ESTD. 2019
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FLAMES LAW ENTRANCE ACADEMY

FREE CLAT MOCK 2-2025

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Maximum Marks- 120 **Maximum Time- 120 Mins.**

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.
3. There is negative marking of 0.25 for every incorrect answer. Each question carries **ONE** mark. ***Total marks are120***
4. You have to indicate the correct answer by darkening one of the four responses provided, with a **BALL PEN(BLUE OR BLACK)** in the **OMR** Answer Sheet.
   Example: For the question, *"Who is the prime minister of India?",* the correct answer is (b).The student has to darken the corresponding circle as indicated below:

(a) Rajnath Singh (b) Narendra Modi (c) Nitin Gadkari (d) Venkiah Naidu

Right Method **Wrong Methods**

5. Answering the questions by any method other than the method indicated above shall be considered incorrect andno marks will be awarded for the same.
6. More than one response to a question shall be counted as wrong.
7. Do not write anything on the OMR Answer Sheet other than the details required and, in the spaces, provided for.
8. The use of any unfair means by any candidate shall result in the cancellation of his/her candidature.

ALL THE BEST !

READING COMPREHENSION

Politicians are routinely some of the most disliked people in the United States. The approval ratings for Congress are abysmal. Current approval ratings are at 18% and the rating has been less than 20% for much of the past ten years. The public is frequently drawn to candidates who do not seem like "typical politicians," those who seem particularly authentic or are from the world of business or celebrity. In fact, spending too much time in Congress or as a political leader can be seen as damaging for some races, such as the one for president.

Why do people hate politicians? There are a number of negative attributes that people associate with politicians and then use to describe the entire group. The clearest of these is a tendency to stretch the truth. Americans view politicians as a whole as liars, men and women who say what the electorate wants to hear while doing otherwise once in office. Politicians are also seen as weak-willed and terrified of angering lobbyists or powerful interest groups. They collect a government paycheck and line up their next corporate job without actually solving the problems that they were elected to fix in the first place.

But close to the top is self-interest. Politicians are all seen as out for themselves and not serving to benefit their constituents. Several stories in the news the past few weeks have made this sentiment as evident as ever. One of the most notable was the decision in Montana for Democrats to oppose a new state-level child tax credit. The bipartisan credit was a considerable expansion in social spending for Montana families. But some Democrats fought back against the bill, arguing that "it would be used by the governor's office to justify inaction on Democrats' priorities." Democrats put their own priorities over convincing a Republican governor to expand the social safety net and aid thousands of people, a tactical misfire for a party that has fought for decades to change Republican views on government spending.

There has also been furor in New York over the state's Court of Appeals. Democrats revolted at Governor Kathy Hochul's first choice for the position, Hector Lasalle. The party highlighted several controversial decisions he had issued on the bench and closely voted down his nomination. But another candidate, Rowan Wilson, was approved last week after a controversy involving similar decisions from the bench. The main difference, as noted by New York's Errol Louis, was that Wilson also fought hard to support the party's gerrymandered congressional districts. Once again, the fear is that Democrats voted, not for the person who would be best for New York, but for the judge who would most reliably protect their legislative map.

The fact that both of these stories involve Democrats is important. Democrats often believe in a populist, good-government view of their party. It is the Republicans who are venal, selfish, and wholly committed to lining their own pockets and the pockets of their rich donors.

As a result, Democrats must let go of the selfish urge when in power more often than Republicans. They must focus more on protecting the country and their party than their own self-interests and bottom line.

[Extracted and revised from *Why People Hate Politicians* by Eric Medlin | Ordinary Times]

Q1. What could be an appropriate title for the passage?

a. The Unfavorable Perception of Politicians in the United States
b. The Populist View of Democrats and Challenges in Governance
c. The Impact of Self-Interest on Political Decision-Making
d. Democrats and the Struggle Against Political Stereotypes

Q2. According to the passage, what is a common negative perception associated with politicians?

a. Excessive focus on bipartisan collaboration
b. Tendency to stretch the truth
c. Aversion to corporate job opportunities
d. Strong commitment to solving election promises

Q3. What recent incidents involving Democrats does the passage highlight to exemplify the perception of self-interest in politics?
a. Approval of a bipartisan child tax credit in Montana
b. Democrats' support for a Republican governor's agenda
c. Opposition to a new state-level child tax credit in Montana
d. Democratic revolt against a judge in New York

Q4. Why, according to the passage, do Democrats often face challenges related to self-interest in politics?
a. They are perceived as too bipartisan.
b. They prioritize the country and party over self-interest.
c. They believe in a populist view of governance.
d. They struggle to change Republican views on government spending.

Q5. What is the overall tone of the passage regarding politicians?
a. Optimistic and encouraging
b. Critical and negative
c. Neutral and factual
d. Humorous and satirical

The nature of beauty is one of the most enduring and controversial themes in Western philosophy, and is—with the nature of art—one of the two fundamental issues in the history of philosophical aesthetics. Beauty has traditionally been counted among the ultimate values, with goodness, truth, and justice. By the beginning of the twentieth century, beauty was in decline as a subject of philosophical inquiry, and also as a primary goal of the arts. However, there was revived interest in beauty and critique of the concept by the 1980s, particularly within feminist philosophy. Perhaps the most familiar basic issue in the theory of beauty is whether beauty is subjective—located 'in the eye of the beholder'—or rather an objective feature of beautiful things. A pure version of either of these positions seems implausible, for reasons we will examine, and many attempts have been made to split the difference or incorporate insights of both subjectivist and objectivist accounts. Ancient and medieval accounts for the most part located beauty outside of anyone's particular experiences. Nevertheless, that beauty is subjective was also a commonplace from the time of the sophists.
However, if beauty is entirely subjective—that is, if anything that anyone holds to be or experiences as beautiful is beautiful then it seems that the word has no meaning, or that we are not communicating anything when we call something beautiful except perhaps an approving personal attitude. In addition, though different persons can of course differ in particular judgments, it is also obvious that our judgments coincide to a remarkable extent: it would be odd or perverse for any person to deny that a perfect rose or a dramatic sunset was beautiful. And it is possible actually to disagree and argue about whether something is beautiful, or to try to show someone that something is beautiful, or learn from someone else why it is.

On the other hand, it seems senseless to say that beauty has no connection to subjective response or that it is entirely objective. That would seem to entail, for example, that a world with no perceivers could be beautiful or ugly, or perhaps that beauty could be detected by scientific instruments. Even if it could be, beauty would seem to be connected to subjective response, and though we may argue about whether something is beautiful, the idea that one's experiences of beauty might be disqualified as simply inaccurate or false might arouse puzzlement as well as hostility. We often regard other people's taste, even when it differs from our own, as provisionally entitled to some respect, as we may not, for example, in cases of moral, political, or factual opinions. All plausible accounts of beauty connect it to a pleasurable or profound or loving response, even if they do not locate beauty purely in the eye of the beholder.

[Extracted from *Beauty* by Crispin Sartwell | Plato.Stanford]

Q6. What is the philosophical stance of the author regarding the nature of beauty?

a. Objectivist and absolutist
b. Subjectivist and relativist
c. Pluralist and integrative
d. Skeptical and nihilistic

Q7. The term "implausible" in the sentence "A pure version of either of these positions seems implausible" most likely means:

a. Unlikely or unbelievable
b. Logical and feasible
c. Essential and necessary
d. Explicit and evident

Q8. The passage suggests that by the 1980s, there was renewed interest in beauty, especially within:

a. Scientific circles
b. Artistic communities
c. Feminist philosophy
d. Historical contexts

Q9. The word "coincide" in the sentence "it is also obvious that our judgments coincide to a remarkable extent" could be replaced with:

a. Collide
b. Differ
c. Dispute
d. Correspond

Q10. According to the passage, the idea that beauty has no connection to subjective response would be considered:

a. Puzzling
b. Predictable
c. Sensible
d. Unimportant

Passage 3 - Higher interest rates have brought America's bankers both ruin and riches. Less than a year ago rising rates caused Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) and then First Republic to fail, the largest bank collapse since 2008. Yet on January 12th JPMorgan Chase reported its seventh consecutive quarter of record net-interest income. One reason the crisis did not spread in 2023 is that the Federal Reserve contained it with a new—and generous—loan programme. Unfortunately, that has come at a cost that the Fed should have foreseen. Thanks to another turn in the interest-rate outlook, its intervention has mutated into a free-money machine for any bank brazen enough to exploit it.

The bank term funding programme (BTFP) offers banks loans secured against the face value of Treasury bonds. The idea was to stop wobbly banks having to sell Treasuries to raise cash if depositors fled. At SVB, a fire sale induced by a bank run crystallised losses, because higher rates had reduced the prices of long-term bonds far below their face value. But the BTFP lends the face value, rather than the market value, of the securities against which its loans are secured and, sure enough, its generosity succeeded in shoring up the system and stopping what could have become a severe crisis.

Today, however, the BTFP is itself causing trouble. The interest rate that banks must pay to borrow reflects, with a small premium, the one-year interest rate set in financial markets. That is in turn based on predictions of the average Fed policy rate over the next year. Because investors are betting the central bank will cut rates significantly, the cost of borrowing today is only 4.8%. Yet because those rate cuts have not yet happened, the Fed still pays banks 5.4% on their cash balances.

In other words, banks can draw loans just to make a spread of 0.6 percentage points, risk-free, at the expense of the central bank. Should the expected rate cuts take place, the banks need not suffer a negative interest margin, because they are free to repay the loans early, a valuable option the Fed, in effect, gave away for nothing. Borrowers' identity will eventually be made public, so the only constraint on them is the risk to their reputations—but some may consider such shameless opportunism a virtue.

Naturally, the use of the BTFP has shot up. Since the start of November outstanding balances have risen from $109bn to $147bn. It is not certain this is all arbitrage, but over the same period bonds have risen in value, shrinking the problem the BTFP was designed to fix. This strongly suggests that the motive for the new borrowing is opportunism rather than necessity. And because the Fed is owned by taxpayers, the free money the banks are hoovering up comes at the taxpayers' expense.

What should the Fed do? In the heat of the crisis it rashly promised to keep the BTFP open until March 2024. It has since strongly hinted that the facility will cease making new loans then. Shutting the BTFP early could undermine the credibility of the Fed's promises. But it should immediately amend the interest rate on new loans, either to track its policy rate or to appropriately price the prepayment option. Either fix would remove the scope for arbitrage.

[Extracted from *How America accidentally made a free-money machine for banks* by Anonymous | The Economist]

Q11. Which of the following statements is correct according to the passage?

a. JPMorgan Chase reported a decline in net-interest income in its recent quarter.
b. The bank term funding programme (BTFP) prevented the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank and First Republic.
c. The BTFP loans banks the market value of the securities against which they are secured.
d. The Fed's intervention through the BTFP has resulted in a risk-free financial gain for banks.

