)(b)(i) of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 states that an arbitral award may be set aside by the Court only if the Court finds that that the subject-matter of the dispute is not capable of settlement by arbitration under the law for the time being in force. This provisions deals with doctrine of arbitrability. As per this doctrine, an arbitral award dealing with a subject matter can be set aside if the Law in India does not allow for such subject matter to be decided by arbitration.

It is true that in *Booz Allen and Hamilton Inc. v. SBI Home Finance Limited and Others*, this Court had set apart cases where the dispute was totally non-arbitrable, such as matrimonial disputes, guardianship dispute, or even we may add disputes relating to consumers, which are governed by an entirely different Parliamentary legislation known as Consumer Protection Act, 2019.

The Supreme Court in *Vidya Drolia v. Durga Trading Corpn.*, laid down a certain test for determining when the subject-matter of a dispute in an arbitration agreement is not arbitrable. There are:

(1) When cause of action and subject matter of the dispute relates to actions in rem, that do not pertain to subordinate rights in personam that arise from rights in rem. Rights in rem are rights that relate to a specific property and can be enforced against anyone who interferes with that property. On the other hand, rights in personam are rights that relate to a specific person and can only be enforced against that person. (2) When cause of action and subject matter of the dispute affects third-party rights. (3) When cause of action and subject matter of the dispute relates to inalienable sovereign and public interest functions of the State and hence mutual adjudication would be unenforceable. (4) When the subject-matter of the dispute is expressly or by necessary implication non-arbitrable as per mandatory statute(s).

In the case of *Deccan Paper Mills v. Regency Mahavir Properties*, therein this court after referring to all the relevant precedents and the case laws has held that whether it is a suit for cancellation of a deed or a declaration of rights rising from the deed, it would only be an action in personam and not in rem and hence it is arbitrable.

In *Rashid Raza v. Sadaf Akhtar*, the Supreme Court laid down a condition which must be satisfied before the Court can refuse to refer the matter to the Arbitrator, a forum consciously decided by parties in an agreement. The condition is that the allegation of fraud does not touch upon the internal affairs of the parties inter se and thus having an implication in the public domain. The allegations must have some implication in public domain to oust the jurisdiction of an Arbitrator, if an allegation of fraud exists strictly between the parties concerned, the same will not be termed to be as a serious nature of fraud and hence would not be barred for arbitration.

Source: Extracted (with edits and revisions) from the Supreme Court's judgement in the case of *Sushma Shivkumar Daga & Anr v. Madhurkumar Ramkrishnaji Bajaj & Ors.*

53. Vidhan and Vidhi have been happily married to each other. After their marriage they had jointly purchased a house by signing a property deed. The deed provided for joint ownership of both the parties. After a decade of being married together, Vidhan and Vidhi have decided to end their marriage. Accordingly, they have filed a joint petition for divorce. During the continuation of such petition, they have an argument over the ownership of the house after divorce. Now, Vidhan in order to secure his rights under the deed has initiated arbitration proceedings. Vidhi has challenged this on the ground that property dispute is not arbitrable. In light of facts mentioned, choose the correct statement.
- (a) Vidhi is correct as the dispute over ownership of the house is not arbitrable.

(b) Vidhi is correct as according to Booz Allen and Hamilton Inc. v. SBI Home Finance Limited case, matrimonial disputes are not arbitrable.

(c) Vidhan is correct only if the divorce petition is granted in his favour.

(d) Vidhan is correct as arbitration is for declaration of rights under deed and hence it is arbitrable.

54. Assume in the previous question certain additional facts are introduced. Vidhi reached out to Vidhan once she came to know about the arbitration proceedings initiated by Vidhan for securing his rights under the deed. She said that there is no need for such proceedings as she is willing to transfer the house to Vidhan entirely by signing a new property deed. Accordingly, Vidhan withdrew the arbitration and initiated fresh arbitration for cancellation of previous deed signed between them. Decide whether such fresh arbitration for property deed can be initiated?

(a) No, as the dispute over ownership of the house is not arbitrable.

(b) No, as the arbitration deals with matrimonial disputes and hence not arbitrable.

(c) Yes, as the proceedings are for cancellation of deed and hence it is arbitrable.

(d) Yes, as the proceedings are for declaration of rights under deed and hence it is arbitrable.

55. Vidur ordered a laptop from Big Million Sale on Dipkart. He receives a faulty laptop. He has decided to file an action against Dipkart. He approached the local lawyer for advice in this regard. The lawyer advised him to approach the Consumer forums as he falls within the definition of a consumer. Accordingly, he has filed a case against Dipkart in the local consumer forum. However, Dipkart has challenged this on the ground that their dispute is governed by Arbitration clause, which was signed by Vidur when he acknowledged the terms and conditions of their platform. Based on legal principles in the passage, decide.

(a) The challenge by Dipkart is valid as arbitral clause once signed is valid and therefore Vidur cannot approach consumer forums.

(b) The challenge by Dipkart is invalid as the present dispute cannot be settled through arbitration.

(c) The challenge by Dipkart is valid only if they can prove that Vidur was aware of the clause when he acknowledged the terms and conditions.

(d) The challenge by Dipkart is invalid as they have delivered a faulty laptop.

56. Vidhit and Vidushi are close friends since college. In law college they made a pact to run a startup together. Accordingly, after graduation they found a legal service company to protect intellectual property rights of the independent music artists. As part of their founders' agreement, they declared that they are equal shareholders of the company. The agreement also provided that in case of any dispute between them pertaining to ownership of the company, the same will be settled through arbitration. In light of the facts mentioned, decide whether these disputes can be settled through arbitration?

Note: Intellectual property rights (IPR) grant the holders of IP a temporary right to exclude others from using that IPR. These rights relate to a specific property and can be enforced against anyone who interferes with that property.

(a) No, as such wide arbitration clauses are not allowed in light of Section 34(2)(b)(i).

(b) Yes, as intellectual property rights deals with right in personam and hence can be decided through arbitration.

(c) No, as intellectual property rights deals with right in rem and hence cannot be decided through arbitration.

(d) Yes, since the nature of the disputes as mentioned in their agreement deals with right in personam.

57. Vidhata runs an employment consultancy firm. He helps fresh graduates in securing their dream jobs. As per his internal company policy, he lays down terms of engagement with the graduates. The terms also contain an arbitration clause providing for arbitration in case of any disputes. Vidhi had reached out to Vidhata in order to obtain a job. She purchased a premium plan so that she gets the job earliest. However, despite this she could not find any job. After months of not being able to secure employment, she decides to confront Vidhata. She found out that Vidhata has closed the firm last month and ran away. She initiates arbitration against him on ground of fraud. Based on principles in the passage, decide if such dispute can be settled through arbitration?

(a) No, since the subject matter involves fraud.

(b) Yes, as Vidhi could not secure a job even after premium subscription.

(c) Yes, as allegation of fraud exists strictly between the parties.

(d) No, since the reasons for which Vidhata closed the firm are not clear.

58. Assume in the previous case, an additional fact is introduced. Vidhata had misled a lot of fresh graduates into purchasing the premium plan. After generating enough money from such sale, he ran away without providing any job to these people. What effect would this additional fact have on the maintenance of the arbitration initiated by Vidhi?

(a) The introduction of the additional fact would weaken the maintenance of the arbitration.

(b) The introduction of the additional fact would strengthen the maintenance of the arbitration.

(c) The introduction of the additional fact would strengthen the maintenance of the arbitration as the allegations of fraud are strengthened.

