

LEGALEDGE TEST SERIES
MOCK COMMON LAW ADMISSION TEST 2024-25
MOCK CLAT 27

TR ID.

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(In Figures)



INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Duration of Test : 2 Hours (120 Minutes)

Maximum Marks : 120

1. Separate carbonised Optical Mark Reader (OMR) Response Sheet is supplied along with this Questions Booklet and the carbon copy has to be detached and taken by the candidates.
2. In case of any discrepancy in the question booklet (QB), please request the invigilator for replacement of a fresh packet of QB with OMR. Do not use the previous OMR response Sheet for a fresh booklet so obtained.
3. Candidates will not be given a second blank OMR response Sheet under any circumstance. Hence, OMR response Sheet shall be handled carefully.
4. Answer all questions. No clarification can be sought on the Questions Paper
5. Possession of electronic devices in any form is strictly prohibited in the examination Hall.
6. The use of any unfair means by any candidate shall result in the cancellation of his/her examination.
7. Impersonation is an offense and the candidate, apart from disqualification, will be liable to be prosecuted.
8. The test Paper for Five Year integrated Law Programme is for 120 marks containing 120 multiple Choice Questions.
9. There will be Negative marking for multiple choice objective type questions. 0.25 marks will be deducted for every wrong answer or where candidates have marked more than one response.
10. Use **BLACK/BLUE BALL POINT PEN** only for writing the roll No. and other details on OMR response Sheet.
11. Use **BLACK/BLUE BALL POINT PEN** for shading the circles. Indicate only the most appropriate answer by shading from the options provided. The answer circle should be shaded completely without leaving any space.
12. As the responses cannot be modified/corrected on the OMR Response Sheet, candidates have to take necessary precautions before marking the appropriate circle.
13. The candidate should retain the Admit Card duly Signed by the invigilator, as the same has to be produced at the time of Admission.
14. Handle the OMR response Sheet with care. Do not fold.
15. Ensure that invigilator puts his/her signature in the space provided on the OMR response Sheet. Candidate should sign in the space provided on the OMR response Sheet.
16. The candidate should write Question Paper booklet No., and OMR response Sheet No., and sign in the space/column provided in the attendance sheet.
17. Return the Original Page of OMR response Sheet to the invigilator after the examination.
18. The candidate shall not write anything on the OMR response Sheet other than the details required and in the spaces provided for.

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SECTION-A : ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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

Passage (Q.1-Q.6): India offers astounding variety in virtually every aspect of social life. Diversities of ethnic, linguistic, regional, economic, religious, class, and caste groups crosscut Indian society, which is also permeated with immense urban-rural differences and gender distinctions. Indian society is multifaceted to an extent perhaps unknown in any other of the world's great civilizations—it is more like an area as varied as Europe than any other single nation-state. Adding further variety to contemporary Indian culture are rapidly occurring changes affecting various regions and socioeconomic groups in disparate ways. Yet, amid the complexities of Indian life, widely accepted cultural themes enhance social harmony and order.

Whether in north or south India, Hindu or Muslim, urban or village, virtually all things, people, and social groups are ranked according to various essential qualities. Although India is a political democracy, notions of complete equality are seldom evident in daily life. Societal hierarchy is evident in caste groups, amongst individuals, and in family and kinship groups. Castes are primarily associated with Hinduism, but caste-like groups also exist among Muslims, Indian Christians, and other religious communities. Within most villages or towns, everyone knows the relative rankings of each locally represented caste, and behavior is constantly shaped by this knowledge. Individuals are also ranked according to their wealth and power. For example, some powerful people, or “big men,” sit confidently on chairs, while “little men” come before them to make requests. Hierarchy plays an important role within families and kinship groupings also, where men outrank women of similar age, and senior relatives outrank junior relatives.

One of the great themes pervading Indian life is social interdependence. People are born into groups—families, clans, subcastes, castes, and religious communities—and feel a deep sense of inseparability from these groups. People are deeply involved with others, and for many, the greatest fear is the possibility of being left alone, without social support. Psychologically, family members typically experience intense emotional interdependence. Economic activities, too, are deeply imbedded in a social nexus. Through a multitude of kinship ties, each person is linked with kin in villages and towns near and far. Almost everywhere a person goes, he can find a relative from whom he can expect moral and practical support. In every activity, social ties can help a person and the absence of them can bring failure. Seldom do people carry out even the simplest tasks on their own. This sense of interdependence extends into the theological realm. From birth onward, a child learns that his “fate” has been “written” by divine forces and that his life is shaped by powerful deities with whom an ongoing relationship must be maintained.

Source: Extracted with edits and revisions from the article, “Indian society and ways of living”, written by Mr. Ashutosh Pandey and published in The Times of India.

1. Based on the passage, which of the following inferences can be accurately drawn about the social structure of Indian society?
 - (a) Hierarchical structures in Indian society predominantly facilitate the distribution of wealth and power among the elite, thus marginalizing lower socio-economic groups.
 - (b) The perception of individual identity within Indian society is significantly influenced by familial legacy and ancestral lineage, determining social mobility.
 - (c) The intricate network of familial and social connections in Indian society both supports individuals during challenges and constrains personal independence.
 - (d) Social stratification in Indian society, while ostensibly supporting democratic ideals, actually undermines the principles of equality and liberty.

2. Which of the following statements would the author most likely agree to, based on the passage?
 - (a) The caste system, although officially abolished, continues to play a symbolic role in modern Indian interactions, devoid of any real impact on social behavior.
 - (b) Social hierarchy in India is a pervasive reality that influences interactions within communities, transcending religious and regional boundaries.
 - (c) Economic disparities in India are the primary factor in determining social status, overshadowing religious or caste-based distinctions.
 - (d) In India, the principle of democracy effectively neutralizes the traditional social hierarchies, creating a society where social mobility is determined solely by personal merit.

3. What is the main idea of the passage?
 - (a) The complexities of Indian society are primarily due to the political system of democracy which struggles to integrate various ethnic and religious communities.
 - (b) Economic disparities have shaped the social and cultural landscapes of India more profoundly than its diverse ethnic and religious compositions.
 - (c) Indian culture is uniquely characterized by its adherence to ancient religious traditions, which are evident in every aspect of social life.
 - (d) Indian society is characterized by a deep-seated diversity and structured social hierarchies that influence everyday interactions and cultural themes.

4. What clues in the passage suggest that this excerpt is likely from a scholarly article rather than a popular magazine?
 - (a) The use of specialized vocabulary and detailed analysis of societal structures without any personal anecdotes or colloquial language.
 - (b) References to specific geographic locations and the cultural practices associated with them, which are typically more detailed in scholarly articles.
 - (c) The presence of critical arguments about the political systems and their effectiveness in Indian society, which are often debated in academic settings.
 - (d) The focus on a broad range of subjects such as economics, religion, and culture, which suggests a depth of exploration common in scholarly articles.

5. Which of the following hypothetical instances would defy the author's description of India's societal fabric in the passage?
 - (a) A young entrepreneur from a lower caste successfully runs for a significant political position in a major city, campaigning solely on issues unrelated to caste or economic status.
 - (b) A respected elder in a rural community uses his status as a member of a high caste to mediate disputes, reflecting the community's adherence to traditional social structures.
 - (c) Both (A) and (B)
 - (d) Neither (A) nor (B)

6. Which of the following words from the passage best exhibit the heightened interdependence in Indian society?
 - (a) "inseparability" (b) "kinship ties" (c) "written" (d) "powerful"

Passage (Q.7-Q.12): People often talk as if there was an opposition between what is beautiful and what is useful. There is no opposition to beauty except ugliness and utility will be always on the side of the beautiful thing. Beautiful decoration is always on the side of the beautiful thing, because beautiful decoration is always an expression of the use you put a thing to and the value placed on it. No workman will beautifully decorate bad work. If you have poor and worthless designs in any craft or trade you will get poor and worthless workmen only, but the minute you have noble and beautiful designs, then you get men of power and intellect and feeling to work for you. By having good designs you have workmen who work with their hearts and heads.