Q12. What is the writing style of the given passage?

a. Narrative

b. Persuasive
c. Descriptive
d. Analytical

Q13. What does the phrase "hoovering up" mean in the context of the passage?
a. Cleaning the facility
b. Collecting rapidly and eagerly
c. Avoiding responsibilities
d. Distributing generously

Q14. What is the implied conclusion of the passage?
a. The Federal Reserve should continue the Bank Term Funding Program (BTFP) indefinitely.
b. Banks are justified in taking advantage of the free-money opportunity offered by the BTFP.
c. The BTFP has effectively addressed the crisis and prevented severe consequences.
d. The Federal Reserve should abandon the BTFP immediately.

Q15. In the phrase "a symphony of urban life," what figure of speech is employed?
a. Simile
b. Metaphor
c. Hyperbole
d. Personification

Thanks to streaming platforms like YouTube and Netflix, and to vigorous subtitling efforts – with collaboration by fans, too – Korean pop music and dramas are widely available and easily accessible. Even when the content is in Korean, there are few barriers to entry.

Korean dramas strike a balance of predictability and originality. Their story arcs are often predictable: rags to riches, rich boy meets poor girl, children defy their parents' wishes and strike out on their own. But they have a Korean twist: Characters are deferential to their elders, sons and daughters are filial. The backdrop is hyper-modern and glitzy. The actors are polished and attractive. They play characters that are charming, vulnerable, and have a healthy dose of self-deprecation. The scripts are full of good humor. Of course, there is often a dark twist: suffocating expectation, crushing poverty, a profound secret that must not get revealed. Korean dramas humanize even the most aloof billionaires and get audiences to care – and usually, all they ask of us is 16 hours of our time.

Korean media pour tremendous resources into their dramas. Dramas are collaborative productions that attend to every last detail to ensure a positive viewing experience that is also wholesome and family friendly. Viewers are assured to get good shots of Korean food, fashion, street life, and gorgeous countryside landscapes.

Much of the success of K-pop has to do with the idols at the center. K-pop idols are as close to elite athletes as you will ever get in music talent. They are incredible dancers. They have tremendous charisma. They are disciplined and hard-working. They know how to speak to the camera and they know how to interact with one another in a way that draws in the fans. They maintain squeaky clean images. Their behavior is held up to extremely high standards. At the same time, they project extreme approachability. They ooze fun and kindness, and they address their fans in ways that come across as authentic. In return, fans are loyal, as loyal to K-pop idols as any sports fans are to their favorite teams. This forms a really interesting dynamic between the idols and their fans.

Idols take their fans very seriously. Elaborate communication platforms allow K-pop idols to speak to their fans and to acknowledge fans' role in their idols' success. Fans are fiercely protective of their idols' well-being. They reject fans who are too obsessive, like those who deliberately book flights on the same planes as their idols. The bond that is built between idol and their fans is powerful.

BTS, for example, started as underdogs in Korea's entertainment industry. They lacked the brand recognition of Korea's larger entertainment companies. Their success had as much to do with the loyalty they cultivated among their fans as with their talent. Their fan base is called Army – all K-pop groups have a named fan group. The Army's enthusiasm – and membership – has only been growing in recent years.

[Excerpt from *The secret to K-pop, K-drama success is its relatable appeal, says Stanford scholar* by Melissa De Witte | Stanford News]

Q16. What is the main argument of the passage?

a. Korean dramas are becoming increasingly predictable and lack originality.
b. The success of Korean pop culture, including dramas and K-pop, is attributed to accessibility, unique storytelling, and the strong bond between idols and fans.
c. K-pop idols focus solely on their talent and dance skills to attract fans.
d. Streaming platforms like YouTube and Netflix have negatively impacted the popularity of Korean pop culture.

Q17. What is the author's attitude towards K-pop in the given passage?

a. The author is indifferent to K-pop and its cultural impact.
b. The author is critical of K-pop, highlighting its lack of originality.
c. The author is enthusiastic about K-pop, emphasizing its success, talent, and fan loyalty.
d. The author is skeptical about the future of K-pop in the global entertainment industry.

Q18. Which of the following could be the source of the passage?

a. A research paper analyzing the economic impact of the K-pop industry.
b. A historical textbook detailing the evolution of Korean popular culture.
c. A travel blog narrating a personal experience of attending a K-pop concert in Korea.
d. An opinion article in a music magazine discussing the cultural significance of K-pop.

Q19. What figure of speech is employed in the phrase "K-pop idols are as close to elite athletes as you will ever get in music talent"?

a. Metaphor
b. Simile
c. Hyperbole
d. Personification

Q20. Which of the following is a synonym for the word "deferential" as used in the passage?

a. Respectful
b. Arrogant
c. Indifferent
d. Insolent

Passage 5 - A few days before the Congress leadership declined the invitation for the Ram Mandir consecration ceremony, Karnataka deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar defended the decision of his government to celebrate the consecration of the Ram Mandir by saying "ultimately we all are Hindus". In saying so, he ignored the numerous Hindus and non-Hindus who would view the idea of a secular state celebrating a religious ritual as objectionable.
The predictable response to this objection is that the "separation of church and state" arrangement does not work in a country like India where the state actively engages with religious institutions, ignoring the fact that India is not an outlier in its interaction with religion. In Germany, the state funds religious schools and facilitates the collection of taxation imposed by churches on their congregants. In Australia and the United States, it is constitutionally permissible to extend the level of aid available for private secular schools, to religious schools as well. Cooperation between state and religion is commonplace in the field of education, because funding private schools, many of them run by religious organisations, for the purposes of teaching secular subjects may be more efficient than the construction of additional public schools by the state.
France is often touted as the strictest form of separation of church and state due to their philosophy of Laïcité as embodied in their 1905 Act. Interestingly, the 1905 Act permitted France to take ownership of existing religious sites and ensure their maintenance, provided the state did not construct new religious sites. The Debre law of 1959 allows public funding of religious schools in France for the teaching of secular subjects. These nuances are forgotten due to the way Laïcité has been imposed in the last two decades to prohibit religious outfits in certain settings, disparately impacting Muslims. In many democracies, the notion of a strict separation of state and religion is a myth. Between a strict separationist state and a theocracy, there are various forms of institutional arrangements between state and religion, based on the principles of neutrality and cooperation.
State neutrality towards religion is celebrated as a virtue in democratic societies, but neutrality on its own is not a self-defining concept. One aspect of neutrality is that the state should not encourage or discourage individuals to follow a particular religion. However, state practices are not limited to incentivising religious conduct, they can also send out a message that a particular religious identity has a higher status compared to others. This principle of neutrality was articulated by Justice Sandra O'Connor, the first woman judge of the U.S Supreme Court, to argue that when the state endorses a religious identity, it "sends a message to non-adherents that they are outsiders, not full members of the political community, and an accompanying message to adherents that they are insiders, favored members of the political community."
[Extracted from *Should the State Celebrate the Ram Mandir Ceremony?* By Arvind Kurian Abraham | The Wire]

Q21. What is the main topic of the given passage?
a. The construction of religious sites in different countries
b. The celebration of religious rituals in democratic societies
c. The interaction between state and religion in democratic societies
d. The imposition of Laïcité in France

Q22. According to the passage, what is often considered a virtue in democratic societies regarding the state's stance towards religion?
a. Actively promoting a specific religion
b. Strict separation of church and state
c. Discouraging religious practices
d. Financial support for religious schools

Q23. According to the passage, what was Karnataka deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar's defense of the government's decision to celebrate the consecration of the Ram Mandir?

a. He emphasized the need for a secular state.
b. He argued for the separation of church and state.
c. He stated that "ultimately we all are Hindus."
d. He supported the idea of a non-religious state.

Q24. According to Justice Sandra O'Connor, what message does the state send when it endorses a particular religious identity?

a. It indicates that the state is actively promoting that religion.
b. It conveys a message of neutrality toward all religious identities.
c. It suggests that non-adherents are outsiders, and adherents are favoured members.
d. It implies that religious identity has no impact on political community membership.

Q25. What is the significance of the 1905 Act and the Debre law mentioned in the passage?

a. They established a strict separation of church and state in France.
b. They permit public funding of religious schools in France.
c. They demonstrate France's strict adherence to Laïcité.
d. They allow the state to construct new religious sites in France.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

External Affairs Minister (EAM), Dr. S Jaishankar, paid a three-day official visit to Singapore. The visit, which began on 23 March, was aimed at deepening the strategic partnership between the two countries and to take stock of progress in several areas of cooperation.

During the visit, EAM had several bilateral engagements with the leadership and senior Ministers of the Cabinet, said the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

The two-day visit presented an opportunity to further deepen the Strategic Partnership between India and Singapore and to take stock of progress in several areas of cooperation, including fintech, digitalization, green economy, skills development, and food security, it added.

During the visit, EAM paid homage to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, at the INA marker in Singapore. The visit also included an event organised by the ISAS (Institute of South Asian Studies), where EAM interacted with think tanks and policymakers.

The visit to Singapore is significant for both India and Singapore as it is the first leg of EAM's visit to Singapore, the Philippines, and Malaysia.

Q26. When were diplomatic relations established between India and Singapore?

a. 1957
b. 1947
c. 1965
d. 1955

Q27. Why is India looking to enhance ties with Singapore?

a. Because Singapore is a major economic power in South-East Asia.
b. Because a lot of Indians reside in Singapore and share similar cultures as found in India.
c. Because it wants to occupy Singapore in future.
d. Both a & b.

Q28. Netaji Subhas Bose after arriving in Singapore took over as leader of Indian Independence League from which famous freedom fighter?

a. Mahtama Gandhi
b. Sachindranath Sanyal
c. Chitraranjan Das
d. Rash Behari Bose

Q29. Why is Netaji Subhas Bose despite fighting for India's freedom struggle still despised by various western scholars?

a. Because these scholars are racist.
b. Because Netaji was aligned with the Axis powers and the Allies won the power and thus shaped the narrative as such where any association with Axis powers is despised till date.
c. Because Netaji was a big fan of Adolf Hitler and Tojo and thus is considered a genocide enabler.
d. Both b & c.

Q30. When did Singapore gain independence from the British rule?

a. 1947
b. 1951
c. 1961
d. 1965

India has once again hit out at the US after the latter not only reiterated its concerns over the arrest of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal but also said it was aware of the Congress party's allegations that tax authorities have frozen some of their bank accounts ahead of the general elections. Calling the US State Department's remarks on these issues "unwarranted" and "unacceptable", the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said India is proud of its democratic institutions and will protect them from any "undue" external influences.

"The recent remarks by the State Department are unwarranted. Any such external imputation on our electoral and legal processes is completely unacceptable. In India, legal processes are driven only by the rule of law. Anyone who has similar ethos, especially fellow democracies, should have no difficulty in appreciating this fact," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said during a weekly press briefing Thursday.

He added: "Mutual respect and understanding form the foundation of international relations and states are expected

to be respectful of the sovereignty and internal affairs of others."