(d) The introduction of the additional fact would have no effect on the maintenance of the arbitration.

PASSAGE - XIII

Consistent interpretation is given by courts on the question of nomination, i.e., upon the holder's death, the nominee would not get an absolute title to the subject matter of nomination, and those would apply to the Companies Act, 1956 (pari materia provisions in Companies Act, 2013-Pari materia means when two provisions of two different statutes deal with the same subject matter and form part of the same subject matter.) and the Depositories Act, 1996 as well. An individual dealing with estate planning or succession laws understands nomination to take effect in a particular manner and expects the implication to be no different for devolution of securities per se. Therefore, an interpretation otherwise would inevitably lead to confusion and possibly complexities, in the succession process, something that ought to be eschewed.

Section 72 of the Companies Act states that every holder of securities of a company may, at any time, nominate, any person to whom his securities shall vest in the event of his death. In case the securities are held by more than one person jointly, the joint holders may together nominate, any person to whom all the rights in the securities shall vest in the event of death of all the joint holders. In case a nominee is a minor it shall be lawful for the holder of the securities, making the nomination to appoint, any person to become entitled to the securities of the company, in the event of the death of the nominee during his minority. Section 72(3) states that notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force or in any disposition, whether testamentary or otherwise, in respect of the securities of a company, where a nomination purports to confer on any person the right to vest the securities of the company, the nominee shall, on the death of the holder of securities or, as the case may be, on the death of the joint holders, become entitled to all the rights in the securities to the exclusion of all other persons, unless the nomination is varied or cancelled in the prescribed manner.

The vesting of securities in favour of the nominee contemplated under S. 109A(3) of the Companies Act 1956 (pari materia S. 72(3) of Companies Act, 2013) & Bye-Law 9.11.1 of Depositories Act, 1996 is for a limited purpose i.e., to ensure that there exists no confusion pertaining to legal formalities that are to be undertaken upon the death of the holder and by extension, to protect the subject matter of nomination from any protracted litigation until the legal heirs of the deceased holders have settled the affairs of the testator and are ready to register the transmission of shares, by due process of succession law. The Companies Act, 1956 does not contemplate a 'statutory testament' that stands over and above the laws of succession. The Companies Act, 1956 as iterated above is concerned with regulating the affairs of corporates and is not concerned with laws of succession. Nomination process therefore does not override the succession laws.

Source: Extracted (with edits and revisions) from the Supreme Court's judgement in the case of Shakti Yezdani & Anr v. Jayanand Jayant Salgaonkar & Ors.

59. Vidhan is suffering from a terminal illness. Accordingly, he has decided to put his affairs into order through will. He has hired Vidur to prepare a record of all the properties owned by him. Accordingly, Vidur has prepared a record of properties, shares, mutual funds etc. Under his will, Vidhan has given equal ownership to his wife and two sons. To ensure that that the family does not face any trouble, Vidhan has appointed Vidur as nominee for the securities under Section 72. After Vidhan's death, Vidur has refused to transfer the shares to Vidhan's family on the ground that as a nominee he is the exclusive owner of the shares. Based on principles laid down in the passage, decide whether Vidur's argument is correct?

- (a) Yes, as according to Section 72(3), a nominee holds securities to the exclusion of all others.
- (b) No, he is not the exclusive owner. Vidhan's wife and his sons are also on an equal footing with Vidur.
- (c) Yes, nomination under Companies Law prevail over documents under succession laws.
- (d) No, Vidur would not get an absolute title as nomination under Companies law is only for the limited purpose.

60. Assume in the previous question, a fact is substituted. Vidhan appointed Vidur as a nominee for shares under Section 109A(3) instead of Section 72(3) of the Companies Act, 2013. What effect would this substituted fact have on the validity of argument raised by Vidur in the previous case?

- (a) The substituted fact would have no effect on the validity of the argument raised by Vidur in the previous case.
- (b) The substituted fact would have strengthen the validity of the argument raised by Vidur in the previous case.
- (c) The substituted fact would have weaken the validity of the argument raised by Vidur in the previous case.
- (d) The substituted fact would have weaken the validity of the argument raised by Vidur in the previous case as provisions of Companies Act, 1956 do not stand over and above succession laws.

61. Vidhit and Vidushi are close friends since college. They studied in London School of Economics. During college they made a pact that after graduation, they will open an investment firm. Accordingly, they decided to do their first investment together. They both saved money and decided to make their first investment in the securities market. However, Vidushi did not had a demat account at the time of their first investment and due to this Vidhit holds the entire securities in his demat account only. After some time, Vidhit without consulting Vidushi, appoints Vidya as nominee to the securities under Section 72. In light of the facts mentioned, decide whether the nomination is compliance with Section 72?

- (a) No, as the securities were jointly held by Vidhit and Vidushi and therefore he on his own cannot appoint Vidya.
 (b) Yes, Vidhit as holder of the securities is allowed to nominate any person under Section 72.
 (c) No, since Vidhit and Vidushi made the investment together, the nominee should also be decided by both of them.
 (d) Yes, since Section 72 does not require approval with other joint holders of the security.

62. Vidhata is a famous investor in the Indian Stock Market. He is known for his highly profitable portfolio in the securities market. He also has a 17 year old daughter, Vidhi. Vidhata wanted to ensure that all his security holdings are allotted to Vidhi after his death and therefore he has made her the sole owner as per his will. He has also made her a nominee under Section 72. Based on the legal principles laid down in the passage, what would happen to Vidhi's rights over the securities, if Vidhata dies while she is a minor?

- (a) Vidhi would not get anything because Section 72 prohibits transfer of share to a minor.
 (b) Vidhi's nomination will be suspended for the duration of her minority.
 (c) Vidhi would continue to be a nominee and her rights would be governed by applicable succession laws.
 (d) Vidhi's nomination under Section 72 will prevail over the will and she will be entitled to secure her rights.

63. Vidyut is an owner of a small investing firm. He hold various securities in his demat account. Since he holds securities in a number of companies, he has appointed Vidya as his nominee to ensure that no confusion arises over transfer of securities after his death. He passed away recently. The children are having difficulties ascertaining their share over the securities as Vidyut had not made any will. They have applied to courts for determination of their shares as per succession laws. In light of the facts mentioned, which of the following statement is most appropriate?

- (a) Vidya will continue to be the exclusive owner of the securities even after children have ascertained their shares.
 (b) Vidya shall take initiative in determining the succession of the securities as no will has been made in this regard.
 (c) Vidyut's securities will continue to vest in Vidya till the time Vidyut's children have settled his affairs.
 (d) Vidyut's securities will be forfeited as no one is the rightful owner in the instant case.

64. Based on the passage, decide:

Assertion (A): In absence of any intention to the contrary, the nominee appointed by the holder of the securities, becomes entitled to all the rights in the securities to the exclusion of all other persons.

Reason (R): As per Section 72(3), nominees are entitled to all the rights in the securities to the exclusion of all other persons, unless the nomination is varied or cancelled in the prescribed manner.

- (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 - XIV

The Karnataka High Court recently quashed a case alleging house trespass and criminal intimidation initiated by a woman against her ex-husband for attempting to visit their eight-year-old daughter by posing as a guard of a garbage van. The Court was hearing a plea by the father to quash proceedings initiated against him by his ex-wife under Sections 448 (criminal trespass), 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). The Court held that the husband had valid visitation rights on the day that he wanted to visit the daughter. Therefore, he had a right in law by an order of the competent Court, to visit the daughter.