That the beauty of life is a thing of no moment, I suppose few people would venture to assert. And yet most civilised people act as if it were of none, and in so doing are wronging both themselves and those that are to come after them. For that beauty which is meant by art is no mere accident of human life which people can take or leave, but a positive necessity of life if we are to live as nature meant us to, that is to say unless we are content to be less than men.

Do not think that the commercial spirit which is the basis of your life and cities here is opposed to art. Who built the beautiful cities of the world but commercial men only? Genoa built by its traders, Florence by its bankers, and Venice by its noble and honest merchants.

I do not wish you, remember, 'to build a new Pisa,' nor to bring 'the life or the decorations of the thirteenth century back again.' The art we want is the art based on all the inventions of modern civilisation, and to suit all the needs of modern life.

Do you think, for instance, that we object to machinery? I tell you we reverence it; we reverence it when it does its proper work, when it relieves man from ignoble and soulless labour, not when it seeks to do that which is valuable only when wrought by the hands and hearts of men. Let us have no machine-made ornament at all; it is all bad and worthless and ugly. And let us not mistake the means of civilisation for the end of civilisation; steam-engine, telephone and the like, are all wonderful, but remember that their value depends entirely on the noble uses we make of them, on the noble spirit in which we employ them, not on the things themselves.

Source: Extracted with edits and revisions from the essay, "Art and the Handicraftsman", written by Mr. Oscar Wilde.

7. Which of the following is the fundamental conclusion of the second paragraph of the passage?
 - (a) The dismissal of artistic beauty by society generally results in cultural degradation.
 - (b) Artistic beauty is indispensable to achieving the full potential of human life.
 - (c) The appreciation of beauty in art directly correlates with a society's level of civilization.
 - (d) Neglecting the role of art in everyday life leads to a diminished human experience.

8. Which of the following does the author mean to say in the last line of the passage?
 - (a) Technological innovations such as the steam-engine and telephone should primarily serve as symbols of human progress and civilization.
 - (b) The true measure of a society's advancement lies in its ability to create technologies like the steam-engine and telephone.
 - (c) The value of technological advancements depends on the purposeful and ethical manner in which they are utilized.
 - (d) The importance of technological devices lies in their ability to replace manual labor and increase efficiency.

9. Which of the following best describes the context in which this passage would most likely appear?
 - (a) A technical manual on the operation and maintenance of early industrial machinery like steam engines.
 - (b) A philosophical treatise on the aesthetics of existence and the integral role of art and technology in human life.
 - (c) A historical overview of the technological advancements during the Industrial Revolution.
 - (d) A marketing brochure promoting the latest innovations in telecommunications and mechanical engineering.

10. It would be wrong to say that the author is:
- (a) advocating for a balanced view of technology where its benefits are maximized.
 - (b) critical of a purely utilitarian perspective that ignores the aesthetic and ethical dimensions of technology.
 - (c) supportive of integrating modern technology with traditional artistic values.
 - (d) dismissive of the role of technology in enhancing the efficiency of modern life.
11. Which of the following best describes the type of this passage?
- (a) A philosophical discourse on the symbiosis between art, technology, and human values.
 - (b) A factual report detailing the historical development and impact of industrial technologies.
 - (c) An instructional guide for incorporating artistic principles into modern technological applications.
 - (d) A critical analysis comparing different philosophical theories about aesthetics and technology.
12. Which of the following figures of speech is used in the line "I do not wish you, remember, 'to build a new Pisa,'"?
- (a) Synecdoche
 - (b) Personification
 - (c) Hyperbole
 - (d) Allusion

Passage (Q.13-Q.18): Gravitational waves were first spotted by the twin detectors of the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) in Louisiana and Washington State. They sensed the ripples produced by two black holes spiralling into each other and merging. LIGO and its counterpart Virgo in Europe have since reported dozens of similar events. For the latest results, the authors relied on special beacon stars called millisecond pulsars. The teams tracked changes over more than a decade in the distances between Earth and millisecond pulsars in the Milky Way, comparing the signals from arrays of dozens of the beacon stars. These pulsar timing arrays (PTAs) are sensitive to waves that are 0.3 parsecs long or more.

And whereas LIGO and Virgo spot evidence of the last stages of individual merger events — regularly spaced waves coming from one definite direction in the sky — the four PTA collaborations have so far found only a ‘stochastic background’, a constant jostling in random directions. This is like the random sloshing of water on the surface of a pond caused by the rain. The most likely explanation for the stochastic background seen by PTAs is that it is produced by many pairs of supermassive black holes orbiting each other in the hearts of distant galaxies, says Sarah Burke-Spolaor, an astrophysicist at West Virginia University in Morgantown. Most galaxies are thought to harbour one such monster black hole, with a mass millions or billions of times that of the Sun. And astronomers know that throughout the Universe’s history, many galaxies have merged. So, some galaxies must have ended up with two supermassive black holes, known as a black-hole binary. Researchers also have calculated that in the **swarming** centre of such a galactic merger, each black hole would transfer some of its momentum to surrounding stars, slinging them out at high speed or simply dragging them around. As a result, the two black holes would eventually slow down and end up orbiting each other at distances of around 1 parsec, explains Chiara Mingarelli, a gravitational-wave astrophysicist at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. Only paired black holes that got much closer to each other than 1 parsec would contribute to the PTA signal, however. “They need to be separated by a milliparsec to emit detectable gravitational waves,” says Mingarelli. Theories that explain how this would happen are speculative, however, and whether the binaries can do this has been an open question, known as the final-parsec problem. “If you don’t overcome the final-parsec problem, then you don’t get any gravitational waves,” says Mingarelli.

[Source: <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-023-02203-6>]

13. Which of the following is the most likely reason for stochastic background observed by pulsar time arrays?
- (a) Produced by a solitary pair of extremely gigantic black holes encircling each other.
 - (b) Produced by many pairs of extremely trifling black holes orbiting each other in nigh galaxies.
 - (c) Produced by many pairs of supermassive black holes in Milky Way galaxy.
 - (d) Result of voluminous pairs of gigantic black holes circling each other in far-flung galaxies.
14. What does the word “swarming” mean in context of the passage?
- (a) Swimming
 - (b) Using weapons
 - (c) Crowded
 - (d) Murmuring

15. Which of the following cannot be inferred from the passage?
- There are separate observatories in two continents of America and Europe to detect gravitational waves.
 - Some of the energy or force continuity of the black holes can be conveyed to stars during fusions.
 - Paired black holes which are closer to each other with a distance of less than 1 parsec will be detected for gravitational waves.
 - The final parsec problem states that there have to be a distance of 1 parsec or more for detection of waves from them.
16. Identify the figures of speech used in the following sentence:
This is like the random sloshing of water on the surface of a pond caused by the rain.
- Metaphor
 - Hyperbole
 - Simile
 - Metonymy
17. Which of the following is the likely result of two black holes which would be interacting with each other?
- They would be jostling in random directions.
 - There would be a merger of the stars surrounding these black holes.
 - There would be a fusion which has been observed by observatories.
 - There would be a merger of the waves surrounding such black holes which is observed by observatories.
18. Arrange the following events in the sequence as they are presented in the passage:
- Researchers utilized millisecond pulsars to track changes in distances over time for their recent findings.
 - The initial discovery of gravitational waves was made by LIGO detectors in Louisiana and Washington State.
 - Pulsar timing arrays detected a 'stochastic background' of gravitational waves, indicating a widespread jostling from various directions.
 - The probable cause of this background noise is theorized to be numerous supermassive black hole pairs orbiting in distant galaxies.
- A-B-D-C
 - B-A-C-D
 - B-D-A-C
 - D-B-A-C

Passage (Q.19-Q.24): The name Kālidāsa is **tantamount** to natural beauty, lyrical poetry, dramatic stories, affective heroines and valorous heroes in classical Sanskrit literature. His play Abhijñānaśakuntalam was one of the first plays from India to be translated into English. The poem Meghadūta is a prototype of its genre (dūtakāvya or messenger poetry) and has inspired many works and writers including some from the West. The whole genre could be said to have begun with this Indian work. The importance of the work within the class of Sanskrit classical literature as a khaṇḍakāvya (short lyrical poetry as against a Mahākāvya which is an epic poem) can be gauged by the number of commentaries that have been written on the work.