Earlier in the day, US State Department spokesperson Mathew Miller said at a press briefing that Washington is closely monitoring Kejriwal's arrest and the Congress's allegations that some of their bank accounts have been frozen in an apparent bid to hamper their poll campaigns. This was the second time the US commented on Kejriwal's arrest.

"We encourage fair, transparent, and timely legal processes for each of these issues," the US department had said.

A day prior, India had summoned a senior American diplomat in New Delhi and issued a strongly-worded demarche against the US State Department's earlier remarks on Kejriwal's arrest in a money-laundering case. At the time, India warned countries against "casting aspersions" on its legal processes, calling them unwarranted. In response to a query over the phone, the MEA spokesperson rejected speculation that US Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti was summoned Thursday, after the US State Department's remarks.

Earlier this week, the MEA had summoned a senior diplomat from the German embassy after the country's foreign ministry in Berlin said it had taken note of Kejriwal's arrest.

Kejriwal was arrested on 21 March by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a money-laundering case linked to the now-scrapped liquor policy of 2021-22. He has been accused of being the "kingpin and key conspirator" of the alleged scam.

Q31. Why is India anguished by the comments of the U.S government?

a. Because it is not used to tolerating comments from other countries.
b. Because it is construed to be interference in India's sovereignty.
c. Because US interferes only in India's internal matters.
d. None of the above

Q32. "Demarche" has originated from which country?

a. UK
b. Russia
c. Norway
d. France

Q33. Which of the following is an exercise conducted between US & India?

a. Siam Bharat
b. Cope India
c. Garuda Shakti
d. Sampriti

Q34. Why are India's institutions perceived to be weaker by foreign governments?

a. In order to create a propaganda against the current regime.
b. Because of the rankings of India on various international indices.
c. Because India is a very new democracy compared to the other western nations.
d. Both b & c.

Q35. Which other political party's leader is also involved in this alleged scam?

a. BJD
b. YRSCP
c. RLP
d. BRS

China said Tuesday that "third parties have no right to interfere whatsoever" in the ongoing territorial disputes in the South China Sea after India endorsed its support to the Philippines in "upholding its sovereignty".
During a regular press briefing, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said maritime disputes are "issues between the countries concerned".
"We urge relevant parties to squarely face the facts and truth on the South China Sea issue, and respect China's territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests and the efforts of regional countries to keep the South China Sea peaceful and stable," added Lin.
The remarks came after India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, during a visit to Manila, "firmly" backed the Philippines in upholding its sovereignty, amid tensions in the South China Sea, adding that the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea was particularly important as the "constitution of the seas".
"All parties must adhere to it in its entirety, both in letter and in spirit," he said during a joint press conference with his Philippines counterpart Enrique Manalo Tuesday.
The statement came a week after the Chinese coast guard attacked the Philippines naval supply boat while the latter was trying to reach the Second Thomas Shoal located in the Spratly Islands. Both Beijing and Manila claim the Shoal. The incident led to Beijing lodging a "serious representation" with the Philippines government on the "illegal resupply" to the disputed Shoal, claiming that it was an attempt to occupy the disputed territory. In [Y], India and the Philippines signed a [X] million agreement on the sale of BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles — New Delhi's first export order of the defence system. The delivery of the BrahMos systems from India to the Philippines is expected to begin this year. Jaishankar also discussed the contemporary challenges and advancement of technologies with the Philippine Secretary of Information and Communications Technology Ivan John Enrile Uy.

Q36. When was the UNCLOS signed?

a. 1990
b. 1978
c. 1982
d. 1999

Q37. Which of the following will be redacted as [X]?

a. $400 mn
b. $350 mn
c. $250 mn
d. $375 mn

Q38. Who is the current President of Phillipines?

a. HE Ferdinand R Marcos Jr
b. Rodrigo Duterte
c. Benigno Aquino III
d. None of the above

Q39. Why is China insisting for non-interference of third parties?

a. Because it is an international law-abiding country in the region.
b. Because it wants to keeps the issue bilateral only.
c. Because entrance of third party would internationalise the issue to the determinant of China.
d. None of the above

Q40. Which of the following will be redacted as [Y]?

a. 2020
b. 2022
c. 2021
d. 2019

Marking a significant milestone for the Navy in three decades, India Friday simultaneously deployed [X] conventional submarines for operations. This deployment starkly contrasts the submarine history of the last two decades, which has seen the arm hit by dwindling strength, accidents and write-offs.

"It is indeed an important milestone for us. Since I joined the Navy, I have not seen such a high simultaneous deployment. This was basically because we did not have that many submarines in operations, and the fleet strength was hit by several undergoing refits or repairs," a source, who has completed over 25 years of service.

Sources in the defence establishment said that the last time the Indian submarine arm was at its highest strength was in the early 90s when the Navy had 8 Kilo-class submarines, four HDWs and four Foxtrot of Russian origin.

"Since then, the submarine's arm has really been hit. Even the delivery of the Scorpene submarines was delayed," another source said.

Currently, India operates 16 conventional submarines, including five Scorpene class (French), four HDWs (German) and seven Kilo-class (Russian). An additional Scorpene class is still to be commissioned. While India will eventually operate 17 conventional submarines next year, sources pointed out that this would only be on paper.

"What is important is operational availability. The Scorpene submarines are brand new, hence, their availability ratio is much higher. Next comes the German HDWs, which continue to be the most reliable and high on performance. These submarines will last us another 10-15 years," the second source said, explaining the issues that the Navy continues to face with its submarine fleet. The source added that, while India had 10 Kilo-class submarines initially, it is now left with only seven.

"The Kilos are very good but their availability ratio is down. They have undergone upgrades but will not be able to last as long as the HDWs. This is because most of them were commissioned in the 1980s and one of them has already been decommissioned. The second one was refitted and given to Myanmar. The third was actually new, but

we lost it in 2013 in an accident," the source said.

This means that the submarine arm will continue to face turbulence. India is going in for an additional three Scorpene-class submarines, sources said, adding that this will take time for the actual signing of contracts and delivery. The Navy's proposal to acquire six more advanced submarines with better technology has already been delayed by over a decade, and the likelihood of the first being delivered by [Y] is slim.

Q41. Which of the following will be redacted as [X]?

a. 15
b. 08
c. 24
d. 11

Q42. Who is the current chief of naval staff?

a. Karambir Singh
b. Robin K Dhawan
c. R Hari Kumar
d. Sunil Lanba

Q43. Why has the Indian Navy been heavily dependent on Western Nations for its various artillery options?

a. Because of a lack of military industry with specific focus on the needs of Indian Navy.
b. Because governments in India lacked foresight to develop navy to its best and instead focused on the Indian Army and Air Force.
c. Because the Indian made options are usually indulged in corruption
d. Both a & c.

Q44. Which of the following will be redacted as [Y]?

a. 2025
b. 2030
c. 2028
d. 2035

Q45. How many Aircraft carriers does the Indian Navy currently possess?

a. One
b. Two
c. Three
d. Four

A contingent of 45 soldiers from the Indian Army will depart for Seychelles to take part in the [X] edition of the

Joint Military Exercise 'LAMITIYE-2024' between the Indian Army and Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF) from 18 March to 27 March 2024.

According to the Indian Army, the exercise is aimed at enhancing interoperability in sub-conventional operations in semi-urban environments with a focus on the neutralisation of likely threats in a semi-urban environment. This training will showcase the use of new-generation equipment and technology. The 10-day long exercise will comprise of field training exercises, combat discussions, lectures, and demonstrations.

It is expected that this exercise will contribute significantly towards the development of mutual understanding and cooperation between the troops of both the armies. The exercise is a biennial training event which has been conducted in Seychelles since [Y].

Q46. Which of the following will be redacted as [X]?

a. 12^{th}
b. 10^{th}
c. 15^{th}
d. 8^{th}

Q47. What is the capital of Seychelles?

a. Victoria
b. La Passe
c. Beau Vallon
d. La Reunion

Q48. Who is the current President of Seychelles?

a. James Michel
b. Danny Faure
c. France-Albert Rene
d. Wavel Ramkalawan

Q49. Which of the following will be redacted as [Y]?

a. 2004
b. 2001
c. 1995
d. 2010

Q50. Why is India conducting with exercise with such a small nation?

a. In order to maintain its dominance in that region.
b. In order to keep a check on China's activities in the region and also to improve ties with this island nation.
c. In order to train its namesake military.
d. Both a & c.

Officials from India and Maldives Sunday held the third core group meeting in Malé, where they discussed the ongoing deputation of Indian technical personnel to replace military personnel operating three Indian aviation platforms in the archipelago country.

"During the meeting, both sides reviewed the ongoing deputation of Indian technical personnel to enable continued operation of Indian aviation platforms that provide humanitarian and medevac services to the people of Maldives," the ministry of external affairs (MEA) said in a statement.

Expediting the implementation of ongoing development projects was also discussed, said the MEA. The Maldivian government is yet to issue a statement on the meeting. The meeting comes days after the Maldivian government, led by President Mohamed Muizzu, purchased drones from Turkey for patrolling the country's maritime area.

Weeks earlier, on the heels of the arrival of an Indian civilian team in the country to replace Indian military personnel, China and Maldives inked new defence agreements, including one in which Beijing agreed to provide free military assistance to Maldives. Earlier this week, during a weekly press briefing, the Indian side confirmed that the first batch of Indian military personnel in Maldives has been replaced.

"The turnaround of the first team of personnel who were operating the [advanced light helicopter] ALH, has been completed," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal told reporters.

There are approximately [X] unarmed Indian military personnel deployed in the Maldives as part of an memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Malé and New Delhi. They consist of military engineers, trainers and pilots. The three Indian aviation platforms include two ALH and a Dornier aircraft which have been used for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief purposes in the Maldives. Last December, Muizzu and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the COP28 Summit in [Y] where they agreed to set up a high-level committee to further strengthen cooperation between their nations.

So far, three high-level meetings have been held between the two countries, mainly to iron out issues on the withdrawal of Indian military personnel from the country — a major campaign promise of Muizzu ahead of the presidential elections last year.

During the second core-level meeting this February, the two sides agreed to phased replacement of Indian military personnel. First, troops will be withdrawn from one aviation platform by 10 March and then the other two platforms by 10 May.

Q51. Which of the following will be redacted as [X]?

a. 90
b. 86
c. 77
d. 120

Q52. Why does Maldives want to push out Indian troops?

a. Because India is planning to occupy Maldives.
b. Because India has always been an aggressor in the Indian Ocean region.
c. Because the present ruling party came to power on the bank of "India Out" campaign and wants to implement that promise.
d. Both b & c.