As per Section 441 of IPC, Whoever enters into or upon property in the possession of another with intent to commit an offence or to intimidate, insult or annoy any person in possession of such property, is said to commit "criminal trespass". The Hon'ble Supreme Court and other courts in India have repeatedly mentioned that for the custody of a minor, the only consideration is the welfare of the minor, irrespective of the claims of the parties to the custody of children. Under Hindu law and as well as Secular law, the custody of the child under the age of five is usually awarded to the mother. In most of the cases fathers get the custody of the older boys and mother **get custody** of the older girls. Moreover, child's interest is the main criteria and the choice of the child above the age of nine is paramount factor to be considered by the court. Wherein a mother if found to ill-treat and neglect the child, she is not given custody.

If mother has a weaker financial condition as compared to the father, the mother cannot be discarded as the guardian only because she earns less than the father. In such case the father of the child has to provide for the child's maintenance. If any condition emerges which suggests that the well-being of the child could be affected, that factor becomes crucial in determining the custody of the child.

Section 26 of Hindu Marriage Act 1955, deals with the maintenance, caring and education of child and only when both the parents follow Hindu religion, the custody of child gets validated. Section 38 of Special Marriage Act 1954 regulates the custody of the child in case both the parents belong to different religions or have undertaken a court marriage.

Under Muslim law, only the mother has the right to seek his/her child custody until she is not found guilty of any misconduct. The custody of a child under Muslim law is with the mother until the child has attained the age of 7 years for a boy and until she has attained the age of puberty or majority for a girl.

Source: Extracted (with edits and revisions) from an article title “Karnataka High Court quashes trespass case against father who posed as garbage van guard to visit child” publishes in Bar and Bench.

65. Vidhan and Vidhi split after a divorce by mutual consent, following which Vidhi was given custody of their daughter and Vidhan was given a right to visit the child every Saturday. However, on last Saturday, Vidhi rescheduled Vidhan's visit at the last moment through email without providing any valid reason. Vidhan tried to meet the daughter nevertheless on the said day, entering Vidhi's home without permission. Vidhi files a suit for house trespass against Vidhan. He claimed that he had valid visitation right on the day ordered by competent court. In the light of the passage, decide whether Vidhan can be held guilty for criminal trespass or not?

- (a) Vidhan can be held guilty for criminal trespass as he did not had valid visitation right for that day.
- (b) Vidhan can be held guilty for criminal trespass as he tried to enter into Vidhi's with an intention to annoy her.
- (c) Vidhan cannot be held guilty for criminal trespass as he had no intent to commit an offence or to intimidate, insult or annoy Vidhi.
- (d) Vidhan cannot be held guilty for criminal trespass as Vidhi should not restrict a father from meeting her daughter.

66. In the previous question, assume that an additional fact is added. Suppose after receiving the mail of rescheduling the meet, Vidhan got frustrated and vowed to teach Vidhi a lesson. He kept his gun with him and decided to barge into Vidhi's house to threaten her to not to repeat this. Fortunately, Vidhi was not present at the time when he entered the house. He met his daughter and left. In the light of the new fact, decide whether Vidhan can be held guilty for committing an offense of criminal trespass?

- (a) Vidhan can be held guilty for criminal trespass as he tried to enter into Vidhi's house illegally.
- (b) Vidhan can be held guilty for criminal trespass as he tried to enter into Vidhi's house with an intention to intimidate her.
- (c) Vidhan cannot be held guilty for criminal trespass as he had no intent to commit an offence or to intimidate, insult or annoy Vidhi, he just wanted to teach her a lesson.
- (d) Vidhan cannot be held guilty for criminal trespass as Vidhi was not available at the time he visited the house.

67. Vishal and Vishika, a Hindu married couple, decided to split after 12 years of marriage. They also had a child, whose custody was contested by both the parents. Which of the following factors will be relevant for the court while determining the custody of the child.

- (i) The age of the child.
 - (ii) The gender of the child.
 - (iii) That the father has a severe addiction to drinking.
 - (iv) The financial condition of both the parents.
- (a) (i) and (ii) only
 - (b) (ii), (iii) and (iv) only
 - (c) (i), (ii) and (iii) only
 - (d) (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv)

68. Virar and Vartika, a Muslim couple, married in 2010 via court marriage. Virar was a businessman and owned a chain of food joints in multiple cities of India. Vartika was a housewife and dedicated all her time to the family. Therefore, she does not have savings and income of her own. They also had a daughter from their marriage. After few years, differences grew between them and they decided to split. In a suit for custody, both of them claimed the custody of their daughter. On the basis of the passage, choose the best option?

- (a) The court will give the custody of the daughter to Vartika as under Muslim law, only the mother has the right to seek his/her child custody.
- (b) The court will determine the custody of the child as per Section 38 of Special Marriage Act 1954.
- (c) The court will give the custody of the daughter to Virar solely due to the poor financial condition of Vartika.
- (d) The court will give the custody of the daughter to a third party keeping in mind the welfare of the child.

69. Based on the passage, decide:

Assertion (A): If mother has a weaker financial condition as compared to the father, the mother cannot be discarded as the guardian only because she earns less than the father.

Reason (R): Child's interest is the main criteria while determining the custody of a child.

- (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.

70. Based on the passage, in which of the following situations, the custody of the child will be given to the father?

- (a) That both parents are Muslim, and mother of the child is not guilty of misconduct.
- (b) That both parents are Hindu, and the income of the father is more than the mother.
- (c) That both parents are Hindu, and the child is 15 year old and chooses to stay with father as mother is a drug addict.
- (d) That the father is a Hindu and Mother is a Muslim, and father is of unsound mind.

71. Which of the following statement(s) can be concluded from the passage?

- (i) Welfare of the child is the most important factor while determining the custody of minor child.
 (ii) Financial condition of mother is not at all relevant while determining the custody of the child.
 (iii) The choice of a child above a certain age is also considered while determining the custody of the child.
- (a) (i) only
 (b) (ii) and (iii) only
 (c) (i) and (iii) only
 (d) (iii) only

PASSAGE - XV

The Bombay High Court recently held that once a charge-sheet is filed within the time period prescribed under Section 167(2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (ninety days, where the investigation relates to an offence punishable with death, imprisonment for life or imprisonment for a term of not less than ten years; sixty days, where the investigation relates to any other offence), the right to claim default bail would not survive merely because additional offences under special acts are invoked after the filing of the charge-sheet. Section 167(2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) provides that when an accused is arrested and detained in custody, the investigation must be completed within a specified time frame, failing which the accused shall be released on bail.

MCOCA that is Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act, 1999 is an Act introduced to tackle organised crime activities in Maharashtra. Every offence under the Act is a cognizable offense and no anticipatory bail is allowed, for a person accused of an offence punishable under the Act. Also no bail is allowed if noticed by the court that on the date of arrest under this Act, accused was on bail for an offence punishable under this Act, or under any other law. Section 21 of MCOCA has seriously prejudiced accused under the Act by extending period of filing charge sheet from 90 to 180 days.

As per Section 2(d) of the MCOCA, continuing unlawful activity means an activity prohibited by law for the time being in force, which is a cognizable offence punishable with imprisonment of three years or more, undertaken either singly or jointly, as a member of an organised crime syndicate or on behalf of such syndicate in respect of which more than one charge-sheets have been filed before a competent Court within the preceding period of ten years and that Court has taken cognizance of such offence.