So, what is it that which makes the Meghadūta an enduring beacon of lyrical poetry in Sanskrit literature? To answer that, let us understand the theme of the poem in brief. The whole poem is nothing but the message that a husband (Yakṣa) separated from his wife (due to punishment meted out by a deity, Kubera) sends to his wife through a messenger. The messenger is a rain cloud and therefore, an inanimate object.

The poem has two parts – Pūrvamegha and Uttaramegha. The first part of the poem or Pūrvamegha, is a geographical description of India or Bhāratvarsha on the path that the Yakṣa (the Yakṣa lives in Rāmagiri in the Vindhya) asks the cloud to take in order to reach his hometown of Alakā in the Himalayas. The descriptions of the places and people that the cloud will encounter on his way are one of the best in the entire Sanskrit literature. The description of Alakā, the condition in which the cloud is likely to find his wife and the message itself which is of hope and the joyous return of the husband after the end of the rainy season make up the second part known as the Uttaramegha.

The whole poem in its descriptive form is a celebration of beauty. This beauty is divided into four types on the basis of the subject matter. Bhāṣāsaundarya or the beauty of language is expressed through the right use of phonetic sound, the metre which is lyrical and no strong words. It is like a lazily flowing stream.

Nisargasaundarya or description of natural beauty is the forte of the author as also seen in his other works. The ‘word picture’ drawn is so strong and intimate that it is the belief of most scholars that Kālidāsa may have personally visited these places. Strīsaundarya is expressed through the women who are beautiful and affective. More than anything they are graceful in their beauty by being coy. Yet this bashfulness is accompanied by the confidence that each one has in herself. Vicārasaundarya or the beauty of thought and concept is conveyed through the right use of words and phrases especially when innumerable synonyms are available.

[Source: <https://culturalsamvaad.com/meghaduta-by-kalidasa-an-introduction/>]

19. What is the chief aspect related to the play described which was groundbreaking in its time?
 - (a) This play began the genre in a literary sense.
 - (b) This play was adopted into many languages in a global manner.
 - (c) This play was of the genre which was only tried in international sphere.
 - (d) This play had been in a genre which was performed for the first time in a western stage.
20. What does the word “tantamount” mean in the context of the passage?
 - (a) Synonymous.
 - (b) Unlike.
 - (c) Altered.
 - (d) Diverse.
21. Which of these statements aptly describes the two portions of a messenger poem: Purvamegha and Uttamegha?
 - (a) The first part is about the geographical description of the terrain taken by the Yaksha and second is about the emotional aspects.
 - (b) The first part is about the geographical description of the terrain of Bharatvarsha to be taken by the cloud and the second is about emotions in the message.
 - (c) The first part is about the geographical description of the rugged terrain of India as traversed by the cloud and the second is about the emotional aspects of the love for the territory.
 - (d) The first part is about the geographical description of the terrain by the cloud to the Yaksha and the second is about the emotions felt by the companion as she meets the Yaksha.
22. Which of these is not supported by the passage?
 - (a) The messenger in the play by Kalidasa is a bird with colourful inanimate wings.
 - (b) The Yaksha lives numerous miles away from his companion in the setting of the poem.
 - (c) The beauty of language, nature, feminine and thought are depicted and celebrated through Meghaduta.
 - (d) It is a full possibility that Kalidasa might have visited the places which he described in vivid detail in his play.
23. Which of these is the reason that there was a need to send messages to the companion of the protagonist?
 - (a) Because they were separated for some essential chores.
 - (b) Because they were separated by some demonic forces.
 - (c) Because they were separated by some enemies of the protagonist.
 - (d) Because they were separated by some chastisement of a deity.
24. What the two types of poems in the Indian poetic Universe as described in the passage?
 - (a) Purvamegha and Uttamegha.
 - (b) Khandkavya and Mahakavya.
 - (c) Bhasakavya and Nisargakavya.
 - (d) Uttamkavya and Atiuttamkavya.

SECTION -B : CURRENT AFFAIRS, INCLUDING GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Directions (Q.25-Q.52): Read the information carefully and answer the questions.

Passage (Q.25-Q.30): PLFS-Unemployment Report

India's unemployment rate fell to a six-year low of 3.2 percent in the July-June 2022-23 period, down from 4.1 percent in the same period the previous year, according to the latest annual Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) report. The report, released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on Monday, showed a decline in unemployment rates in both rural and urban areas during the 2022-23 period to 2.4 percent and 5.4 percent, respectively, from 3.2 percent and 6.3 percent in the 2021-22 period. The unemployment rate for rural women (1.8 percent) was lower than that for rural men (2.7 percent) in 2022-23; in urban areas, the rate was higher for females (7.5 percent) compared to males (4.7 percent).

The unemployment rate for a one-year period under the so-called "usual status" for persons aged 15 years and above declined for the fifth consecutive year since the survey was launched in April 2017. Before the PLFS, the National Sample Survey Organisation (now known as NSO) used to release data related to employment and unemployment based on household socioeconomic surveys once every five years.

In the 2017-18 period, the unemployment rate at the all-India level stood at 6 percent.

<https://www.business-standard.com>

25. Consider the following statements:
- The sixth Annual Report is being brought out by NSSO on the basis of Periodic Labour Force Survey conducted during July 2022-June 2023.
 - The activity status determined on the basis of a reference period of last 7 Week preceding the date of survey is known as the current weekly status (CWS) of the person.
- Only I is correct.
 - Only II is correct.
 - Both I & II are incorrect.
 - Both I & II are correct.
26. What is the term used to define the percentage of individuals in the labour force (i.e., those who are working, seeking employment, or available for work) within the population?
- Labour Force Participation Rate
 - Workers Force Participation Rate
 - Gender Force Participation Rate
 - Workers & Gender Force Participation Rate
27. What term is used to define the percentage of employed individuals within the population?
- The worker population ratio
 - Labour unemployment Ratio
 - Employment Ratio
 - None of these
28. Activity status, based on the reference period of the last _____ preceding the survey date, is known as the current weekly status (CWS) of the person.
- two days
 - Seven days
 - Nine days
 - None of these
29. Who out of the following is the current Minister of State (Independent Charge) for the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)?
- Bipin kumar
 - satyajeet prakash
 - Rao Inderjit Singh
 - Surendra Mishra

30. The latest survey also showed a significant increase in the labour force participation rate (LFPR), which represents the share of people either working or seeking work in the population, to _____ in the 2022-23 period from 55.2 percent in the 2021-22 period at the national level.
- (a) 59.9 percent (b) 62.9 percent
(c) 64.9 percent (d) 57.9 percent

Passage (Q.31-Q.36): Bhutan PM Visit to India and Subsequent Meetings

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met with His Majesty the King of Bhutan, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck in Thimphu today. Prime Minister thanked His Majesty for the exceptional public welcome accorded to him, with people greeting him all along the journey from Paro to Thimphu.

Prime Minister and His Majesty the King of Bhutan expressed deep satisfaction at the close and unique India-Bhutan friendship. Prime Minister conveyed his appreciation for the guiding vision provided by the successive Druk Gyalpos in shaping close ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

The meeting provided an opportunity to review the entire gamut of bilateral cooperation. Recalling that Bharat for Bhutan and Bhutan for Bharat was an abiding reality, the two leaders discussed ways to further the transformative partnership. They explored initiatives to expand bilateral collaboration in the fields of energy, development cooperation, youth, education, entrepreneurship and skill development. The two leaders also discussed progress in connectivity and investment proposals including in the context of the Gelephu Mindfulness City project.

India and Bhutan enjoy unique ties of friendship and cooperation, which are characterized by mutual trust and understanding.