Q53. Which of the following will be redacted as [Y]?

a. Moscow
b. Riyadh
c. Dubai
d. Tokyo

Q54. In which year did Maldives gain independence from the Britishers?

a. 1948
b. 1951
c. 1960
d. 1965

Q55. Whom did Mohammad Muizzu succeed as the President of Maldives?

a. Mohammad Nasheed
b. Abdulla Yameen
c. Mohammed Wahid Hassan
a. Ibrahim Mohamed Solih

LEGAL REASONING

Q56.-Q60. The **Patna High Court** has observed that a husband calling his wife '*Bhoot*' (ghost) or '*Pisach*' (Vampire) itself does not constitute an act of cruelty. A bench of **Justice Bibek Chaudhuri** added that in matrimonial relations, especially in failed matrimonial relations, there are incidents where both the husband and wife abuse each other by using filthy language, however, all such accusations do not come within the veil of "cruelty'. The court made these observations while setting aside a husband's conviction under Section 498A IPC and Section 4 of the Dowry Prohibition Act 1961. The Court allowed the revision plea moved by the husband challenging the order of the Additional Sessions Judge, Nalanda at Biharsharif upholding the order of his conviction passed by Chief Judicial Magistrate, Nalanda. The Opposite Party No. 2 (father of the wife) filed a complaint in 1994 before the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Nawada against her husband and their family members, alleging, inter alia, that after his daughter got married to the petitioner no. 2 (husband), she was subjected to physical and mental torture on account of dowry demand. The said complaint was referred to the Police under Section 156(3) CrPC and accordingly, a case was lodged under Sections 498A, 323, 120B, 348 and 386 of the Indian Penal Code and Sections 3/4 of the Dowry Prohibition Act,1961. On completion of the investigation, the Police submitted a charge sheet against the Petitioners and 11 other persons named in the FIR. Both the Trial Court as well as the Court of Appeal, convicted and sentenced the Petitioners to rigorous imprisonment for one year for offence

under Section 498A IPC and rigorous imprisonment for six months for the offence punishable under S. 4 of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961.Challenging his conviction, the husband moved the HC wherein his counsel argued that there were no specific averments in the complaint as to who demanded dowry and when it was demanded and how the wife was tortured. It was also contended that she was never medically treated for such torture allegedly perpetrated upon her by the Petitioner-husband. On the other hand, the Counsel for the wife's father argued that the Petitioner-husband and their family members used to abuse her by calling her “Bhoot” (ghost) and “Pisach” and that by saying so, they inflicted immense cruelty on the wife.At the outset, the Court rejected the argument that just by calling his wife 'Bhoot' and 'Pishach', the husband inflicted cruelty on his wife. The Court also observed that though the wife stated in her evidence that she informed the matter regarding the torture to her father by a series of letters, however, not a single letter was produced by the de facto complainant during the trial of the case. The Court also noted that no document was produced to show that the contesting Petitioners personally demanded a Maruti Car and on non-fulfilment of such demand, the wife (daughter of the de facto complainant) was subjected to cruelty. The Court also took into account the fact that no specific distinct allegations were made against the husband or his family members. In view of this, the Court opined that the case under Section 498 A of the Indian Penal Code was the outcome of personal grudge and differences between both the parties. Against this backdrop, the Court set aside the order of conviction and allowed the revision plea.
Source: Calling Wife 'Bhoot', 'Pishach' Not Cruelty: Patna High Court Sets Aside Husband's Conviction U/S 498A IPC (livelaw.in)

Q56. Cruelty as a ground for divorce refers to:
a. To violent acts.
b. To conduct by one spouse that causes physical harm to the other, making it impossible for the injured party to continue the marital relationship.
c. To the conduct in relation to or in respect of matrimonial conduct in respect of matrimonial obligations.
d. None of the above.

Q57. Mr. Prasad referred to his wife as 'Bhoot' (ghost) and 'Pisach' (Vampire) during an argument in their home. Mrs. Prasad, feeling hurt and insulted by these derogatory terms, filed for divorce on the grounds of cruelty. Whether the husband calling his wife 'Bhoot' and 'Pisach' constitutes an act of cruelty under the provisions of the law? Determine the most appropriate answer:
a. No, since the mere use of terms like 'Bhoot' and 'Pisach' by the husband towards his wife in the heat of a marital dispute does not automatically constitute an act of cruelty.
b. Yes, since the usage of terms like 'Bhoot' or 'Pisach' by the husband towards his wife were unpleasant, disrespectful and offensive.
c. No, since the mere use of terms like 'Bhoot' and 'Pisach' by the husband towards his wife, in the absence of any further evidence of physical or mental abuse.

d. None of the above.

Q58. X and Y, the parties got married in 2015, but soon after the marriage, disputes arose between them. Both the husband and wife engaged in verbal altercations, often resorting to using derogatory language towards each other. The wife alleged that the husband consistently called her with derogatory names like "moti" (fat) and "kaamchor", which she claimed amounted to mental cruelty. In response, the husband also claimed that the wife used foul language towards him. Whether the husband calling his wife "moti" constitutes an act of cruelty under the provisions of the law?

a. No, since the wife, in response, also resorted to using foul language and abusive terms towards the husband.

b. Yes, since the wife alleged that the husband consistently called her with derogatory names like "moti" (fat) and "kaamchor", with a pattern of abusive behavior or intent to harm her which automatically constitutes an act of cruelty.

c. No, since the mere use of terms like "moti" (fat) and "kaamchor", by the husband towards his wife in the heat of a marital dispute does not automatically constitute an act of cruelty.

d. None of the above.

Q59. A and B got married in 2010. Over time, their marriage was plagued with frequent arguments and disagreements. Both A and B engaged in verbal spats, often using abusive language towards each other. Amidst the heated arguments, both parties hurled insults and derogatory remarks towards each other. In 2022, B filed a complaint against A under Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) alleging cruelty and harassment for dowry demands. She also invoked Section 4 of the Dowry Prohibition Act 1961. The lower court convicted A based on B's allegations of verbal abuse and offensive language used during their disputes. Whether the exchange of abusive language between the spouses, without any additional evidence of cruelty or harassment amounting to dowry demands, falls under the purview of "cruelty" as defined in Section 498A IPC and Section 4 of the Dowry Prohibition Act 1961. Decide:

a. No, since both A and B engaged in verbal spats, often using abusive language towards each other.

b. Yes, since the allegations of abusive language alone were sufficient to sustain the charges under Section 498A IPC and Section 4 of the Dowry Prohibition Act 1961.

c. No, since mere allegations without substantial evidence were insufficient to sustain the charges under Section 498A IPC and Section 4 of the Dowry Prohibition Act 1961.

d. Yes, since allegations of verbal altercations and the use of offensive language, with any nexus to dowry demands or sustained harassment.

Q60. In relation to 'Cruelty' as a ground for divorce, which one of the following statements is untrue?

a. Cruelty is the conduct in relation to or in respect of matrimonial conduct in respect of matrimonial obligations.
b. It is the conduct which adversely affects the spouse.
c. Both a and b.
d. None of the above.

Q61.-Q65. Delhi High Court has observed that Article 21A of the Constitution is only for free and compulsory education to children up to the age of fourteen, but it does not entitle a child to insist on admission to a particular school. This clarification came from Justice C Hari Shankar while dismissing a plea by a seven-year-old girl, represented by her mother, who sought admission as an Economically Weaker Section (EWS) student in Class II for the academic year 2023-24. The case stemmed from the applicant being shortlisted in a computerised draw by the Directorate of Education (DoE) for admission to Class I in a specific school for the academic session 2022-23. Despite this, her admission was refused by the school, leading to a legal challenge.Justice Shankar pointed out that the girl's application for admission in the subsequent academic year (2023-24) as an EWS student was not made, hence her name was not included in any draw of lots for that year. This absence of application and the subsequent draw meant she had no legal entitlement to admission in that specific academic year. The court said that the constitutional and statutory right under Article 21A and Section 12 of the Right to Education Act (RTE) is to free and compulsory education until age fourteen, not education in a particular school of choice. It also clarified that rights established by a draw of lots for a specific academic year do not automatically carry over to the next academic year for a different class. Justice Shankar underlined that each academic year is considered a new session, and if a child, despite being shortlisted, does not secure admission for any reason and lets the academic year pass without legal action, they cannot claim a right to admission in the next academic year based on previous shortlisting. While the court rejected the plea for admission to Class II in the specific school, it directed the DoE to make efforts to ensure the girl secures admission as an EWS student in Class II in another school, reaffirming the commitment to ensuring education for all under the constitutional mandate, albeit without the provision for admission to a school of choice.
Source: Delhi High Court Clarifies Article 21A Does Not Guarantee Admission To A Specific School (freepressjournal.in)

Q61. In relation to Article 21A of the Constitution, which one of the following statements is untrue?
a. The Constitution (Eighty-sixth Amendment) Act, 2002 inserted Article 21-A in the Constitution of India.
b. Article 21-A in the Constitution of India to provide free and compulsory education of all children in the age group of six to fourteen years as a Fundamental Right in such a manner as the State may, by law, determine.
c. Both a and b.
d. None of the above.

Q62. A seven-year-old girl named Riya, represented by her mother, sought admission as an Economically Weaker Section (EWS) student in Class II for the academic year 2023-24 at a prominent school in Delhi i.e, Delhi Public School located outside their district, citing concerns about the quality of education in the local government school. The school denied her admission citing lack of vacancies under the EWS quota. Riya's mother filed a petition in the Delhi High Court claiming a violation of Riya's fundamental right to education under Article 21A of the Indian Constitution. She argued that the right to choose a specific school fell under the ambit of Article 21A. Whether the right to choose a specific school for a child's education is protected under Article 21A of the Indian Constitution?

a. Yes, since Riya belongs to the Economically Weaker Section (EWS). It ensuring access to education for all children, especially those belonging to economically weaker sections

b. No, since the right available under Article 21A of the Constitution is only to free and compulsory education till the age of fourteen, not for being provided such education in a particular school.

c. Yes, since the right available under Article 21A of the Constitution is to free and compulsory education till the age of fourteen which confers on any child a constitutional right to be educated in a particular school of his or her choice.

d. None of the above.

Q63. A 7-year-old girl, represented by her mother, sought admission as an EWS student in Class II for the academic session 2023-24 at Maharaja Agrasen Model School. The girl was shortlisted for admission to Class I for the previous academic session 2022-23 through a draw of lots conducted by the Directorate of Education (DoE). Despite being shortlisted, the school refused to admit her. Whether the girl, not having applied for admission as an EWS student for the academic session 2023-24, could claim a right to admission in a particular school and class based on her previous shortlisting by the DoE? Decide:

a. No, since the girl was not shortlisted in the computerized draw of lots conducted by the Directorate of Education (DoE).

b. Yes, since the girl was shortlisted in the computerized draw of lots conducted by the Directorate of Education (DoE).

c. No, since the girl's application for admission in the subsequent academic year (2023-24) as an EWS student was not made.

d. None of the above.

Q64. In relation to free and compulsory education till the age of fourteen, which one of the following statements is true?

a. The right available under Article 21A of the Constitution is to free and compulsory education till the age of fourteen which confers on any child a constitutional right to be educated in a particular school of his or her choice.
b. The right available under Section 12 of the RTE Act is only to free and compulsory education till the age of fourteen, not for being provided such education in a particular school.
c. Both a and b.
d. None of the above.