According to Section 2(e) of the MCOCA, an organised crime means any continuing unlawful activity by an individual, singly or jointly, either as a member of an organised crime syndicate or on behalf of such syndicate, by use of violence or threat of violence or intimidation or coercion, or other unlawful means, with the objective of gaining pecuniary benefits, or gaining undue economic or other advantage for himself or any other person or promoting insurgency;

Section 2(f) of the MCOCA provides that organized crime syndicate means a group of two or more persons who, acting either singly or collectively, as a syndicate or gang indulge in activities of organised crime;

Section 14 of the MCOCA, empowers a police officer not below the rank of the Superintendent of Police, supervising the investigation of an organised crime under the aforesaid Act, to submit an application in writing to the competent authority for an order authorizing or approving the interception of wire, electronic or oral communication by the investigating officer, when such interception may provide or has provided evidence of any offence involving an organised crime.

Source: Extracted (with edits and revisions) from an article titled “No default bail to accused merely because MCOCA invoked after filing of chargesheet: Bombay High Court” published in Bar and bench.

72. Vidhan was arrested for committing an offense of theft punishable with up to 3 years of imprisonment under Indian Penal Code. He was later released on bail. While he was out on bail, Maharashtra Police falsely accused him in another case related to money laundering and charged him under the provisions of MCOCA, and he was subsequently arrested. He filed for a petition for bail in the court. In the light of the passage, decide whether Vidhan can be granted bail under MCOCA?

- (a) Vidhan cannot be granted bail as he has been found guilty of committing an offense punishable under MCOCA.
 (b) Vidhan cannot be granted bail as he is arrested for an offence under MCOCA when he was out on bail.
 (c) Vidhan can be granted bail as Maharashtra police has falsely accused him under MCOCA.
 (d) Vidhan can be granted bail as he is already out on bail for theft.

73. Assume that in the previous question, an additional fact is substituted. Instead of theft, Vidhan was convicted for committing the offense of Murder, punishable with death penalty or life imprisonment with a fine. In the light of the passage, determine the impact of the substituted fact on Vidhan’s bail application.

- (a) The substituted fact would make Vidhan eligible for bail.
 (b) The substituted fact would have no impact on Vidhan’s bail application.
 (c) The substituted fact would make Vidhan ineligible for bail.
 (d) The substituted fact would make Vidhan eligible for bail as he was already out on bail for murder which is a more serious crime.

74. Vishal runs a crime cartel “Lethal Enigma” involved in crimes like contract killings, extortion, smuggling in contrabands, illegal trade in narcotics, kidnappings for ransom, etc., all over Mumbai. During investigation in one of the cases related to extortion related death of a lady, the Maharashtra police found links connecting the crime to Lethal Enigma. Maharashtra police charged Vishal under MCOCA. Faced with impending charges and anticipating his arrest under MCOCA, he applied for an anticipatory bail. Based on the information mentioned in the passage, decide whether Vishal can be granted anticipatory bail?

- (a) Vishal can be granted anticipatory bail as the charges have not been proved yet.
- (b) Vishal cannot be granted anticipatory bail because he runs a deadly crime cartel.
- (c) Vishal can be granted anticipatory bail as charge sheet has not been filed against him.
- (d) Vishal cannot be granted anticipatory bail because he has been charged under MCOCA.

75. In the previous question, assume that an additional fact is added. Vishal was arrested under MCOCA for offense of extortion and murder of a lady, punishable with death penalty or imprisonment for life. But even after 100 days, charge-sheet has not been filed against him. He applies for a bail under section 167(2) of CrPC. In the light of the passage, decide whether Vishal can be granted default bail or not?

- (a) Vishal can be released on bail as 90 days investigation period is over.
- (b) Vishal can be released on bail as it is unnecessary to keep the accused on bail if the investigation is not completed within time.
- (c) Vishal cannot be released on bail as period of filing charge sheet is not over yet.
- (d) Vishal cannot be released on bail as he is accused of committing a heinous crime.

76. Vidhyut, a Superintendent of Maharashtra police, was investigating a case related to a money laundering, which is a crime under MCOCA. During investigation, he discovered that Vidhi, runs a money laundering cartel. He found many irregularities in transactions from Vidhi’s bank account. For further investigation, he wanted to intercept the transactions in bank account of Vidhi’s associates. He files an application under Section 14, complying with all requirements, to the competent authority. In the light of the passage, decide whether Vidhyut can be granted such permission?

- (a) Vidhyut can be granted such permission as he is a Superintendent of Maharashtra police.
- (b) Vidhyut can be granted such permission as he has duly filed the application complying with all requirements of the section.
- (c) Vidhyut cannot be granted such permission as it is beyond the scope of Section 14.
- (d) Vidhyut cannot be granted such permission as it leads to violation of privacy.

77. Based on the passage, decide:

Assertion (A): All offenses under MCOCA are non-bailable.

Reason (R): No bail is allowed in cases of MCOCA, if the court notices that on the Date of offence under MCOCA, accused was on bail for an offence punishable under this Act, or under any other law

- (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.

78. With regards to Section 167 of CrPC, which of the following statements can be concluded from the passage?

- i. Investigation of an offence must be completed within 90 days, where the investigation relates to an offence punishable with death, imprisonment for life or imprisonment for a term of not less than ten years.
- ii. Investigation of an offence must be completed within 60 days if investigation relates to any other offence.
- iii. Investigation period cannot be extended under any circumstances.

- (a) (i), (ii) and (iii) only
- (b) (ii) and (iii) only
- (c) (i) only
- (d) (i) and (ii), only

PASSAGE - XVI

The framers of the Constitution envisioned differences between the Centre and States owing to the quasi-federal structure and dual polity. And so they added the original and exclusive jurisdiction of the Supreme Court for the resolution of such issues, which would lead India in direction of co-operative federalism. Article 131 entrusts exclusive jurisdiction to the SC to hear and determine a dispute originating between States, or between States and the Union. The final form of the provision was not subjected to extensive debate in the Constituent Assembly. The majority of members assented to the original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court in settling Centre-State disputes— with the sole exception of Brajeshwar Prasad, who favored the unitary system of government. He argued that “provincial governments are subordinate governments”, and that the decision of the Government of India should be final in case of a conflict between two States, or the Government of India and a State. The Constituent Assembly, however, did not accept his contention, and the draft was adopted in its final form. The Indian Supreme Court is regarded as powerful due to its wide powers of judicial review. It has three kinds of jurisdictions — original, appellate and advisory. While the President has the power

to seek an opinion from the top court under advisory jurisdiction, the court can hear appeals from lower courts under appellate jurisdiction. Original jurisdiction, meanwhile, is the power of a court to hear and adjudicate disputes from the beginning. Article 131 deals with the 'original jurisdiction' of the Supreme Court of India in any dispute that involves a 'question of law or fact on which the existence of legal right depends'. A citizen can approach the High Court or the Supreme Court under Article 226 and Article 32, respectively, in case there is a violation of fundamental rights. A State can, meanwhile, invoke Article 131 to approach the Supreme Court in case it feels that its legal rights are under threat or have been violated by another State or the Central government. Under Article 131, the dispute may be: between the Government of India and one or more States, or between the Government of India and any State or States on one side and one or more other States on the other, or between two or more States. Under Article 131, original jurisdiction doesn't extend to a dispute arising out of a treaty, agreement, covenant, or engagement which continues to be in operation and excludes such jurisdiction. Also, the inclusion of the phrase "subject to the provisions of this Constitution" implies that the exclusive original jurisdiction of the SC is not applicable to cases where another body has jurisdiction under other provisions. Article 262 of India's Constitution provides for barring the Supreme Court's jurisdiction over interstate river water disputes.