<https://www.pmindia.gov.in>

31. Who is the present Prime Minister of Bhutan?
- (a) Jigme Thinley (b) Pema Chewang
(c) Tshering Tobgay (d) None of these
32. Consider the following statements:
- I. Thimphu is the capital of Bhutan. This place which has a population of somewhat 80,000 is known to be the largest city located in the country.
- II. The Manas and all its main branches, including all its tributaries, constitutes the largest river system in Bhutan, with a total length of 6200 km.
- (a) Only II is correct. (b) Both I & II are correct.
(c) Both I & II are incorrect. (d) Only I is correct.
33. Bhutan's PM will meet with Prime Minister Narendra Modi for delegation-level talks focused on India's promise of enhanced support for Bhutan's which Five-Year Plan?
- (a) 13th Five-Year Plan (b) 14th Five-Year Plan
(c) 15th Five-Year Plan (d) 16th Five-Year Plan
34. The _____, known as the Drangme Chhu in Bhutan, is the largest river system in Bhutan.
- (a) Mo Chhu (b) Manas River (c) Paro Chhu (d) Torsa River
35. Bhutan share its borders with how many countries?
- (a) Three countries
(b) Four countries
(c) Two countries
(d) Five countries

36. Consider the following statements:
- I. Television did not come to Bhutan until 1990.
 - II. Radio broadcasting began in 1983 and the internet arrived in 2002 in Bhutan.
- (a) Only I is correct.
 - (b) Only II is correct.
 - (c) Both I & II are correct.
 - (d) Both I & II are incorrect.

Passage (Q.37-Q.42): IREDA Opens GIFT City Office to Back Green Energy Projects

The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) has established a new office in Gift City, Gandhinagar to facilitate the financing of renewable energy and green hydrogen projects in foreign currencies. The announcement was made by Pradip Kumar Das, Chairman and Managing Director of IREDA, during a panel discussion at the World Future Energy Summit 2024 in Abu Dhabi. The new office aims to lower the cost of financing for green hydrogen and renewable energy manufacturing projects in India.

IREDA received formal approval from the Reserve Bank of India in February this year to set up its wholly-owned subsidiary at the country's first International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) at Gift City. "Energy storage will play a critical role in achieving the National Green Hydrogen Mission's ambitious target of over 5 million metric tonnes per annum (MTPA) of Hydrogen production by [x]. There is a need to enhance research and development efforts to reduce costs and improve the performance of energy storage solutions," Das said.

He also highlighted the necessity of implementing policies that strengthen the supply chain network for achieving the successful deployment of energy storage technologies. "Providing competitive and tailored financial solutions will encourage investment in energy storage projects," Das further stated. IREDA has taken the lead in renewable energy financing through the provision of innovative products for emerging technologies at competitive rates and is committed to supporting the deployment of energy storage technologies in India.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com>

37. Consider the following statements:
- I. India has remained proactive in the area of renewable energy financing by formulating a storage requirement roadmap up to 2027, issuing technology-agnostic storage tenders, and facilitating supportive government interventions for battery manufacturing and pumped storage hydropower projects.
 - II. The Central Electricity Authority of India projects a storage requirement of nearly 400 gigawatt-hours (GWh) by 2030-32, with an estimated investment exceeding Rs 1.5 lakh crore.
- (a) I & II both are correct.
 - (b) Only I is correct.
 - (c) I & II both are incorrect.
 - (d) Only II is correct.
38. What has been redacted by [x] in this passage?
- (a) 2035
 - (b) 2032
 - (c) 2027
 - (d) 2030
39. Which of the following is not the main objectives of IREDA?
- (a) To give financial support to specific projects and schemes for generating electricity and/or energy through new and renewable sources and conserving energy through energy efficiency.
 - (b) To increase IREDA's share in the renewable energy sector by way of innovative financing.
 - (c) Improvement in the efficiency of services provided to customers through continual improvement of systems, processes and resources.
 - (d) All the given three options are the main objectives of IREDA.

40. Consider the following statements about IREDA:
- I. Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) was established on 11th March, 1992 as a Public limited Government Company under the Companies Act, 1976
 - II. It promotes, develops and extends financial assistance for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency/Conservation Projects.
- (a) I & II both are correct. (b) Only I is correct.
(c) I & II both are incorrect. (d) Only II is correct.
41. Who out of the following is the present Chairman and Managing Director of IREDA?
(a) Rajendra Prasad (b) Dilip kumar (c) Pradip Kumar Das (d) Vinay Singh
42. In which of the following year Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited was established?
(a) 1987 (b) 1992 (c) 1999 (d) 2002

Passage (Q.43-Q.48): IMF Approves \$1.1 Billion Loan Tranche to Pakistan

The IMF has approved an immediate disbursement of the final tranche of \$1.1 billion to Pakistan as part of a bailout package, emphasising that the cash-strapped country needs to take tough measures to bring its economy back on track. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) Executive Board's decision on Monday came after the global lender completed the second and final review of Pakistan's economic reform programme supported by the IMF's Stand-By Arrangement (SBA). With this development, the disbursements under the SBA reached around \$3 billion.

All board members favoured the release of the last instalment. India, however, abstained from voting. "Given the significant challenges ahead, Pakistan should capitalise on this hard-won stability, persevering -- beyond the current arrangement -- with sound macroeconomic policies and structural reforms to create stronger, inclusive, and sustainable growth," said IMF's Deputy Managing Director Antoinette Sayeh. Continued external support will also be critical, she said.

Achieving strong, long-term inclusive growth and creating jobs require accelerating structural reforms and continued protection of the most vulnerable through an adequately financed Benazir Income Support Programme, she said. She said that advancing the reform of state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and ensuring that all SOEs fall under the new policy framework, strengthening governance and anti-corruption institutions, and continuing to build climate resilience was the priority.

<https://www.business-standard.com>

43. Consider the following statements:
- I. The IMF has approved an immediate disbursement of the final tranche of \$100 billion to Pakistan as part of a bailout package, emphasising that the cash-strapped country needs to take tough measures to bring its economy back on track.
 - II. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) Executive Board's decision came after the global lender completed the second and final review of Pakistan's economic reform programme supported by the IMF's Stand-By Arrangement (SBA).
- (a) I & II both are correct. (b) Only I is correct.
(c) I & II both are incorrect. (d) Only II is correct.
44. The IMF was founded by _____ that sought to build a framework for economic cooperation.
(a) 54 member countries (b) 64 member countries
(c) 34 member countries (d) 44 member countries
45. Consider the following statements:
- I. Nawaz Sharif is the current Prime Minister of Pakistan
 - II. Kristalina Georgieva is the current Managing Director of IMF.
- (a) I & II both are correct. (b) Only I is correct.
(c) I & II both are incorrect. (d) Only II is correct.

46. The IMF was established in _____ in the aftermath of the Great Depression of the 1930s.
(a) 1946 (b) 1944 (c) 1942 (d) 1940
47. Consider the following statements about IMF:
I. The IMF is a global organization that works to achieve sustainable growth and prosperity for all of its 179 member countries.
II. It does so by supporting economic policies that promote financial stability and monetary cooperation, which are essential to increase productivity, job creation, and economic well-being.
(a) Only I is correct. (b) Both I & II are correct.
(c) Only II is correct. (d) Both I & II are incorrect.
48. Who out of the following is the current President of Pakistan?
(a) Shehbaz Sharif (b) Iskandar Ali Mirza
(c) Mufti Abdullah (d) Asif Ali Zardari

Passage (Q.49-Q.52): World Press Freedom Index 2024

India ranks [x] in the 2024 world Press Freedom Index published annually by Reporters Without Borders (RSF). Pakistan is ranked 152 while Sri Lanka 150. India's ranking was 161 out of 180 countries last year. The index ranks {a} countries on the ability of journalists to work and report freely and independently.

In the Asia-Pacific region – the world’s second most difficult region for practising journalism – five countries are among the world’s ten most dangerous countries for media personnel: Myanmar (171st), China (172nd), North Korea (177th), Vietnam (174th) and Afghanistan (178th). But, unlike last year, none of the region’s countries is in the Index’s top 15.

In the Middle East and North Africa, the situation is “very serious” in nearly half of the countries. The United Arab Emirates joins the eight other countries in the red zone on the map: Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Palestine, Iraq, Bahrain, Syria and Egypt. Palestine, occupied and under bombardment by the Israeli army, and the deadliest country for journalists, is also at the bottom of the Index. Qatar is now the region’s only country where the situation is not classified either as “difficult” or “very serious.”