Q65. What is the central idea of the passage?
a. The passage emphasizes that the right to education under Article 21A and the RTE Act guarantees free and compulsory education for children up to the age of fourteen. This implies that the state is obligated to ensure that every child receives such education with certain cost.
b. The passage emphasizes that while every child has the constitutional right to free and compulsory education until the age of fourteen, this right does extend to admission in a specific school.
c. The passage clarifies that the right to education does not include the constitutional right for a child to be educated in a particular school of their choice.
d. All of the above.

Q66.-Q70. Winfield has defined Private nuisance as unlawful interference with a person's use or enjoyment of land, or some right over, or in connection with it. There are following elements, which have to be proved by the plaintiff in every case of nuisance: (i) Undue or unreasonable interference, (ii) Interference must be with the use or enjoyment of land and (iii) Damage. There are some unwarranted inferences which cause damage to the plaintiff and such interferences are termed as undue or unreasonable. Undue or unreasonable interference refers to that which exceeds the limited usage in the society. If someone is erecting/constructing a building and in doing so it creates too much noise and dust, here, the action may lie. The interference should be continuous or repetitive. For example, A, everyday beats a drum from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. which creates a lot of noise and disturbs the sleep of B, his neighbour. Here, the activity of A is unusual and it doesn't happen so frequently in the society and, thus, A unduly interferes with B's enjoyment of land and it is also unusual because it is not in accordance with the usage of mankind in the particular society. Abnormal sensitive person or property-If a person is oversensitive to a particular thing but for others that particular thing is very normal, then it is not nuisance. Intention (Malice)- If defendant is intentionally doing something to cause annoyance to plaintiff, then defendant's intent is certainly a relevant factor in nuisance. We can also say that an act of the defendant which is otherwise lawful may become a nuisance if done with malice. Interference with the use or enjoyment of property: In private nuisance, an interference may cause either (a) injury to property-If property gets damaged due to an unauthorized interference then it is actionable as nuisance. In St. Helen's Smelting Co. v. Tipping, (1865) 11 HL Cas 642, fumes were emitted from the defendant's factory which damaged plaintiff's tree and plants. The defendants were held liable since such damage was held as an injury to the property of the

plaintiff. or (b) injury to comfort or health of an occupier of land -If there is substantial interference with a man's comfort or health then the action for injury arises. Discomfort and inconvenience is determined, not by taking into account the particular plaintiff, but on the basis of average man residing in the same area. Carrying on an offensive trade as to interfere with another's health and comfort or his occupation of property is a nuisance. Accumulation of filth, sewage and stagnant water causing injury to health and discomfort may also amount to nuisance.
Source: http://student.manupatra.com/Academic/Abk/Law-of-Torts/Chapter20.htm#Whatisundue

Q66. Gurpreet filed a suit against Sukhwinder to stop him from installing a flour mill in his premises. Gurpreet was residing in the same premises where Sukhwinder intended to install the flour mill. Gurpreet claimed that the noise from the flour mill would disturb his peace and negatively impact his health. Whether the installation of the flour mill by Sukhwinder would constitute a nuisance to Gurpreet?
a. No, since it was not a case of nuisance.
b. Yes, since it interfered with Gurpreet's physical comfort and peaceful enjoyment of his property.
c. No, since the installation of the flour mill by Shukhwinder did not amount to nuisance.
d. None of the above.

Q67. The incumbent and trustees of a church located near the defendant's power station were disturbed by a persistent "buzzing sound" emanating from the power station. They claimed that the noise was causing annoyance and distraction during church services and activities. However, for the general public and other attendees, the noise was not considered significant or bothersome. Whether the "buzzing sound" from the defendant's power station, which was causing annoyance to the incumbent and trustees of the church, constituted nuisance despite being perceived as normal by others?
a. Yes, since the noise was causing annoyance and distraction to the incumbent and trustees of the church during church services and activities.
b. No, since causing annoyance to the specific individuals at the church, did not disrupt the attention of an ordinary person or significantly bother other attendees.
c. Yes, since the annoyance was not limited to certain sensitive individuals.
d. Cannot be determined.

Q68. Ram and Shyam were neighbors living in a residential area. Shyam decided to construct a poultry farm in his backyard. This decision was opposed by Ram as he was concerned about the noise and smell that would emanate from the farm. Ram claimed that this would disturb the peaceful enjoyment of his property and affect his health due to the foul odor. Whether the construction and operation of a poultry farm by Shyam amounts to nuisance?
a. No, since it was not a case of nuisance.

b. Yes, since it interfered with Ram's physical comfort and peaceful enjoyment of his property.
c. No, since the construction and operation of the poultry farm by Shyam did not amount to nuisance.
d. None of the above.

Q69. The plaintiff and the defendant were neighbors. The plaintiff and their family enjoyed music and would often sing and play instruments, which, unfortunately, disturbed the defendant. In response to this disturbance, the defendant deliberately engaged in noisy and disruptive behavior such as hammering the wall, beating trays, shrieking, and whistling, all with the intention of causing annoyance to the plaintiff. Whether the defendant is liable for nuisance?
a. No, since the plaintiff and their family enjoyed music and would often sing and play instruments, which, unfortunately, disturbed the defendant.
b. Yes, since the defendant deliberately engaged in noisy and disruptive behavior such as hammering the wall, beating trays, shrieking, and whistling, all with the intention of causing annoyance to the plaintiff.
c. No, since the same actions had occurred between two parties who were both innocent in their intentions.
d. None of the above.

Q70. Greenfields Construction Co. was carrying out construction activities near Smith's residential property. During the construction process, significant amounts of debris, dust, and loud noises were constantly affecting Smith's property. As a result, Smith's garden, including plants and trees, were heavily damaged. Whether Greenfields Construction Co. was held liable for the damage caused to Smith's garden and property?
a. No, since fumes were not emitted from the defendant's factory which damaged the plaintiff's tree and plants.
b. Yes, since the interference with Smith's property rights was substantial and unreasonable.
c. No, the emissions and disturbances caused by the construction activities did not amount to nuisance.
d. None of the above.

Q71.-Q75. Sections 20, 21 and 22, of the Indian Contract Act deal with mistakes in the formation of the contracts. The rules of law dealing with the effect of mistake on contract appear to be established with reasonable clarity. If mistake operates at all it operates so as to the negative or in some cases to nullify consent. The parties may be mistaken in the identity of the contracting parties or in the existence of the subject-matter of the contract at the date of the contract or in the quality of the subject-matter of a contract. It is essential to the creation of a contract that both parties should agree to the same thing in the same sense. Thus if two persons enter into an apparent contract concerning a particular person or ship, and it turns out that each of them misled by a similarity of name, had a different person or ship in mind no contract would exist between them. Section 20: Agreement void where both parties are under mistake as to matter of fact.-When both the parties to an agreement are under a mistake as to a matter of fact essential to the agreement the agreement is void. Explanation.-An erroneous opinion as to the value of the thing

which forms the subject-matter of the agreement, is not to be deemed a mistake as to a matter of fact. Illustration: A agrees to sell to B a specific cargo of goods supposed to be on its way from England to Bombay. It turns out that before the day of the bargain the ship conveying the cargo had been cast away and the goods lost. Neither party was aware of these facts, the agreement is void. Section 21: Effect of mistakes as to law.-A contract is not voidable because it was caused by a mistake as to any law in force in India but a mistake or to a law not in force in India has the same effect as a mistake of fact. Illustration.-A and B make a contract grounded on the erroneous belief that a particular debt is barred by the Indian Law of Limitation, the contract is not voidable. Section 21 of the Contract Act, which lays down that a contract cannot be avoided even if it was caused by a mistake of law gives statutory recognition to this doctrine. A mistake as to a law not in force in India has the same effect as to mistake of fact. Therefore, it will have followings- (i) a agreement under bilateral mistake of law shall be void, (ii) a unilateral mistake of law shall not be voidable. Section 22: Contract caused by mistake of one party as to matter of fact.-A contract is not voidable merely because it was caused by one of the parties to it being under a mistake as to a matter of fact.
Source: http://student.manupatra.com/Academic/Abk/Law-of-Contract-and-Specific-Relief/Chapter6.htm#e15

Q71. When both the parties to an agreement are under a mistake as to a matter of fact essential to the agreement the agreement is:
a. Valid.
b. Void.
c. Voidable.
d. Cannot be determined.

Q72. In relation to the distinction between Mistake of fact and Mistake of law, which one of the following statements is untrue?
a. There is no distinction; both terms mean the same thing.
b. In Mistake of Fact party shall be allowed to claim any relief on the grounds of ignorance of Indian law. whereas in Mistake of Fact no party shall be allowed to claim any relief on the grounds of ignorance of Indian law.
c. There is no excuse for Mistake of Law whereas in Mistake of Fact there is no excuse, except in those cases where motive is an essential ingredient for Mistake of Fact.
d. None of the above.

Q73. In relation to a matter of fact, which one of the following agreements is void. Select the correct answer:
a. A agrees to buy from B, a certain horse. It turns out that the horse was dead at the time of the bargain, though neither party was aware of the fact.

b. A, being entitled to an estate for the life of B agrees to sell it to C. B was dead at the time of agreement, but both parties were ignorant of the fact.
c. Both a and b.
d. None of the above.

Q74. An auction was held for the sale of fishery rights. The plaintiff placed the highest bid of Rs. 40,000. The fishery rights were to be auctioned for a period of 3 years. The annual rent for the fishery rights was also Rs. 40,000. The plaintiff later claimed that he had bid Rs. 40,000 thinking it was the rent for all three years, not the annual rent. Whether the plaintiff could avoid the contract on the ground of mistake. Decide:
a. Yes, since the contract was affected by the mistake.
b. No, since the mistake was unilateral (meaning it was made by one party only) i. e, made by the plaintiff alone.
c. Yes, since the mistake was made by both the parties regarding the understanding of the bid amount.
d. None of the above.

Q75. The defendant intended to sell land in terms of Kanals. The plaintiff intended to purchase it in terms of 'bighas'. Bighas and Kanal are different units of measurement, conveying different impressions regarding the land area. Whether the difference in units of measurement (bighas and Kanals) used by the parties would render the agreement void under _____ of the Indian Contract Act, 1872.
a. It was held that the agreement is void under section 20 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872.
b. It was held that the agreement is void under section 21 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872.
c. It was held that the agreement is void under section 22 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872.
d. None of the above.