The discretionary apportionment of funds to constituent states by the central authority underscores the absence of an inherent entitlement for states to assert rights over specific financial allocations, with such distribution being contingent upon multifaceted factors.

Source: Extracted (with edits and revisions) from an article titled "Explained | State powers to challenge central laws" published in the Hindu.

79. Two Indian states, State A and State B, have been engaged in a prolonged dispute over the sharing of water of an interstate lake. State A believes that State B has been diverting an excessive amount of water, thereby violating State A's legal rights to utilize the natural resources existing in their territory. State A decides to take the matter to court to resolve the dispute. In the light of the passage, which of the following is correct?

- (a) State A can approach the High Court having jurisdiction over State A under Article 226 of the Constitution of India.
- (b) State A can approach the High Court having jurisdiction over State B under Article 226 of the Constitution of India.
- (c) State A can approach the Supreme Court of India under Article 32 for violation of fundamental rights of its residents.
- (d) State A can approach the Supreme Court of India under Article 131 for violation of its legal rights.

80. Two Indian states, State X and State Y, have entered into a treaty regarding the sharing of a particular area in the border region. The treaty was signed in 1970 and still continues to be in operation. The treaty contains a clause which states that in case of disputes, parties to the treaty can exercise remedies as available to them under the Constitution. State X believes that State Y has violated the terms of the treaty by encroaching on its territory. State X wants resolution of this dispute. In the light of the passage, which of the following forums can the state X approach for resolution of this dispute?

- (a) State X can approach the Supreme Court under Article 131 of the Constitution as there is violation of its legal right.
- (b) State X can approach the Supreme Court under Article 133 of the Constitution.
- (c) State X cannot approach the Supreme Court under Article 131 of the Constitution as the jurisdiction under Article 131 does not extend to dispute arising out of any treaty.
- (d) State X can approach the Supreme Court under Article 32 of the Constitution as there is a violation of fundamental right of its residence due to encroachment of territorial boundaries by State Y.

81. State R and State S are neighboring states in India. They have a long-standing dispute regarding the allocation of funds from the central government for infrastructure development in border areas. State R feels that State S has been receiving an unfair share of funds, which has negatively impacted the development of its regions. State R wants to resolve this dispute through a legal process. In the light of the passage, which of the following is the most suitable answer?

- (a) State R cannot take the matter before Supreme Court under Article 131 as there is no violation of any of its legal right by Centre or State S.
- (b) State R can take up the matter before its High Court and the High Court can adjudicate the issue of allocation of funds between the State and the Central Government.
- (c) State R can approach the Supreme Court to get the matter adjudicated under advisory jurisdiction.
- (d) State R can approach the Supreme Court under original jurisdiction for resolving the dispute between the States and central government under Article 131.

82. State P and State Q have a long standing dispute over sharing of water from river Kaveri. The dispute has led to multiple protests in both the states as the river is the primary source of water for both the States. Both states have accused each other for diverting excessive water from the river for their exclusive use, which has an impact over their legal rights. State P is exploring the possibility of resolving the dispute through a legal process, but it is confused about the correct forum for the adjudication of dispute. On the basis of passage, which of the following statements is correct.

- (a) State P can approach Supreme Court under Article 131 as its legal right to use water resources has been impacted
 (b) State P can request the Centre to appoint an Inter-state river water tribunal for resolving the dispute.
 (c) State P can approach Supreme Court under Article 32 as the dispute has caused violation of fundamental rights of residents of State P.
 (d) State P cannot approach Supreme Court under Article 131 as it does not have the jurisdiction of such disputes.

83. Based on the passage, decide:

Assertion (A): A citizen can approach the High Court under Article 226 for violation of fundamental rights.

Reason (R): A citizen can approach the Supreme Court under Article 32 for violation of fundamental rights.

- (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. According to the passage, what is the primary reason for entrusting exclusive jurisdiction to the Supreme Court of India in settling disputes between Indian states or between states and the Union?

- (a) To vest the Supreme Court with wide powers to avoid despotism in the government.
 (b) To maintain quasi-federal and co-operative federalism in India.
 (c) To ensure that disputes are resolved at the state level without federal intervention.
 (d) To establish a system of checks and balances to prevent any one entity from becoming too powerful.

Section D-Logical Reasoning

PASSAGE - XVII

The Supreme Court of India verdict quashing the orders releasing 11 men convicted for the heinous gang-rape and murder of several members of a family during the Gujarat pogrom in 2002 is an unequivocal indictment of the State government. The men had been sentenced to life by a Sessions Court in Mumbai after the investigation in the 'Bilkis Bano case' was shifted from the Gujarat police to the Central Bureau of Investigation and the trial transferred to Mumbai. A disgraceful story that began with the Bharatiya Janata Party government facilitating their premature release and the freed men being garlanded by their supporters has now ended with the Court directing them to return to prison within two weeks. The verdict is based on the ground that Gujarat did not have any jurisdiction to decide on granting remission to convicts sentenced in Maharashtra. In a telling observation, the Bench, comprising Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan, said, "the State of Gujarat has acted in tandem and was complicit" in one of the convicts' petition for a direction to the State government to grant remission of the remainder of his life term based on a defunct 1992 policy. It has noted that the Gujarat government - which took the correct stand during earlier proceedings that only the government of Maharashtra, where the trial and sentencing took place, was the appropriate government to consider remission - had failed to seek review of a two-Bench judgment's order in May 2022, even though it was wrongly decided based on suppression of material facts. In citing the Court direction as the reason for it to pass orders in favour of the convicts, the State government was guilty of usurpation of power, the Bench said.

The ruling represents a blow for the rule of law and the restoration of faith in the judiciary at a time when there are doubts about the institution's capacity to hold power to account. On merits, it is a timely reiteration of the core principles that animate exercise of the power to grant remission - that it should be fair and reasonable and based on a set of relevant parameters such as whether the crime involved affected society at large, whether the convict retained the potential for committing similar offences or is capable of reform. The release of life convicts, who are generally expected to spend the entirety of their lives in prison, unless remission is granted after a prison term that should not be less than 14 years, ought to be individually considered and not part of any omnibus gesture without regard to the impact of their freedom on the victims, survivors and society. Any rational remission policy should encompass humanitarian considerations and the convicts' scope for reform without violating the rule of law or societal interests. In this case, none of the conditions for remission was met.

(Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/>)

85. Which of the following additional information would most weaken the author's argument about the Gujarat case proceeding to CBI?

- (a) The case was shifted to the CBI because the Gujarat government was indirectly supporting the accused.
 (b) The Gujarat government had transgressed the ruling of the Sessions Court in Mumbai.
 (c) The case was being handled and the investigation was going on the right path in Gujarat.
 (d) The case was wrongly handled and the accused had been released from the jails.