<https://www.newindianexpress.com>

49. What has been redacted by [x] in this passage?
(a) 157th (b) 154th (c) 159th (d) 156th
50. According to the World Press Freedom Index 2024 which country is on top with the 91.89 global score?
(a) Norway (b) Denmark (c) Sweden (d) Netherlands
51. Consider the following statements:
I. Reporters Without Borders (RWB), also known as Reporters sans frontières (RSF) in Russian, is an international non-profit organisation that strives to protect the right to freedom of information.
II. Recently, RSF released the 2024 World Press Freedom Index, which ranks 190 countries based on the freedom of journalism, reporting, and media functioning. It is a crucial tool to assess the state of press freedom in different countries.
(a) Only I is correct. (b) Only II is correct.
(c) Both I & II are correct. (d) Both I & II are incorrect.
52. According to the World Press Freedom Index 2024 which country is the worst country?
(a) Syria (b) Eritrea (c) Afghanistan (d) North Korea

SECTION – C: LEGAL REASONING

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

Passage (Q.53-Q.57): Despite having a law against child marriages for the last 90 years, child marriages are a reality in our country. As per statistics, child marriages account for 27 per cent of marriages in India. Legally speaking, a marriage in which either the girl is below 18 years of age, or the boy is below 21 years of age is a “child marriage”. A girl below 18 years of age and a boy below 21 years of age are regarded as ‘children’ under the Act. The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 (the “*Act*”) has a threefold purpose, i.e., prevention of child marriages, protection of the children involved, and prosecution of offenders. This law has declared child marriage to be a punishable crime. An order can be issued by the court to prohibit its solemnization and if a marriage is solemnized after such an order, then such a marriage shall be declared as null and void, meaning that it never existed. Even if the marriage is solemnized, a court would be required for declaration of marriage to be null and void. ‘Solemnization’ here would mean conducting the religious ceremonies required to finalize a marriage under the religion of the persons being married, such as the saptpadi for Hindus and offer-acceptance for Muslims. Under Indian law, if a marriage has been solemnized, then the persons involved are ‘married’. This law also prescribes punishments for performing, conducting and helping conduct child marriages. Even the parents of the children involved can be punished for promoting or permitting child marriage. The Act also punishes an adult male who marries a child and also requires the husband to provide maintenance to his minor bride till her remarriage. Under Section 3(3) of the Act, both the boy as well as the girl has the right to opt out of a child marriage until two years after attaining majority i.e. up to the age of 20 years for a girl and 23 years for the boy.

53. Mohan, a 23-year-old male, and Neeta, a 17-year-old girl, were neighbors who spent too much time conversing on Jenga, a social media messaging app. Mohan proposed to Neeta one day and informed her that after she turns 18, he would approach her parents about their marriage. Even though their families followed Hindu law, Neeta and Mohan had already acknowledged each other as husband and wife by calling out "Qubool hai" to each other as per Muslim law. When Neeta turned 22, her parents paired her up with Mukund. Is she legally allowed to marry Mukund?
- Yes, as she was not legally married to Mohan.
 - No, as she did not opt out of her marriage with Mohan within 2 years of attaining majority.
 - Yes, as she was legally married to Mohan but not according to the customs followed by their respective families.
 - No, although she was married to Mohan but the marriage remains Null and void due to the age of Neeta at the time of marriage between her and Mohan.
54. Assume that Mohan, the boy in the preceding example, is Muslim and that the girl follows Hindu customs. They both claimed to be husband and wife after marrying according to Hindu norms. Is their solemnization valid?
- Yes, it is valid and they have the option to opt out from the said marriage until two years after attaining majority.
 - No, as the marriage between two minor is a not a punishable crime.
 - Yes, as they had solemnized their marriage as per religious ceremonies required to finalize a marriage under hindu law
 - Cannot be determined, as both of them followed different religion and the passage lacks sufficient information in solemnization of such marriages.
55. Continuing with similar facts as above, Suppose both parties i.e., Mohan, the boy in the preceding example and the girl Neeta follows Hindu customs. They both claimed to be husband and wife after marrying according to Hindu norms. Is their solemnization valid?
- Yes, as their marriage is solemnized as per religious ceremonies followed by Hindus.
 - No, as a child marriage is said to always stand null and void.
 - Yes, as it has been declared null and void by court yet.
 - No, they are legally married and only have the right to opt out of such marriage once they attain majority.

56. Mohan, a 23-year-old male, and Neeta, a 17-year-old girl were in a relationship. Manish had known about Mohan and Neeta's romance for a long time since they used to supply one another with mobile recharges. He has a mobile repair company and had clearly seen Mohan and Neeta together on multiple occasions. One day, he was talking to Mohan, and Mohan revealed that he and Neeta were preparing to flee following weekend. Consequently, they eloped when all of the family members were attending a social gathering. Can Manish be held liable for any offence here under the Act?
- (a) No, as there has been no offence committed by Manish under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006.
 - (b) Yes, as he knew about all the plan of Mohan and Neeta and still did not report the same to anyone.
 - (c) Manish did engage himself in performing, conducting or helping to conduct a child marriage.
 - (d) Yes, as he should have informed the plan of Mohan about influencing a minor for marriage to appropriate authority.
57. Mahesh was Supriya's boyfriend, and despite the fact that they were both minors, they chose to marry in a secluded temple, following all religious ceremonies with the assistance of a priest. The fact that the couple is underage was unknown to the priest. However, after marrying Mahesh, Supriya realized that she had made a mistake and regretted it the most. She decided to return to her parents and ask them to choose a decent boy for her marriage, and she will consider their decision this time. Supriya met Sudhher in an arranged meet at the age of 21 and fell head over heels for him. Mahesh believes she cannot marry Sudhher since she is still his wife. Choose a statement that can be taken by supriya in her defence against Mahesh's argument with respect to invalidation of her marriage with Mahesh.
- (a) A child marriage is void and thus supriya can marry whoever she wants to.
 - (b) She is major now and that she can validly choose her partner for marriage.
 - (c) The marriage solemnized between her and Mahesh as minor is a punishable crime under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006
 - (d) That she has opted out of the marriage as soon as she turned a major.

Passage (Q.58-Q.62): In the law of torts, there is a duty on every person to act with reasonable care in order to avoid any harm which may occur due to their failure of taking such care. In case a person gives his consent to do an act which leads to him getting injured, then even if an injury is caused by the other person, he cannot claim any damages from that person because the act was one for which he voluntarily consented. The consent of the plaintiff acts as a defense and this defense is called *volenti non fit injuria* which means to a willing person no injury happens. There are 2 essential elements in this defense: The plaintiff has the knowledge of the risk, the plaintiff with the knowledge of risk has voluntarily agreed to suffer the harm. In the cases where the defendant is taking the defense of *volenti non fit injuria*, the burden of proof is on him to show that the plaintiff had full knowledge of the act and he had consented to the risk involved in the act and the defendant has to show that the plaintiff was also aware of the extent of risk which was involved in the act for successfully taking this defense. The consent of the plaintiff is not required to be expressly given and even by his conduct, his consent can be taken. When a plaintiff gives his consent for an act such consent should be free from any coercion, fraud or any other such means by which the free consent can be affected. Harm is caused to a person intentionally, the defense of *volenti non fit injuria* will apply if the person has given his consent to such harm. Both contributory negligence and *volenti non fit injuria* are used as a defense by the defendant to escape liability but they differ from each other. In contributory negligence, the plaintiff who has suffered an injury is also at fault along with the defendant and therefore the quantum of damages which he can be awarded is reduced in proportion to the degree of his negligence in the act which caused him injury. Thus, both the parties are at fault in such a case and therefore this is a partial defense available to the defendant.