Q76.-Q80. The Supreme Court reiterated that a suspicion, however strong it may be, cannot take the place of proof beyond reasonable doubt. The Court explained that "where the prosecution proves that the deceased was last seen in the company of the appellants and the death of the deceased has occurred soon thereafter, the burden would shift upon the appellants." However, merely because the appellants were seen near the place where the crime occurred cannot be the implication that the deceased was last seen in the company of the appellants. Justice B.R. Gavai and Justice Sandeep Mehta observed, "It is settled law that the suspicion, however strong it may be, cannot take the place of proof beyond reasonable doubt. An accused cannot be convicted on the ground of suspicion, no matter how strong it is. An accused is presumed to be innocent unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt." An FIR was lodged against the appellants under Section 302 of the IPC. the case of the prosecution was that one of the appellants bore enmity towards the complainant due to business losses and had allegedly conspired to murder the father (the deceased) of the complainant. On the day of the incident, the appellants attempted to assault the

deceased with a chopper from the backside, who later succumbed to his injuries. The appellants were arrested and were convicted under Sections 120-B and 302 read with 34 of the IPC. The Karnataka High Court altered the conviction to Part-I of Section 304 of IPC from Section 302 of IPC. The appellants argued that their conviction was based on circumstantial evidence where the prosecution had failed to prove any of the incriminating circumstances. The Supreme Court agreed with the said submission. The Court reiterated that "the circumstances from which the conclusion of the guilt is to be drawn should be fully established." The Court relied on the judgment rendered in Sharad Birdhichand Sarda v. State of Maharashtra 1984 INSC 121 where the Supreme Court had held that "it is a primary principle that the accused 'must be' and not merely 'may be' proved guilty before a court can convict the accused." Consequently, the Court acquitted the appellants and the judgment of the High Court was quashed and set aside.

Source: https://www.verdictum.in/court-updates/supreme-court/raghunatha-v-the-state-of-karnataka-2024-insc-238-suspicion-cannot-take-place-of-proof-beyond-reasonable-doubt-circumstantial-evidence-1526822

Q76. The burden of proof required in a criminal case for the prosecution to prove its allegations is:

a. Preponderance of the evidence.
b. Beyond a reasonable doubt.
c. Clear and convincing evidence.
d. None of the above.

Q77. X and Y were acquainted with the deceased, Mr. Z. On the evening of the incident, X and Y were seen near the location where Mr. Z's body was discovered the next morning. Autopsy reports indicated that Mr. Z died from strangulation. X and Y had a history of conflicts with Mr. Z over a business deal gone sour. Whether the mere presence of X and Y near the crime scene, where Mr. Z's body was found later, is sufficient to establish beyond a reasonable doubt that they were last seen in the company of the deceased? Decide:

a. Yes, since their proximity to the crime scene alone is conclusive proof of their involvement in the crime.
b. Yes, since mere suspicion or circumstantial evidence is enough to shift the burden of proof onto the accused.
c. Yes, since X and Y had a history of conflicts with Mr. Z over a business deal gone sour.
d. None of the above.

Q78. A reported that her valuable jewelry went missing after a social gathering at her house, where B and C were also present. The jewelry was last seen on a table in the living room before the guests left. No one else had access to the house during that time. Whether the evidence of the jewelry being last seen in the company of B and C creates a sufficient link to establish their involvement in the theft?

a. Yes, since B and C were indeed present where the jewelry was last seen, their proximity to the crime scene is conclusive proof of their involvement in the crime.
b. No, since the absence of further evidence linking B and C directly to establish their involvement in the theft, their proximity to the crime scene alone is not conclusive proof of their involvement in the crime.
c. Yes, since witnesses saw them taking the jewelry or proving their intent to steal.
d. No of the above.

Q79. An FIR was lodged against the appellants under Section 302 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). The prosecution alleged that one of the appellants, due to business losses, harbored enmity towards the complainant and conspired to murder the complainant's father (the deceased). On the day of the incident, the appellants attempted to assault the deceased with a chopper from behind, leading to his demise. The appellants were arrested and convicted under Sections 120-B (criminal conspiracy) and 302 (murder) read with 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) of the IPC. The Karnataka High Court altered the conviction to Part-I of Section 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) of the IPC from Section 302. Whether the Court set aside the conviction of the appellants under Section 304 Part-I of the IPC? Determine the most appropriate answer:
a. No, since on the day of the incident, the appellants attempted to assault the deceased with a chopper from behind, leading to his demise.
b. Yes, since appellant conviction was based on circumstantial evidence.
c. Yes, since the lack of conclusive proof and the absence of established incriminating circumstances.
d. None of the above.

Q80. In relation to an accused being presumed to be innocent unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, which one of the following statements is untrue?
a. The absence of a presumption of innocence would contradict the principles of a fair trial, as enshrined in Article 21 of the Indian Constitution, which guarantees the right to life and personal liberty.
b. In civil proceedings, the burden of proof rests on the plaintiff, who initiates the case by presenting the facts and legal reasons.
c. Both a and b.
d. None of the above.

Q81-85. The court held that application under Section 11 of The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 by the first wife seeking declaration of husband’s second marriage as void is maintainable. The bench comprising justice Saumitra Dayal Singh and justice Vinod Diwakar dismissed the petition filed by Garima Singh who had challenged the order granted by family court which allowed the first wife to challenge her husband’s second marriage. The facts of the case were that Pratima Singh married Raghvendra Singh but due to certain matrimonial disputes, Raghvendra Singh filed a divorce suit before the family court. In the

divorce suit, Pratima filed a counterclaim for restitution of conjugal rites praying that she wants to live with her husband in their matrimonial home. The divorce plea was rejected, and the counterclaim filed by Pratima was allowed with directives to Raghvendra Singh to bring Pratima to his house. Meanwhile, Pratima Singh came to know that her husband married one Garima Singh. During the pendency of this case, Raghvendra Singh died. The second wife was also made respondent in the case. The second wife took a preliminary objection that the first wife couldn't file a case to declare her husband's second marriage as void. The family court decided the preliminary objection in favor of the first wife that she can file a suit seeking declaration of her husband's second marriage as void. Aggrieved by the same, the second wife challenged the order before the high court. The high court upheld the family court's decision and dismissed the appeal filed by the second wife.
Source: https://www.hindustantimes.com/amp

Q81. The husband, A, contracted a second marriage during the subsistence of his first marriage with B. B filed an application under Section 11 of the Hindu Marriage Act seeking a declaration that her husband's second marriage was void. Whether a second marriage entered into by a Hindu husband during the subsistence of the first marriage, without obtaining a divorce or declaring the first marriage as void, would be considered null and void under Section 11 of the Hindu Marriage Act.
a. Yes.
b. No.
c. Maybe.
d. Cannot be determined.

Q82. Ajay, a Hindu husband who converted to Islam and married again without obtaining a divorce from his first wife. Whether such a second marriage would be considered valid or void. Decide:
a. Yes, allowing Ajay to escape the consequences of bigamy by converting to another religion would undermine the principles of justice and equality. Therefore, the second marriage in this case was declared void and Ajay (the husband) was held guilty of bigamy.
b. Yes, husband's conversion to Islam does not dissolve his marriage under Hindu personal law. Therefore, the second marriage in this case was declared void and Ajay (the husband) was held guilty of bigamy.
c. Both a and b.
d. None of the above.

Q83. The husband, Nikhil, remarried during the lifetime of his first wife, Mamta, without obtaining a divorce. Mamta filed a petition seeking a declaration that the second marriage was void under Section 11 of the Hindu Marriage Act. Whether the second marriage of Nikhil should be declared void under Section 11 of the Hindu Marriage Act. Decide:

a. Nikhil had not obtained a divorce from his first wife before entering into the second marriage. Therefore, the second marriage in this case was declared void under Section 11 of the Hindu Marriage Act.
b. The second marriage in this case was declared void under Section 11 of the Hindu Marriage Act. This is because Bigamy is illegal in many jurisdictions, including India.
c. Both a and b.
d. None of the above.

Q84. A married B but due to certain matrimonial disputes, B filed a divorce suit before the family court. In the divorce suit, A filed a counterclaim for restitution of conjugal rites praying that she wants to live with her husband in their matrimonial home. The divorce plea was rejected, and the counterclaim filed by A was allowed with directives to B to bring A to his house. Meanwhile, A came to know that her husband married one C. During the pendency of this case, B died. The second wife was also made respondent in the case. The second wife took a preliminary objection that the first wife couldn't file a case to declare her husband's second marriage as void. Determine the most appropriate answer:
a. Yes, the first wife, A, has the right to file a case to declare her husband's second marriage as void. This is because the husband's second marriage to C during the pendency of the divorce suit constitutes bigamy.
b. Yes, first wife B can file a suit of declaration of the second marriage as illegal and void. This is because Bigamy is illegal in many jurisdictions, including India.
c. Both a and b.
d. None of the above.

Q85. In the above mentioned case, if B (the husband) who converted to Islam and married C without obtaining a divorce from his first wife. The second wife took a preliminary objection that the first wife couldn't file a case to declare her husband's second marriage as void. Decide:
a. Yes, the first wife, A, has the right to file a case to declare her husband's second marriage as void. This is because the husband's second marriage to C during the pendency of the divorce suit constitutes bigamy.
b.Yes, the first wife, A, has the right to file a case to declare her husband's second marriage as void. This is because the first marriage between A and B would continue to subsist even after B's conversion to Islam and his subsequent marriage to C.
c. Both a and b.
d. None of the above.

CRITICAL REASONING

A proposal by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology that seeks to force social media platforms to take down content "factchecked" by the Government's Press Information Bureau (PIB) as

false needs to be opposed without even a second look. The proposed amendment to the IT Rules opens the door for the PIB or any other agency "authorised by the central government for fact checking for the purpose of such takedowns. This is problematic at many levels, with deep implications for free speech and information. At the most basic level, the question to be asked is how a wing of the "nodal agency of the Government of India", whose job is "to disseminate information to the print and electronic media on government policies, programmes, initiatives and achievements", could be the deciding authority on what is factual and what is not.

The disturbing absurdity of an interested party also playing the judge cannot be missed. It is a really nasty world of disinformation out there but one would have to be delusional to think that governments do not have an axe to grind. If the proposal is implemented, the government can play the super censor at will. While this proposal signals a new low in the administration's thinking on matters of regulating news and information, things were not rosy prior to this either. The government in recent years has given enough indications that it wants to control the news sphere. The reworked IT Rules in early 2021 are an example of this. A similar mindset was reflected in the provisions of the data privacy Bill that gave government agencies a free pass. Defending the government and its institutions in the public sphere by putting out data or statements is very much within the PIB's ambit and logically defensible, but fact-checking is a very different thing.

This is not to say that the PIB's fact-check unit has not debunked rumours circulating on various social media platforms. It has, but it has done so as the agency of the government. Making its "fact-checks" binding on news disseminating platforms is something else. With this, the government will have a tool with which to easily throttle voices opposing it. Indeed, it will be the sole arbiter of truth. The Editors Guild of India has rightly criticized the proposal by pointing out that the "determination of fake news cannot be in the sole hands of the government and will result in the censorship of the press". Fake news has to be dealt with in an appropriate manner, but the proposal in question will only make the task harder.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from The Times of India]

Q86. Which of the following, if true, will weaken the passage?

a. Mr. Biden defended the decision taken by the Pentagon, a government-funded channel to regularly scrutiny on Senate's policies for Washington Post.

b. Reelchat social media app has decided that a new AI software will examine fake news before sending it for publication.

c. People's Monocratic Channel, a public broadcasting channel, sends news to Hamlet Broadcasting Corporation, which scrutinizes the decision for its website publication after considering public opinion.

d. PIB has decided to use AI software which is used by many countries for fact-checking and publishing news.