- 86.** Which one of the following is a conclusion that can logically be drawn from the given passage?
- (a) Remission should be considered for the criminals who have not been involved in crimes which affected the society.
 (b) The decision of release of the convict should be based on his character, the crime that was committed and the societal interests.
 (c) The remission should be considered for the convicts who have spent a decent amount of time in prison and the existing scope of reform in their societal behaviour.
 (d) None of the above
- 87.** Which of the following most strongly aligns to the author's argument except?
- (a) The verdict given by the Supreme Court raised the public's faith in the judicial institution.
 (b) The Gujarat government had rightly decided on the premature release of the case convicts.
 (c) The release of the convicts can hurt or pose a threat to the victims and their families.
 (d) The remission of the life convicts should be approved on the basis of individual consideration of the various parameters applied in the case.
- 88.** Based on the passage, which statement best represents the restoration of faith in the judiciary?
- (a) The timely reiteration of the core principles in exercising the power to grant remission.
 (b) The remission is taken into consideration after looking at the character of the accused.
 (c) The institution holds the power to account for the fair and reasonable judgements.
 (d) The release of life convicts must be taken into consideration only after the set minimum years of life imprisonment has been served.
- 89.** Which of the following is a necessary assumption underlying the author's argument?
- (a) The Gujarat government was in favour of the release of the accused of Bilkis Bano Case.
 (b) Gujarat government was involved in the judgement passed recently in May 2022.
 (c) The case was transferred to Maharashtra by the family members of the victim.
 (d) The remission of the accused men was the result of change in the government of Gujarat.

PASSAGE - XVIII

The proposal by the National Stock Exchange (NSE) to extend trading hours for index derivatives has some obvious pros and cons. On the positive side, it would enable savvy traders to act immediately upon market-sensitive news and triggers that occur outside normal trading hours. However, it would impose extra operational costs on brokerages, and those may be difficult to recoup for smaller ones unless trading volumes pick up in the extended sessions. There could also be technically complex issues involved in reconciliation if indices are open for derivatives trading but their constituent underlying stocks (and stock derivatives) are not. On the whole, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has displayed caution by consulting a broad spectrum of stakeholders before coming to a decision.

The NSE is considering an extension of trading hours in index derivatives until 9 pm and beyond in at least two phases. The Indian commodities exchanges (which offer futures various commodities) already trade until 10 pm, and the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT), which offers dollar-denominated derivatives based on the underlying Nifty, is open for 22 hours out of 24. Several prominent overseas exchanges are also open in the evening for trading in index derivatives. So this time extension would be aligned to global practices. Price sensitive events can occur at any hour and keeping the exchanges open for longer periods can substantially increase trading opportunities and, arguably, reduce volatility and jerkiness. For example, the Ukraine war, the Hamas terrorist attacks, or the announcement of lockdown occurred at times when the Indian exchanges were shut and, as a result, the index opened sharply lower in the next session on each occasion. This led to significant losses for traders who had open long positions. Keeping the exchanges open for longer sessions would make it possible for traders to immediately act upon breaking news and, thus, either limit losses or generate profits by taking appropriate positions.

While it is technically feasible for Indian traders to utilise the GIFT, it involves strict trading limits. The remittance rules also come into play for individuals. This makes it difficult to adequately hedge large rupee-denominated positions since the GIFT has dollar-denominated contracts. It is also common practice abroad for index derivatives to be available for trading for much longer daily sessions than their underlying constituents. Sorting out reconciliation on big "swing" days is therefore common practice, with exchanges having evolved transparent ways to reconcile equity prices in subsequent sessions if the index traded with a big swing while the equity market was shut. Hence, it should not be difficult for the NSE to evolve such procedures. However, the cost factor is a significant barrier. Brokerages work on wafer-thin margins. Extended hours would lead to higher costs due to the need to deploy more manpower (or pay overtime), create tighter back-office processes, and ramp up tech and system capabilities. These costs might outweigh potentially higher revenues in the short run. As a result, smaller brokerages are likely to struggle whereas large discount brokerages could pick up market share. Therefore, Sebi intends to gather feedback from a wide array of stakeholders before it comes to a decision about extended trading hours, which is the right approach. It will enable the regulator to address concerns while making the transition at an appropriate time.

(Source: <https://www.business-standard.com/opinion/editorial/trading-hours->)

90. Which of the following is the author most likely to agree with?
- Extending the trading hours will make it difficult for the dollar-denominating market to exchange in India.
 - Extending trading hours is a very beneficial move for Indian exchange market.
 - The extending of the trading hours will only drag us to the lower points as it does not provide exposure to profits.
 - The extending of the trading hours needs to be implemented judiciously after much deliberation.
91. Which of the following is most aligned to the author's statements about the technical feasibility of Indian traders?
- It would enable savvy traders to act immediately upon market-sensitive news.
 - Keeping the exchanges open for longer periods can substantially increase trading opportunities.
 - For the traders it will be difficult to adequately hedge large rupee-denominated positions since the GIFT has dollar-denominated contracts.
 - Technical feasibility of Indian traders reduce volatility and jerkiness.
92. How does the author suggest the traders who had long positions to overcome the losses in the Indian exchange?
- By keeping the exchange open for a short period of time.
 - By fluctuating the time of exchange and only generating profits.
 - By keeping the exchange open for longer sessions.
 - By sharply lowering the next session on each occasion.
93. Which of the following is most likely true if the author's statements about GIFT having dollar-denominated contracts are true?
- Indian traders can easily hedge large rupee dominated positions on the GIFT platform.
 - GIFT having dollar-denominated contracts will limit the extension of the trading time as compared to rupee-denominated contracts.
 - GIFT having dollar-denominating contracts will affect the rupee-denominating contracts by making it open for the market for a longer time.
 - Adequately hedging large dominated positions on the GIFT platform poses challenges due to its dollar-denominating contracts.
94. If the information in the passage above is correct, which of the following must necessarily be true?
- The trading market is not ready for the big shift in India, it will take time for now.
 - The trading market will flourish once the SEBI passes the NSE proposal of extending trading hours.
 - The extension of the trading market time will regulate the exchange in a better way.
 - The extension of trading time should be more secure and organised before implementation.

PASSAGE - XIX

The main issue is a lack of problem recognition. Lack of surgical care access, preventable disease burden due to surgery, and the economic toll of surgery on society are still not considered to be a part of public health in the mainstream. This neglect persists in health policymaking and planning.

Over the last seven decades, India's focus on surgical care has been limited, with little attention in the most recent National Health Policy (2017). Since the publication of LCoGS, many countries in Africa and South Asia have initiated National Surgical Obstetric Anaesthesia Plans (NSOAPs) or equivalent policies. India currently has no NSOAP. The lack of investments in data for monitoring and evaluation of surgical care indicators has also been a major roadblock. So, using existing data, integrating surgical care data in existing surveys and systems, and building new dedicated data collection mechanisms are the ways forward. Siddhesh Zadey is co-founder of the non-profit Association for Socially Applicable Research (ASAR) India and chair of the G4 Alliance SOTA Care in the South Asia Working Group.

LCoGS has proposed that countries, particularly low- and middle-income countries, collect and monitor high-quality data for six indicators -population within two hours of a surgical care facility (timely geographical access);the number of surgeons, obstetricians, and anaesthetists per 1,00,000 people(Surgical, Anaesthesia and Obstetrics (SOA) workforce density); the number of essential and emergency surgeries per1,00,000 people (surgical volumes/rates);mortality within 30 days of surgery per1,000 procedures (perioperative mortality rate); the population at risk of impoverishment due to seeking surgery; and finally the population at risk of catastrophic expenditure (over 10% of their annual household expenses) due to seeking surgery.

Thousands risk impoverishment. So when it comes to lack of access to surgical care, India is not an anomaly but the archetype for low- and middle-income countries. First, many people are unable to reach the hospital on time. A lack of facilities, poor road network, lack of vehicles (including ambulances), etc. contribute to the lack of timely access. Such access problems are more common in rural and hilly areas that together house more than two-thirds of the population. Gaps in surgical care India's current surgical system gets by on civilian initiatives and subnational programmes - including countless surgeon-led small private establishments and government teaching and public district hospitals - that plug systemic gaps in surgical care.