58. Which of the following statement is not in line with the author's contention about volenti non fit injuria as per the passage?
- (a) Every person has a responsibility under tort law to take reasonable care to prevent any harm that might result from failing to do so.
 - (b) The plaintiff's consent serves as a defence, and this defence is known as volenti non fit injuria, which literally translates to "to a willing person no injury occurs."
 - (c) The onus of proving that the plaintiff had full awareness of the act and had consented to the risk is on the defendant when asserting the defence of volenti non fit injuria.
 - (d) If someone is willfully harmed, the defence of volenti non fit injuria may be utilised if the victim gave his or her consent for the act to be done which resulted in any harm.
59. M tried to reserve a taxi online, but there were none around the railway station. There weren't any cabs available at the station so after an hour of waiting, an online taxi service app showed that a taxi was near the railway station but the fee was three times the normal fare to get from the railway station to his house. He reserved that taxi because there was no other option available; nevertheless, when the taxi arrived, he noticed that it was not in a proper condition and can anytime stop. The driver also informed M that he is facing some problems with breaks. After discussing the car issues with the driver, since he had to reach home early, he sat in it. Unfortunately, it got involved into an accident due to failure of breaks, which led to M's multiple physical wounds. Later, he filed a lawsuit against the taxi app, and they responded by claiming defence of volenti-non-fit-injuria. Choose the best option in light of the passage above
- (a) Since the inappropriate condition of the taxi led to an accident which ended up M getting wounded, the Taxi service app will not succeed.
 - (b) As M impliedly consented to travel through that car without any force being made by the taxi driver, the Taxi services app will succeed.
 - (c) Though M impliedly consented but his consent was not free as there was unavailability of any other option, the Taxi service app will not succeed.
 - (d) As the accident took place due to the negligence of the taxi driver and the Taxi service app had no involvement in it, the Taxi service app will succeed.
60. X was driving rashly and at a high speed since he was running late for work. When the signal was red, he crossed it and ran into Y, who was off the zebra crossing. Y was seriously hurt in this accident. Some of the injuries were permanent. Y sued X, and he took the defense of volenti-non-fit-injuria. Choose the best option in light of the above passage.
- (a) The essential of free consent is not satisfied in the given facts, hence X will not succeed.
 - (b) As Y impliedly made consent by not walking on the zebra crossing, X will succeed.
 - (c) The defense taken by X is incorrect as wrong was done by both the parties, hence he will not succeed.
 - (d) Since Y was walking off the zebra crossing without any force used by X, he will succeed.
61. T made the decision to lease his land to a textile manufacturer for setting up a manufacturing plant, despite knowing that this it might produce waste such as chemicals and colors. T's land was adjacent to F's land. Because F's land would be damaged by waste extraction, T required his permission. F agreed to it under the condition that the waste material produced would not permanently render his land infertile. One day, T's excessive industry waste and in addition F's excessive plantation on his land led to its infertility. T was sued by F, and after that, T claimed contributory negligence. Analyse as per the passage.
- (a) As F consented only with a condition but it was not satisfied which ultimately led to infertility of his land, T will not succeed.
 - (b) Since the defence of volenti-non-fit-injuria must be proved by the defendant, T will not succeed.
 - (c) T will succeed because he took free consent from F before giving his land on lease to a cloth factory.
 - (d) The defense of contributory negligence can be taken under circumstances of commission of wrong by both the parties, T will succeed.

62. K and H were once talking about car racing. They got into a heated argument about who could drive better and who knew more about vehicles during the conversation. Both of them consensually made the risky and dangerous decision to challenge each other in a car race in order to prove their respective claims. H became extremely enraged and irritated when K moved ahead of him throughout the race. Then he made the decision to strike K to disqualify him from the competition. He struck K's car, which flipped over once, seriously injuring K and the other guards who were standing there for cover fully aware of the risk. Later, when K and the guards sued H, he took the defense of volenti-non-fit-injuria. Choose the best response in the light of a given passage.
- Although K's consent was present, the guards did not made any consent to get harmed in any way, hence H will be held liable.
 - As K's consent was taken by force as he was in anger while agreeing to the challenge and not in his conscience, H will not succeed.
 - As the consent of the guards was implied and K expressed his consent by agreeing to compete in the car race, H will succeed.
 - Since H did not intentionally hit K's car. The defense can be taken under unintentional acts only, H will succeed.

Passage (Q.63-Q.67): "Cognizance" is said to be 'knowledge' or 'notice,' and taking 'cognizance of offences' means taking notice or becoming aware of the alleged commission of an offence. The judicial officer will have to take cognizance of the offence before proceeding with the conduct of the trial. Taking cognizance does not involve any kind of formal action but occurs as soon as a magistrate as such applies his mind to the suspected commission of an offence for the purpose of legal proceedings. Cognizance is also said to be the application of the judicial mind. Taking cognizance involves applying the judicial mind to initiate proceedings within the Magistrate's own jurisdiction.

It includes the intention of starting a judicial proceeding with respect to an offence or taking steps to see whether there is a basis for starting the judicial proceeding. It is trite that before taking cognizance, that court should satisfy whether the ingredients of the offence charged are there or not. Suppose a magistrate involves his mind not for reason of proceeding as mentioned above, but for taking action of some other kind, for example ordering investigation or issuing a search warrant for investigation. In that case, he cannot be said to have taken cognizance of the offence. The judicial Magistrate, i.e., Magistrate of the first class and the second class can take cognizance and not Executive Magistrate, i.e., District Magistrate, Sub- Divisional Magistrate, etc.

In Section 190, Any Magistrate of the first class and the second class may take cognizance of any offence-

- Upon receiving a complaint of facts related to offences.
- Upon police reports of facts.
- Upon information received from a person (other than a police officer), or upon his own knowledge.

According to Section 193, "Courts of Session are not allowed to take cognizance of any offense unless the case has been committed to it by a Magistrate." When it is expressly provided by this code or by any other law, then only Courts of Session are allowed.

[Source : <https://blog.ipleaders.in/cognizance-of-offences/>]

63. Ram is a history sheeter. He was convicted for committing the offence of robbery with his friends Shyam and Arjun. He was given a sentence of 7 years in jail. Recently, he came out of jail after completing his sentence. The police suspects that Ram is planning to commit a robbery again. One fine day, a shopkeeper filed an FIR against Ram and Arjun for theft in his shop. Police took the investigation into their hand. Police then submitted the charge sheet to Judicial Magistrate Ghanshyam. Ghanshyam felt that the police charge sheet had a lapse, so he sent it back to the police for further investigation. Decide.
- Ghanshyam took cognizance of the offence and applied his mind to the charge sheet.
 - Ghanshyam did not take cognizance of the offence; he sent the file back to the police for further investigation.
 - Ghanshyam cannot take cognizance of this case under section 193.
 - Ghanshyam took cognizance of the offence because he thinks he can try the offender; however, he thinks more evidence needs to be attached.

64. Suppose in the aforementioned factual situation, Ram is was convicted for committing the offence of robbery with his friends Shyam and Arjun. He was given a sentence of 7 years in jail. Recently, he came out of jail after completing his sentence. The police suspects that Ram is planning to commit a robbery again. One fine day, a shopkeeper filed an FIR against Ram and Arjun for theft in his shop. Police took the investigation into their hand and then submitted the charge sheet to Judicial Magistrate Ghanshyam. Ghanshyam does not send the charge sheet to the police but instead forwards it to the District Magistrate to go ahead with the trial procedure as deemed fit. Decide.
- There is no cognizance as he did not send the charge sheet back to police for further investigation.
 - There is no cognizance District Magistrate is not allowed to take cognizance.
 - There is cognizance as he applied his mind to the application and sent it forward to the magistrate, who has jurisdiction to proceed with the trial procedure.
 - There is a cognizance because he did not send the charge sheet back to the police for further investigation.
65. In the same factual situation, where, Ram is a history-sheeter. He was charged with committing the offence of robbery with his friends Shyam and Arjun. He was not given a sentence of 7 years in jail but was acquitted. Due to past records of Ram, the police suspect that he is planning to commit a robbery. One fine day, a shopkeeper filed an FIR against Ram and Arjun for theft in his shop. Police took the investigation into their hand. Assume that after the FIR and investigation by the police, the police file the charge sheet in the session's court instead of the judicial magistrate. Can the Session court take cognizance of the charge sheet made to it by the police?
- Yes, Session Court is the most powerful court after the high court in matters of criminal cases.
 - Yes, Sessions court can take cognizance as it is allowed by section 193.
 - No, the Session court should not deal with trivial matters like theft.
 - No, the Session court cannot take cognizance as the same is barred by section 193.
66. Devarshi Paul is a magistrate of the second class. He recently got posted after he dropped his preparation for the civil service examination. He is a smart student and that can be deduced from his excellent performance in the competition exam for the judiciary. He was posted in the Bikaner district. Under his jurisdiction come the famous Khan market. The market is known for its usual religious feuds and fights. It comes to his knowledge, on his own, that a non-cognizable offence was committed in the Khan market. Khan's market comes under his jurisdiction. Can he take cognizance.
- He cannot take cognizance because he is a magistrate of second class.
 - He cannot take cognizance because he should wait for the police to take action, and then he can proceed with section 190.
 - He can take cognizance because he has such powers under section 190.
 - He can take cognizance because he is not a session judge, he can take cognizance on his own as provided under section 193.
67. Section 199(4) of the Criminal Procedure Code says that Session Court are not allowed to take cognizance of defamation cases committed against the Public servant, Governor, and Minister of State unless the complaint is made by the Public prosecutor with the consent of the state government. Ram was watching TV, one fine evening. He received a video of his friend Arjun defaming the Governor in a press meeting where Hon'ble governor is the chief guest. Ram got raged at attitude of Arjun. He went straight to the Session Court and complained about the offence that Arjun had committed. The Session Court took cognizance of the offence and orders a summons to Arjun. Decide.
- The Session Court is not allowed to take cognizance as the case need to be filed by Public Prosecutor in these case before cognizance can be taken.
 - The Session Court is in full power to take cognizance under section 190. He received the information about the crime from a person other than the police.
 - The Session Court cannot take cognizance because Ram cannot be trusted on word value. He should first order a police investigation and then take cognizance based on the charge sheet filed.
 - The Session Court cannot take cognizance because he is barred under Section 193.