Q87. Which of the following can be inferred? 'While this proposal signals a new low in the administration's thinking on matters of regulating news and information, things were not rosy prior to this either.'

a. Things were mostly nasty earlier than they are now.
b. Things were nasty earlier but there is a hope that things will get sorted.
c. Things were not as nasty earlier as they are now.
d. None of the above.

Q88. Which of the following can be aptly concluded from the above passage?
a. The author is against the nodal agency disseminating such information related to government policies.
b. The PIB might be good at checking facts, but it cannot be the sole arbiter of truth.
c. The decision by the government is towards censoring the voice of the opposition.
d. IT rules, Privacy bills along with other decisions are not in the right direction to maintain transparency and fairness in the system.

Q89. What can be the suitable title of the passage?
a. Interested Party
b. A true role of the Press Information Bureau in government for fact-checking.
c. Meity's proposal to restrict social media
d. All of These.

Q90. Which of the following is the role of this statement- "The disturbing absurdity of an interested party also playing the judge cannot be missed."
a. It is an inference.
b. It is a conclusion.
c. It is an opinion.
d. It is a fact.

People have been likening light to consciousness since the days of Plato and his cave because, like light, consciousness illuminates. It makes the world manifest. It is, in the formulation of the great Carl Sagan, the Universe knowing itself. But the metaphor is not perfect. Unlike light, whose photons permeate the entire cosmos, human-grade consciousness appears to be rare in our Universe. It appears to be something akin to a single candle flame, flickering weakly in a vast and drafty void. I often think about the mysterious absence of intelligent life in the observable Universe. Humans have yet to undertake an exhaustive, or even vigorous, search for extra-terrestrial intelligence, of course. But we have gone a great deal further than a casual glance skyward. For more than 50 years, we have trained radio telescopes on nearby stars, hoping to detect an electromagnetic signal, a beacon beamed across the abyss. We have searched for sentry probes in our solar system, and we have examined local stars for evidence of alien engineering. Soon, we will begin looking for synthetic pollutants in the atmospheres of distant planets, and asteroid belts with missing metals, which might suggest mining activity. At our current rate of technological growth, humanity is on a path to be godlike in its capabilities. You could bicycle to Alpha Centauri in a few

hundred thousand years, and that's nothing on an evolutionary scale. If an advanced civilisation existed at any place in this galaxy, at any point in the past 13.8 billion years, why isn't it everywhere? Even if it moved slowly, it would only need something like .01 per cent of the Universe's lifespan to be everywhere. So why isn't it?'

The failure of these searches is mysterious, because human intelligence should not be special. Ever since the age of Copernicus, we have been told that we occupy a uniform Universe, a weblike structure stretching for tens of billions of light years, its every strand studded with starry discs, rich with planets and moons made from the same material as us. As nature obeys identical laws everywhere, surely these vast reaches contain many cauldrons where energy is magically stirred into water and rock to give birth to life. And surely some of these places nurture those first fragile cells, until they evolve into intelligent creatures that band together to form civilisations, with the foresight and staying power to build starships.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from The Hindu]

Q91. Which of the following, if true, most supports the author's argument that life surely exists beyond the Earth?

a. The technology humans employ to catch signals indicating intelligent life in the observable universe is adequate.

b. The human technology is not adequate enough to capture signals beyond a particular point in the universe.

c. Radio telescopes used in searches are not far enough from their target stars to not identify electromagnetic radiation.

d. It is not possible for a probe continuing for 50 years to not yield any positive results for which it was launched.

Q92. The author is likely to agree with which of the following?

I. The present efforts to search for extraterrestrial life don't warrant discovery of such life if it exists.

II. Our present efforts to search for extra-terrestrial intelligence are not inadequate to find such life.

III. The intelligent life beyond the Earth may take more time to evolve than the life on the Earth has.

a. Only I and II

b. Only II

c. Only III

d. Only II and III

Q93. Which of the following best represents the main topic discussed in the passage?

a. Identification of reasons for existence of intelligent life beyond the Earth

b. The Search for Advanced Extraterrestrial Civilizations beyond the Earth.

c. The Role of Radio Telescopes in Identifying Extraterrestrial Signals

d. Interstellar Communication and Advanced Technologies"

Q94. Based on the above passage, which is a logical assumption in the argument about the search for extraterrestrial intelligence?

a. The usage of some substances by extraterrestrial intelligence may cause pollutants that we know.
b. The lack of success in finding extraterrestrial intelligence so far implies that advanced civilizations do not exist in the observable Universe.
c. Humans have the capability to build starships and travel to distant planets to search for extraterrestrial intelligence.
d. All the devices that extraterrestrial intelligence uses will release electromagnetic radiation to be captured by humans.

Q95. Which of the following describes the role of the boldface statement in the passage?

a. It is a piece of information supporting the position taken by the author in the argument.
b. It highlights the author's concern about the lack of success being interpreted as non-existence of intelligent life.
c. It provides evidence supporting the claim that human-grade consciousness is akin to a single candle flame in the vast Universe.
d. It introduces the search for synthetic pollutants in the atmospheres of distant planets as a new approach to finding extraterrestrial intelligence.

Economic policies such as industrial subsidies and local content requirements have made a roaring comeback; forgotten WTO rules like security exceptions now occupy centre stage; and there is a deliberate effort to weaken trade multilateralism (binding on all) in favour of external plurilateral (binding on those who choose to) alignments keeping the big power confrontation in mind. In this milieu, it is naïve to believe that the developed G20 countries are interested in reforming the WTO for the better. A weak WTO perfectly suits the US as part of its foreign policy aimed at strategic rivalry with China. Against this background, India, under its Presidency of the G20, should work with others to drive the WTO reforms agenda to make trade multilateralism inclusive. The agenda must concern four critical areas. First, one of the cardinal pillars of the international trading regime is the presence of special and differential treatment (SDT) principle in WTO agreements. SDT provisions give special rights to developing countries and obligate developed countries to treat the former more favourably. Second, the appellate body — the second tier of the WTO's two-tiered dispute settlement body — remains paralysed since 2019 because of the US's continued nonchalance.

This is part of Washington's overall game plan to dilute the policing part of the WTO, which, in turn, allows it to pursue trade unilateralism without many checks. However, the remaining G20 countries need to either persuade the US to change its position or resurrect the appellate body without the US. Third, given the slowness of the consensus-based decision-making in the WTO, from 2017 onward, there has been a shift away from this principle toward plurilateral discussions on select issues such as investment facilitation. While the plurilateral approach is a welcome development for rule-making, there is a need to

develop a multilateral governance framework for plurilateral agreements. This governance framework should include key principles of non-discrimination, transparency, and inclusivity in incorporating the results of plurilateral negotiations in the WTO rulebook.

Forcing plurilateral agreements on non-willing members will accentuate the trust deficit between developed and developing countries. Fourth, it is imperative to address the transparency gap in the WTO, especially in terms of notification requirements. Although WTO member countries are obliged to notify all their laws and regulations that affect trade, compliance with this obligation is poor. This increases the cost of trade, especially for developing countries. Trade multilateralism might be out of fashion, but remains of vital salience for countries like India.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from The Indian Express]

Q96. Which among the following options captures the central idea of the passage?

a. The WTO is facing a crisis due to the US's unilateralism, China's rise, and the lack of consensus among its members on key issues.

b. To strengthen the WTO for better, India must drive reforms agenda to make trade multilateralism inclusive.

c. The WTO has become irrelevant in the face of new economic policies, security exceptions, and plurilateral alignments that favour the developed countries over the developing ones.

d. The WTO has to balance the interests of different groups of countries, such as the G20, the BRICS, and the LDCs, in order to maintain its legitimacy and effectiveness.

Q97. The argument in the passage cannot be true unless which of the following is true?

a. An active appellate body in the WTO's two-tiered mechanism would favour the US less than other member countries.

b. The presence of (SDT) principle in WTO agreements will give more opportunities to developing countries than the developed countries.

c. An active appellate body in the WTO's two-tiered mechanism would not favour the US any more than other member countries.

d. The WTO's agenda is to bring every member country on the same level of development regardless of the size of the member country.

Q98. Which among the following options, if true, would most strengthen the author's argument that trade multilateralism remains of vital salience for countries like India?

a. India believes in the principle of international cooperation for security, stability, and peace.

b. India's GDP is fuelled by global partnerships that also fulfil India's needs in the areas of trade, education, and health.

c. Trade multilateralism reflects India's values, principles, and aspirations, which are important for its identity and leadership in the world.

d. Trade multilateralism enables India to leverage its strengths, interests, and partnerships, somewhat

amplifying its influence and bargaining power.

Q99. Which among the following is the author most likely to agree with?

I. The WTO should be reformed in such way that developed nations are not able to carry out their plans.
II. The WTO should be reformed by addressing the issues of SDT, dispute settlement, plurilateral agreements, and transparency in a balanced and inclusive manner.
III. Reforms making the WTO more empowered may harm the cunning plans of developed nations.
IV. The WTO should be replaced by a new global trade organization that is more democratic and responsive to the needs of developing countries.

a. Only I, II, and III
b. Only II and III
c. Only II
d. Only I and II

Q100. Which among the following options, if true, would weaken the author's suggestion that India should work with others to drive the WTO reforms agenda?

a. India has a poor record of implementing and complying with the WTO rules and obligations, raising questions on its credibility and leadership in the WTO.
b. India has a strong interest in preserving and enhancing the SDT principle, which is opposed by many developed and emerging countries in the WTO.
c. Large and diversified economy, makes India less dependent on trade multilateralism and more resilient to trade shocks and disputes.
d. India has a unique and complex political system, making negotiations a time-consuming process to coordinate with other countries on trade issues.

In the last few years, the traditional definition of "marriage" has been at the centre of public debate. This churn in society signals that there is a need to evolve. Marriage has generally been understood as the legal union of a man and a woman. But recent and contemporary liberal interpretations of marriage and gender roles encompass marital relations between same-sex people. For many, the memory of times before the reading down of Section 377 is fresh. At the time, a lot of philanthropic work was being carried out by various NGOs. Section 377 was introduced by the British, under the chairmanship of Lord Macaulay. Despite that, the Section or its like finds no mention in the UK's law.

The Wolfenden Committee Report, published in 1957, recommended homosexuality be decriminalised and the Sexual Offences Act, 1967, did just that. In India, Section 377 of the IPC was challenged by way of a PIL by the Naz Foundation in the Delhi High Court in 2009. In 2018, the Supreme Court finally read the Section down in Navtej Singh Johar v Union of India. The marriage equality debate has reached the corridors of the apex court with the petitions currently being heard at the Supreme Court in Supriyo v. Union of India. A plethora of arguments have been made by both sides; the petitioners stress that same-

sex couples deserve and require legal sanction. Senior Advocate Menaka Guruswamy said: "Marriage is not only a question of dignity, but it is also a bouquet of rights that the LGBTQIA+ people are being denied. One cannot nominate their partner for life insurance as well. And, unfortunately, these are not theoretical issues. This is our life and therefore, anything short of that would not be acceptable". The plaintiffs argue that the right to marriage equality flows from the Constitution's promise of dignity, equality and fraternity.