Second, even if someone is able to reach a facility, there might not be the necessary resources for treatment. A surgeon, an anaesthetist, and some other clinical staff are essential to perform a surgery. The size of the SOA workforce is small in several parts of India, especially beyond metropolitan and tier-II cities, and at crisis-levels in the rural public. Noteworthy examples include rural surgeons gathered under the Association for Rural Surgeons of India; emergency and trauma care, including free ambulance services in multiple States, by the EMRI Green Health Services.

95. With which of the following statements is the author most likely to agree except?

- (a) The lack of investments in data for monitoring and evaluation of surgical care indicators has proved to be a major roadblock.
- (b) EMRI Green Health Services is helping the rural areas and rural surgeons to meet their requirements in the emergency and trauma care.
- (c) Integrating surgical care data in existing surveys in India is a positive sign to all the developing countries struggling with right surgical treatment in the rural areas.
- (d) Policy planners have highlighted the initiatives taken by the government in the rural areas and have started plugging the systemic gaps.

96. Which of the following, if true, would challenge the author's argument that the current surgical system in India survives on civilian initiatives?

- (a) The installation of machineries and the electricity in the village areas cannot support the idea of surgical system in the rural areas.
- (b) Government funding for surgical facilities has significantly increased in recent years.
- (c) The surgical system will be a success in the rural areas as the people support and take initiatives for the same.
- (d) Countless surgeon-led small private establishments have grown largely in numbers.

97. Which of the following statements accurately reflects the state of surgical care in India?

- (a) India has well established NSOAP in place.
- (b) Gaps in surgical care in India are primarily filled by Government teaching hospitals.
- (c) The lack of timely access to surgical care is an anomaly specific to India.
- (d) Rural areas in India face challenges in reaching surgical facilities, contributing to a lack of timely access.

98. Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument relies?

- (a) India's medical health sector is not provided with enough funds to treat rural population.
- (b) If the government focusses on appropriate health policymaking and planning then the problem of timely access of surgical care can be dealt with.
- (c) The mortality rate in rural areas is higher than that of urban areas in India.
- (d) The lack of timely access to surgical care is primarily a concern in urban areas.

PASSAGE - XX

Education is worth just the difference it makes in the activities of the individual who has been educated. The question is not how many books did we compel the child to read; how much does he know of arithmetic, geography, history, music, art, and the like: but rather what use does he make of this knowledge; how is he different from the person who does not possess this information; and, still more important, are these differences in his activity desirable from the point of view of the group in which he lives. It is important, then, that we should consider, before we discuss the function of teacher in bringing about changes in children, the ends which it is desirable to attain.

The aim of education has been variously stated. In the popular mind the aim of education is usually interpreted in terms of knowledge, or the ability to make a living. The theorists have been more apt to define the purpose of education in terms of the development of the abilities of the individual, of growth, of culture, or of morality. It might be interesting to examine each of the aims which has been advanced in some detail. It may be as significant to note the element common to all.

It is safe to assume that the advocates of each statement of aim believed that their conception was broad enough to insure success for the individual educated in accordance with the particular ideal embodied in their statement of purpose. No aim would be at all acceptable which did not take account of the society in which the individual must work. The education in a tribal society, which consisted in learning how to protect one's self and to provide for one's physical needs, the acquaintance with tribal ceremonies and tribal lore, quite as truly as our modern education, fitted the individual to get on in life. The individualistic point of view has been constantly emphasized. It has been a case of earning a living for one's self, of getting culture for the satisfaction that it might bring, of acquiring knowledge for the sake of the advancement which was thus made possible, of moral growth for the sake of individual salvation. More recently it has been common to state the aim of education in terms of social efficiency. It is the purpose of this discussion of aim to examine this concept in order to make clear its significance.

When society reaches that stage of development in which progress is definitely sought and planned for, the stage of conscious evolution, it is not enough that the individual be educated simply so that he may attain his own selfish ends. Each individual is a part of the organic whole, and in his functioning it is the good of the whole which is of paramount importance. The aim of education must, then, be broad enough to include both the welfare of the individual and the good of society. Is there any real opposition between these ends? If we think most of all of the welfare of the whole organism, must we sacrifice the interests of the constituent parts?

No one can do the most for the group of which he is a member who has not realized in his education the development of those abilities with which he is peculiarly endowed. The nurture of those abilities upon which society places a premium, and the inhibition of non-social tendencies, means greater opportunity for the exercise of whatever strength the individual possesses, greater individual growth and development, than would otherwise be possible. It is only through participation in social life that the highest individual development is possible, and it is true that "he who loseth his life" for the good of the group "shall find it." There is, then, no opposition between that view of education which declares that the welfare of society is of paramount importance, and that which demands individual well-being. If we are successful in obtaining the former, we must have secured the latter.

- 99.** What is the perspective of the author on the role of education in the development of an individual's activities?
- Education primarily equips individuals with knowledge for personal growth and cultural understanding.
 - The main role of education is to foster abilities for individual moral and societal advancement.
 - Education's chief function is to prepare individuals for economic self-sufficiency and survival.
 - The fundamental purpose of education is to encourage individual abilities that benefit society.
- 100.** According to the passage, how do popular and theoretical views on the aim of education differ?
- Popular views focus on practical skills, whereas theoretical views emphasize cultural understanding.
 - Popular views prioritize knowledge acquisition, while theoretical views stress individual development.
 - Theoretical perspectives lean towards societal betterment, unlike popular views which stress personal gain.
 - Popular opinions see education as a path to economic success, theoretical ones as a moral guide.
- 101.** How does the concept of 'social efficiency' as an educational aim contrast with earlier individualistic educational goals?
- Social efficiency emphasizes societal contribution, while individualism focuses on self-reliance and survival.
 - Individualistic goals prioritize cultural knowledge, whereas social efficiency targets practical societal skills.
 - Social efficiency aims at collective well-being, unlike individualistic goals centered on personal success.
 - Individualistic education stresses moral development, while social efficiency focuses on economic contributions.
- 102.** In what way does the passage suggest that individual and societal benefits of education are not mutually exclusive?
- By indicating that individual development is a prerequisite for societal advancement.
 - Through proposing that education should be tailored to individual interests for social benefit.
 - By asserting that individual growth is maximized through participation in social life.
 - Suggesting that the highest individual development occurs independently of societal contexts.
- 103.** How does the author propose that the highest individual development can be achieved, as mentioned in the latter part of the passage?
- By fostering a balance between individual interests and societal needs in education.
 - Through the pursuit of personal goals that align with societal advancement.
 - By nurturing individual abilities that contribute to the welfare of society.
 - Through independent personal growth and self-guided educational endeavours.

PASSAGE - XXI

The best teachers never reach the point where preparation for the day's work is unnecessary. The teacher who stimulates her pupils to their best effort must herself be interested in the work in hand. If nothing new in material or method is found to vary the work, interest soon lags. The lesson often repeated is as dry and lacking in power to interest or inspire as the proverbial sermon taken from the barrel. Even when a teacher has taught a most successful lesson, it is dangerous to try to repeat that exercise in precisely the same way. The two situations will not be alike. The fact that she tries to repeat will take the edge off the lesson for the teacher, and make it correspondingly dull for the pupils. Young and inexperienced teachers are often most successful because of the zest with which they attack the problems which are new to them. The older teacher may be able to keep a class in order and teach them something with a minimum of preparation; but her best work will be done only when she has planned as carefully as the novice for whom the need of preparation is so apparent.