Passage (Q.68-Q.72): Karta is usually the senior most male member of the family and is a coparcener. The position of Karta is of great importance. The Karta can also be called the manager who has the charge of handling property-related affairs of the family. If someone is Karta, they would have the power to represent the family. Physical and mental proficiency is also expected from Karta.

It is considered that the senior most male member is the Karta of the Joint Family. This position of responsibility is not any positional agreement or can be owed on the consent of other coparceners. The wrongful use of Hindu Joint Family property for purposes other than for family property can hold the Karta accountable. In the case of *Nopany v. Santosh*, the Court has provided grounds for the younger male member to be a Karta: When the whereabouts of the father is unknown or when senior most member is not available; In the absence of Karta in exceptional case such as distress or calamity affecting the whole family and for supporting the family; If the Karta is away in a remote place, due to compelling circumstances and his return within a reasonable time is unlikely. Hindu Joint Family may act in all matters through the Karta of the family. Hindu Joint Family can be bound by any decree or order passed in legal proceedings.

It is implied authority of Karta to contract debts and pledge the credit of the family. Such debts are binding on the entire family. The Karta of a joint Hindu family is, generally prohibited from alienating the property, but Karta can alienate the joint family property for the benefit of the estate.

[Source - <https://www.legalserviceindia.com/legal/article-6185-the-powers-and-obligations-of-the-karta-of-the-joint-hindu-family.html>]

68. Ramu was a daily wage worker. He was the backbone of the family after his father died. He married Sita and had 3 sons. Ramu used to live with his joint Hindu family. Ramu had 2 sisters, and both of them were trying to make ends meet by working as house helps. Their business was growing albeit slowly. The family operates this business jointly, the tax return of which were pending. The tax commissioner filed a case against Ramu. The tax commission pleads that Ramu is the Karta of the family, and thus represents the family. So he should present the case representing the joint family. Decide.
- (a) Ramu is just a small part of joint family, it was not correct to file case against him only.
 - (b) Ramu can act as Karta of the Hindu joint family, tax commissioner is right in filing a case against him.
 - (c) Ramu maybe Karta, but he does not have the power to represent the family yet.
 - (d) Ramu is the bread earner of the family, he should only take responsibility of his family.
69. Sita was the wife of Ramu. They had two daughters and two sons. Ramu was working hard every day in the mine. He soon developed asthma because of all the ashes at work. His days were limited. He managed to marry off his daughters. As soon as the weddings were done, Ramu died. Sita got the responsibility to maintain herself alone. The two sons were not of working age yet. Sita was overseeing their studies, paying their fees, until they started earning on their own. Is Sita the Karta of the family?
- (a) Yes, she is the provider for the Hindu joint family. She is the Karta.
 - (b) No, a female cannot be the Karta of the Hindu joint family.
 - (c) Yes, she is the senior most member of the Hindu joint family. She is the Karta.
 - (d) No, she is a woman, she cannot handle the managing work properly. She should not be the Karta.
70. Lakshya was the Karta of a Hindu joint family. His family owned some pieces of land in Bikaner. He wanted to dispose of the scattered property because the returns from these properties were minimal. He began selling them. He contacted one of his peers and sold all of them to purchase a large chunk of consolidated land and a shop in Bikaner city. This decision was challenged in court by the other members of the Hindu joint family. What defense can Lakshya take to justify the alienation of the property without the consent of family members?
- (a) Lakshya can take the defence that he knows the best interest of the family he is the senior most member.
 - (b) Lakshya can take the defence of benefit of estate for the Hindu joint property.
 - (c) Lakshya can take the defence that he is Karta and his debts and transactions does not bind the family.
 - (d) Lakshya can take the defence that is Karta and his debts and transactions bind the family.

71. Santosh is the eldest son of his father. His father, X is a big businessman. They both are part of Verma Hindu joint family. X is the Karta because he is the senior most member of the family. One time, X got a huge tender that he needed to attend at Germany. He went out but his plane crashed. News about him did not reach back home for a long time. It was assumed in govt. paper that he is dead. There were bills pending for the joint family to pay. Can Santosh take the position of Karta to settle all the dues?
- (a) Yes, because every time the Karta is away he appoints younger member to act on his behalf. He will take position of Karta in this case.
 - (b) Yes, because his father would have made him the Karta after him.
 - (c) Yes, he is the senior most member after his father so he should be the member.
 - (d) Yes, in absence of Karta where there is a dire need of Karta, a younger member can be Karta.
72. Ram, a Hindu, is a college graduate. He wants to take up a loan for his further education. He is also planning to open a start-up if his studies go well. From the success of the start-up, he can pay back the loans taken. He lives in a joint family. He asks his father, Karta X to take a loan on his behalf for education. X did as Ram requested. Bank gave the loan on the joint property pledged by X. Later X defaulted in payment. Bank sued X and the family that he is Karta of. Decide.
- (a) Entire family, represented by Karta would be party to the case.
 - (b) Entire family won't be the party to the case, the loan was taken in personal capacity.
 - (c) Clearly, X wanted to take the loan for the family, the entire family would be the party.
 - (d) Ram should be made party; he is the beneficiary.

Passage (Q.73-Q.79): The Supreme Court dismissed petitions challenging the Delhi High Court judgment which upheld the Agnipath scheme for recruitment to the armed forces. Some of the petitioners included candidates who were shortlisted in the earlier recruitment process to Army and Air Force.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan who appeared for some of these candidates told the apex court that their names appeared in a provisional list for recruitment to Air Force but the recruitment process was cancelled when Agnipath scheme was notified. He argued that the government must be directed to complete the old process citing the doctrine of promissory estoppel.

Promissory estoppel is a concept developed in contractual laws. A valid contract under law requires an agreement to be made with sufficient consideration. A claim of doctrine of promissory estoppel essentially prevents a "promisor" from backing out of an agreement on the grounds that there is no "consideration."

The doctrine is invoked in court by a plaintiff (the party moving court in a civil action) against the defendant to ensure execution of a contract or seek compensation for failure to perform the contract (for contractual liability) and not for personal obligation.

In a 1981 decision in *Chhaganlal Keshavalal Mehta v. Patel Narandas Haribhai*, the SC lists out a checklist for when the doctrine can be applied:

- First, there must be a clear and unambiguous promise.
- Second, the plaintiff must have acted relying reasonably on that promise.
- Third, the plaintiff must have suffered a loss.

[Extracted with revisions from <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-law/what-does-promissory-estoppel-mean-8552259/lite/>]

73. Neha promises to babysit her friend's child for a week, allowing her friend to go on a business trip. Her friend is very happy because now she does not have to pay for a crèche facility or worry about leaving her baby with strangers. However, Neha later informs her friend that she cannot fulfill the promise due to personal reasons. Her friend now has to look for alternative arrangements at the last moment before her trip. Can her friend successfully invoke the doctrine of promissory estoppel?
- (a) Yes, because Neha made a clear and unambiguous promise to her friend so she cannot back out now.
 - (b) No, because babysitting is a personal obligation that was undertaken by Neha, not a contractual one.
 - (c) Yes, if the friend can prove that she suffered a loss due to Neha backing out
 - (d) No, because personal promises are not protected under any law.