The defendants place heavy emphasis on the sacramental union between a biological man and a biological woman. The respondents lay stress on the "conventional binary", which has been accepted by the heteronormative society, thereby alienating sexual minorities. The Solicitor General of India emphasised the need for the usage of terminology like wife under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, which would become redundant in the case of gay marriages.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from The Times of India]

Q101. Which of the following option captures the central idea of the passage?

a. The passage discusses the historical and legal background of Section 377 and its impact on the LGBTQIA+ community in India.

b. The passage analyses the arguments and counterarguments of the petitioners and respondents in the marriage equality case pending in the Supreme Court.

c. The passage explores the need to evolve the traditional definition of marriage and recognise the rights and dignity of same-sex couples in India.

d. The passage compares and contrasts the different interpretations of marriage and gender roles in India and the UK.

Q102. Which of the following option cannot be inferred from the passage?

a. The author believes that the traditional definition of marriage is outdated and discriminatory.

b. The author supports the petitioners' arguments that same-sex couples deserve and require legal sanction.

c. The author cites the respondents' arguments that marriage is a sacramental union between a biological man and a biological woman as one of the counterarguments.

d. The author compares the legal and social scenario of marriage equality in India and the UK.

Q103. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?

a. Marriage is a singular right which is unconnected with other rights.

b. There is no explicit or implicit support from the Constitution about equality in marriage.

c. Some specific terms used in marriage laws will become pertinent if equal marriage is recognised.

d. There is isolation of minorities who have demanded equal marriage status.

Q104. Which of the following is most similar to the author's arguments in the given passage except?

a. The author of a book on feminism argues that women should have equal rights and opportunities as men in all spheres of life, and criticises the patriarchal norms and structures that oppress and discriminate

against women.
b. The author of a report on climate change argues that human activities are the main cause of global warming and its adverse effects, and criticises the governments and corporations that deny or ignore the scientific evidence and the urgent need for action.
c. The author of a speech on democracy argues that people should have the right to choose their representatives and participate in governance, and criticises the authoritarian regimes and movements that violate or suppress the human rights and freedoms of citizens.
d. The author of a review on a movie argues that the film is a masterpiece of art and storytelling, and criticises the critics and audiences who fail to appreciate or understand its aesthetic and thematic value.

Q105. Which of the following would be the correct interpretation of the sentence MENTIONED in the context of the passage? "For many, the memory of times before the reading down of Section 377 is fresh"
a. Reading the text of the law in a descending order of the provisions.
b. Making the law inoperative so that there is harmony with other laws.
c. Interpreting the law in a narrow manner which is harmonious with other laws.
d. Amending the law and then reading it denigratingly so as to keep it suppressed.

When Benjamin Netanyahu began his current term as Israel Prime Minister in December last year, he identified four main goals for the country's 37th government: block Iran; restore Israel's security and governance; deal with the cost of living problem; and expand the "circle of peace" (with Arabs). But in the past four months, his government's single-minded focus was on passing its judicial overhaul Bills in the Knesset, triggering unprecedented protests. Initially, Mr. Netanyahu, whose coalition has a comfortable majority (by Israeli standards) in Parliament, vowed to press ahead. As protests grew, rebellion broke out. He fired his Defence Minister Yoav Gallant after he called for a delay in passing the Bills, citing national security risks, but the crisis had already grown out of his hands. On Monday, amid protests and a paralysing general strike, the Prime Minister announced the suspension of the Bills, not wanting to push Israel into a civil war. Earlier, Itamar Ben-Gvir, National Security Minister, had warned the Prime Minister against "surrendering to the anarchists" and threatened to quit the coalition if he did so. But Mr. Netanyahu has managed to keep his coalition together, for now. To ensure the support of Mr. Ben-Gvir, a Jewish extremist, the Cabinet would transfer the National Guard to his Ministry.
Mr. Netanyahu, who first came to power in 1996 defeating Shimon Peres, has seen many ups and downs. Yet, the current crisis is arguably his toughest. Mr. Netanyahu has overseen a dramatic shift in Israel's polity towards the extreme right. Its result: the current government, comprising the right-wing (Likud), religious (Shas and United Torah Judaism) and far- right (Religious Zionist and Otzma Yehudit) parties. The extreme right has long argued that the judicial checks and balances are preventing the country from realising its true Jewish identity; the planned judicial reforms, which would give Parliament control over judicial appointments and the powers to override Supreme Court rulings, are a part of this push. Mr.

Netanyahu and his allies have been able to control the narrative when it came to the occupation of Palestine or countering external threats, but their move to consolidate more power has triggered widespread resistance from different sections, including from the defence establishment. By suspending the Bills, Mr. Netanyahu has only delayed, and not resolved, the impact of the crisis. He has promised to return the Bills to the Knesset after a month through consensus. But it remains unclear how there will be nationwide consensus on such a polarising issue that has seen even diplomats on strike. He should rather convince his allies of the crisis their government is in, abandon the plan to weaken the judiciary altogether, and focus on the more pressing challenges Israel faces.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from The Indian Express]

Q106. What is the author's main suggestion regarding the political crisis in Israel?

a. Mr. Netanyahu should abandon the plan to weaken the judiciary altogether and focus on the more pressing challenges Israel faces.

b. Mr. Netanyahu should continue to push for the judicial reforms, even if it leads to civil war, to consolidate more power.

c. Mr. Netanyahu should find a middle ground by negotiating with the protesters and the defence establishment to pass the judicial reforms.

d. Mr. Netanyahu should step down as Prime Minister to resolve the current crisis in Israel.

Q107. Which external piece of evidence is referred to in the passage to support the idea of the current crisis being Benjamin Netanyahu's toughest?

a. A recent survey conducted by a local Israeli newspaper on the popularity of the government.

b. The suspension of the Bills by the Prime Minister due to protests and a general strike.

c. The rebellion by the Defence Minister, Yoav Gallant, against passing the Bills.

d. The warning by the National Security Minister, Itamar Ben-Gvir, against "surrendering to the anarchists."

Q108. Which of the following, if true, would be an additional evidence to strengthens the author's argument that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's attempt to weaken the judiciary has triggered widespread resistance?

a. A report by Amnesty International on the decline of human rights in Israel.

b. An interview with a Likud party spokesperson on their stance on the judicial overhaul Bills.

c. A survey conducted by a local news outlet, which shows that the majority of Israelis support the judicial overhaul Bills.

d. A statement from a religious leader praising Prime Minister Netanyahu for his efforts to uphold Jewish identity in Israel.

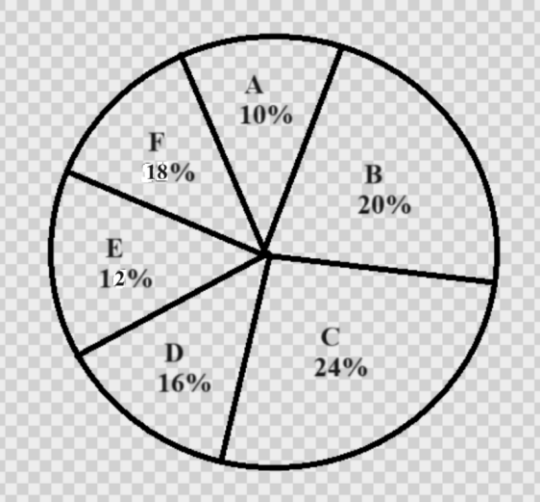
Q109. What is a possible implication of Mr. Netanyahu's government succeeds in passing the judicial overhaul Bills?

a. It will lead to a more stable and unified government.
b. It will lead to a strengthening of democratic institutions in Israel.
c. It will further shift Israel's polity towards the extreme right.
d. It will increase the prospects for peace between Israel and the Arab world.

Q110. If the passage information is true, then which of the following must necessarily be true?
a. Benjamin Netanyahu is the first Prime Minister of Israel who has overseen a dramatic shift towards the extreme right.
b. The judicial overhaul Bills were passed in the Knesset despite the widespread protests and a paralyzing general strike.
c. Benjamin Netanyahu should continue to push for the judicial reforms, even if it triggers a civil war in Israel.
d. The planned judicial reforms would give Parliament control over judicial appointments and the powers to override Supreme Court rulings.

QUANTITATIVE APTITUDE

Q111-115. The pie chart given below shows the percentage distribution of a total number of Male Teachers in six different schools.
Given that the total male Teachers in all schools together = 8400



Q111. If the ratio of ma l A and school B is 2 : 5 and 4 : 3 respectively. Then hers in school A and school B?
a. 420
b. 840
c. 640
d. 530

Q112. If total number of Teachers in school F is 1820. Then female Teachers in school F are what percentage more/less than total male Teachers in school B?

a. 78.67%
b. 83.67%
c. 81.67%
d. 84.67%

Q113. What is the average of total number of male Teachers in school A, C and F?

a. 1256
b. 1346
c. 1546
d. 1456

Q114. If total number of Teachers in school A is 1340. The number of female Teachers in school B is 80 more than female Teachers in school A. Calculate female Teachers in school B is what percentage of male Teachers in school A?

a. 69.04%
b. 59.04%
c. 56.04%
d. 45.04%

Q115. The number of female Teachers in schools A and B both are 20% more than male Teachers. The number of female Teachers in school C is 50% more than male Teachers. Then calculate total number of female Teachers in school A, B and C?

a. 6048
b. 6078
c. 6068
d. 6058

Q116-120. The ratio of the number of males in the FLAMES BANK meeting to the number of males in the ZOOM meeting is 5:4. The number of females in the FLAMES BANK meeting is 90% of the number of females in the WEBEX meeting and the number of males in the WEBEX meeting is 45 less than the number of males in the FLAMES BANK meeting. Total number of people in the FLAMES BANK meeting is 20% more than that of the ZOOM meeting. The number of females in the WEBEX meeting is 270 more than the number of males in the same meeting. The ratio of the number of males and females in the ZOOM meeting is 6:7.

Q116. What is the total number of people in the ZOOM Meeting?

a. 1950
b. 1980
c. 1900
d. 1920

Q117. Find the ratio of the number of male to females in the WEBEX Meeting?
a. 2:3
b. 3:4
c. 4:5
d. 5:6

Q118. Find the number of male in the FLAMES BANK Meeting?
a. 1120
b. 1125
c. 1130
d. 1135

Q119. The number of females in the FLAMES BANK Meeting is what percent of the number of male in the ZOOM Meeting?
a. 120%
b. 125%
c. 130%
d. 135%

Q120. What is the average number of females in the ZOOM and the WEBEX meeting?
a. 1100
b. 1200
c. 1300
d. 1400