The subject matter which should be drawn upon for any lesson constantly changes. No two groups of children have had exactly the same varieties of experience; hence the need for varying the approach, as well as the demand for differences in observations, experiments, reading, or other methods employed to bring the data necessary for the solution of their problem before children. Subject matter is growing, is being made all of the time. Last year's discussion of the geography

of Europe, of South America, of Africa, or of Asia will not suffice for this year, because interesting and important events have occurred in these countries during the year intervening. For the wide-awake teacher even that most exact of the sciences mathematics, represented by arithmetic in our curriculum, will change; since the number aspect of children's experience will vary. If spelling means the study of words which are needed for use in written expression, the work in spelling will vary just as surely as the occasions for written expression vary among children. No teacher could, if she would, repeat a series of lessons which deal with natural phenomena. In any field, the need for preparation becomes apparent for one who would command the material which should be made available for children.

In the preparation of a lesson plan the first and in some respects the most important step is to become acquainted with the subject to be taught. There is no method of teaching which can take the place of a thoroughgoing knowledge of the material which bears upon the topic to be treated. The teacher who finds in the life of the children outside of school, in school activities, in books, pictures, magazines, in study and travel, material for her daily class work, will make any course of study vital and interesting to children. In such an atmosphere pupils will grow not only in knowledge, but also in the desire to inquire and investigate and in power to satisfy their intellectual craving.

104. What does the passage primarily suggest about the relationship between a teacher's preparation and the effectiveness of their lessons?

- (a) Thorough preparation is essential for maintaining student interest and enhancing lesson effectiveness.
- (b) Innovative teaching methods are more crucial than preparation for lesson effectiveness.
- (c) Experienced teachers can often conduct successful lessons with minimal preparation.
- (d) The repetition of successful lessons requires less preparation and remains equally effective.

105. According to the passage, how does the variation in subject matter influence the approach a teacher should take in lesson planning?

- (a) It necessitates a standardized approach to accommodate all varieties of experiences.
- (b) Teachers should prioritize keeping the content consistent to maintain simplicity.
- (c) Variation in experiences demands a dynamic, adaptable approach in lesson planning.
- (d) Focuses more on incorporating current events than on traditional subject matter.

106. The passage discusses the impact of external events on the teaching of certain subjects. How does this relate to the dynamic nature of curriculum content, as exemplified by the discussion of geography?

- (a) External events make geography a static subject that rarely requires content updates.
- (b) Geography teaching must frequently update to reflect global events and changes.
- (c) The focus on external events in geography diminishes its educational value.
- (d) Geography's content should remain constant, using external events as mere examples.

107. In what way does the passage describe the contrast between the teaching methodologies of experienced versus inexperienced teachers, particularly in terms of preparation and enthusiasm?

- (a) Experienced teachers require less preparation due to their expertise, unlike novices.
- (b) Inexperienced teachers display more enthusiasm and adaptability in lesson preparation.
- (c) Both experienced and inexperienced teachers show similar levels of enthusiasm.
- (d) Experienced teachers are more enthusiastic but less adaptable in lesson planning.

108. What is the significance of the teacher's knowledge of the subject matter, as outlined in the passage, in relation to the development of a lesson plan?

- (a) It is secondary to the teacher's ability to maintain classroom discipline.
- (b) Deep subject knowledge is crucial for creating a dynamic and relevant lesson plan.
- (c) It is less important than the teacher's ability to use innovative teaching methods.
- (d) Subject knowledge is only important for subjects like mathematics and geography.

Section E-Quantitative Techniques

PASSAGE - XXII

Directions (109- 112): Study the following information and answer the questions below.

The data pertains to the number of officers and clerks in three different departments of a company. The total number of employees in the account department is 3600. The number of clerks in the sales department is 50% more than the number of officers in the account department. The ratio of the number of clerks in the account department to the officers in the sales department is 2:1. The total number of employees in the sales department is 3400. The average number of clerks in all three departments is 2400. Finally, the number of officers in the marketing department is 2200.

109. The total number of officers in sales department is how much % more/less than the number of clerks in marketing department?

- (a) 64.28%
- (b) 44.72%
- (c) 35.46%
- (d) 52.32%

110. Find the ratio of the number of officers in marketing and sales department together to number of clerks in account and sales department together?

- (a) 6 : 28 (b) 8 : 11
(c) 9 : 15 (d) 7 : 25

111. Find the average number of officers in all three department?

- (a) 1700 (b) 1600
(c) 1500 (d) 1800

112. If the total number of employees in finance department is 22.22% more than total number of employees in account department and officers in finance department is 380 more than officers in sales department then find the number of clerks in finance department?

- (a) 3002 (b) 3200
(c) 2300 (d) 3020

PASSAGE - XXIII

Directions (113- 116): Study the following information and answer the questions below.

Vidhi, Vidhan and Vidyut work in a restaurant on Saturdays and Sundays every week. Tip received by Vidyut on Saturday is 40% more than tip received by Vidhan on Saturday. The total tip received by all of them on Saturday is Rs. 2000. The tip received by Vidhi on Sunday is Rs. 80 more than tip received by her on Saturday. The ratio between tip received on Saturday to Sunday by Vidhan is 3: 4. Tip received on Saturday by Vidhan is average of tips received by Vidhi on both days. Tip received by Vidyut on Sunday is 20% more than tip received by Vidhan on Sunday.

113. The total tip received by all of them on Sunday is what percent more than Saturday?

- (a) 20% (b) 30%
(c) 40% (d) 25%

114. What is the difference between average tip received by Vidhi on both days and average tip received by all three of them on Sunday?

- (a) Rs. 300 (b) Rs. 240
(c) Rs. 160 (d) Rs. 200

115. What is the difference between total tip received by all three persons on Saturday and total tip received by Vidyut on both days together?

- (a) Rs. 300 (b) Rs. 200
(c) Rs. 240 (d) Rs. 160

116. What is the difference between increased percentages of tips from Saturday to Sunday for Vidhi and Vidyut?

- (a) 25% (b) 20%
(c) 0% (d) 50%

PASSAGE - XXIV

Directions (117- 120): Study the following information and answer the questions below.

There were two sellers, Vidhi and Vidhan, who sold shirts in four colors: red, blue, black, and white. Vidhi sold only red and blue shirts, while Vidhan sold only black and white shirts. Vidhi sold 25% more blue shirts than red shirts. Specifically, she sold 200 blue shirts. On the other hand, Vidhan sold 150 more black shirts than white shirts. Specifically, he sold 450 black shirts.

117. If Vidhi sold a red shirt for Rs. 250 with a 25% profit, what is the total cost of all the red shirts she sold?

- (a) Rs.40000 (b) Rs.62500
(c) Rs. 32000 (d) Rs. 36000

118. If Vidhan purchased a white shirt for Rs. 150, marked it up by 33.33%, and offered a discount of Rs. 25, find the total selling price of all white shirts sold?

- (a) Rs.52500 (b) Rs.55200
(c) Rs.25500 (d) Rs.25000

119. The total number of White shirts sold by Vidhan is what percent more or less than the total number of Red shirts sold by Vidhi?

- (a) 25% (b) 87.5%
(c) 12.5% (d) 37.5%

120. What is the respective ratio between the total number of shirts sold by Vidhi and the total number of shirts sold by Vidhan?

- (a) 5:2 (b) 2:5
(c) 25:12 (d) 12:25

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