74. Amit entered into a contract to sell his vintage car to Ria at a significantly discounted price. The car was originally valued at Rs. 1 crore but he promises to sell it to Ria for Rs. 1 lakh only due to his personal affection for her. Ria immediately starts making arrangements to accommodate the car by securing the finance. Ria is later informed that Amit has decided to sell it to someone else at a higher price. She is devastated because she had already made all the arrangements. Can Ria successfully use the doctrine of promissory estoppel?
- (a) Yes, because Amit made a clear and unambiguous promise to Ria to sell her his car
 - (b) No, because Ria didn't act reasonably relying on the promise of Amit to sell her the car
 - (c) Yes, if Ria can prove that she acted on the promise made by Amit.
 - (d) No, because there were no losses suffered by Ria.
75. Raj is a seasoned investor who was impressed by Meera's proposal, who is an entrepreneur. Raj and Meera decide to enter into a business partnership agreement for a new start-up. Raj promises to invest a substantial amount in their venture, and Meera relies on this promise to secure additional funding from a bank. However, Raj later decides not to invest as promised. This creates problems for Meera because she has already given the collateral to secure the loan from the bank. Now she alone has to pay all the loan. Can Meera successfully invoke the doctrine of promissory estoppel?
- (a) Yes, because Raj made a clear and unambiguous promise to Meera to invest in her business, and he didn't keep it.
 - (b) No, because Meera secured funding from a bank so she can use that for her business
 - (c) Yes, if Meera can prove that she suffered a loss due to Raj's failure of his promise
 - (d) No, because the promise between Meera and Raj wasn't in writing
76. Rohan promises to gift his rare stamp collection to his friend, Arjun, who has been eagerly anticipating the collection. However, Rohan later decides to keep the collection for sentimental reasons. Can Arjun successfully use the doctrine of promissory estoppel?
- (a) Yes, because Rohan made a clear and unambiguous promise to Arjun to gift him his stamp collection.
 - (b) No, because Arjun has not suffered a loss from Rohan going back on his promise.
 - (c) Yes, because Arjun has suffered a loss from Rohan going back on his promise.
 - (d) No, because the promise made was about a gift, not a contractual transaction.
77. **Assertion:** Loss is a prerequisite for invoking the doctrine of promissory estoppel.
Reasoning: In the context of applying promissory estoppel, the court's checklist, as outlined in the Chhaganlal Keshavalal Mehta case, underscores that a plaintiff's entitlement to seek compensation hinges on demonstrating a loss resulting from reasonably relying on the promisor's clear and unambiguous promise.
- (a) Both the assertion and reasoning are correct, and the reasoning is a valid explanation for the assertion.
 - (b) Both the assertion and reasoning are correct, but the reasoning is not a valid explanation for the assertion.
 - (c) The assertion is correct, but the reasoning is incorrect.
 - (d) The assertion is incorrect, but the reasoning is correct.
78. Riya is promised a job by her potential employer, Rahul, who is aware of Riya's current job search efforts. Riya and Rahul entered in an agreement, where Riya will pay him 20 percent of his CTC. He was aware that Riya was finding it difficult to get a job in the current job market. Relying on this promise, Riya declines another job offer she had received earlier. Later, Rahul decides not to hire Riya. Can Riya successfully invoke the doctrine of promissory estoppel?
- (a) Yes, because Rahul made a clear and unambiguous promise.
 - (b) No, because Riya declined another job offer and she could have easily accepted it.
 - (c) Yes, because Riya suffered a loss because of Rahul's promise on which she acted
 - (d) No, because job promises are not covered by promissory estoppel.

79. Maya receives a written promise from her friend, Aryan, stating that he will sell her a rare book from his collection at a specified price. Relying on this written promise, Maya passes up an opportunity to purchase the same book from another seller and she has already dropped a cheque in the bank in Aryan's name. Later, Aryan decides not to sell the book to Maya. Can Maya successfully invoke the doctrine of promissory estoppel?
- (a) Yes, because Aryan clearly promised Maya that he will sell her the book in writing on which she acted and dropped a cheque in Aryan's name.
 - (b) No, because the promise was not verbal.
 - (c) Yes, if Maya can prove that she suffered a loss.
 - (d) No, because rare books are not covered by promissory estoppel.

Passage (Q.80-Q.84): The Post Office Bill, 2023 is to consolidate and amend the law relating to Post Office in India and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. Section 2 (a) "Director General" means the Director General of Postal Services appointed by the Central Government and includes any officer authorised by the Central Government to perform the duties of the Director General; Section 2 (d) "Post Office" means the Department of Posts and includes every house, building, room, place or any other asset used by the Post Office for providing any service.

Section 3. (1) The Post Office shall provide such services as the Central Government may prescribe. They are answerable for such services provided. Section 4. (1) The Post Office shall have the exclusive privilege of issuing postage stamps. (2) The Director General may make regulations relating to the supply and sale of postage stamps and postal stationery. (3) In this section, the expressions— (a) "postage stamp" means any stamp provided by the Central Government, in any form, physical or digital, for denoting sums payable in respect of such service provided by the Post Office, as may be prescribed and includes stamps affixed, printed, embossed, embedded, impressed, or otherwise indicated on an item; (b) "postal stationery" means stationery, issued by the Post Office such as envelopes, letter cards, postcards, bearing imprinted stamps or inscriptions indicating that sum payable in respect of a service provided by the Post Office has been prepaid. Section 8. The Central Government may prescribe the conditions for denoting the official marks on items to be used as prima facie evidence of the facts so denoted. Such marks includes postal stamps. Section 9. (1) The Central Government may, by notification, empower any officer to cause any item in course of transmission by the Post Office to be intercepted, opened or detained in the interest of the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign states, public order, emergency, or public safety or upon the occurrence of any contravention of any of the provisions of this Act or any other law for the time being in force.

[Source: https://prsindia.org/files/bills_acts/bills_parliament/2023/Post_office_Bill_2023_Text.pdf]

80. Pramesha wants to buy a postal envelop and letter card from India post as she had always done for many years. When she visits the post office, she finds that the costs of the postal envelop and letter card has been exponentially increased by the order of the central government which is pasted on the soft board of the Post Office. She challenges the order being in violation of the law of 2023. Will she succeed if the bill has acquired the status of law?
- (a) Yes, because there can be no increase in postal stationery charges under the new law without approval from the Parliament.
 - (b) No, because the law of 2023 allows all types of interference with postal products from Department of Posts under section 9.
 - (c) Yes, because the regulation of postal stationery is to be done by the Director General.
 - (d) No, because there can be regulation of sale of postal stamps under section 4 of the law of 2023.

81. Ms. Bhawani Arjaria, an accomplished administrator, appointed by the central government to be the Director General of the Department of Posts. She makes many orders and regulations on postal stamps and stationery. She has to visit another country for observing their postal systems and therefore, her work is managed by another officer, Mr. Karmesh Prakash from the department with absence of express authorization from the central government. There is a later authorization of the state government for his acts or regulations. He makes many orders for the regulation of postal stationery and stamps. Is the regulation valid in light of the passage?
- (a) Yes, because Mr. Karmesh Prakash was authorized by the proper government for regulation.
 - (b) No, because Mr. Karmesh Prakash cannot take the place of the director general in their absence under the law of 2023.
 - (c) Yes, because Ms. Bhawani Arjaria is the real director general who must make the decisions remotely by digital signature.
 - (d) No, because Mr. Karmesh Prakash should have been authorized by the central government.
82. Ms. Poorvi Chauhan's house had a spare room which is taken for rent by the Post Office authorities in the city of Krupapuram. They plan to provide saving accounts services from that room. This provision of services like banking had been recently debated in the central Parliament. Provision related to such services are pending before the appropriate authorities and has not been approved. The Department of Posts begins providing banking services from the rented room and she also opens a savings account. But there is abrupt stoppage of banking services few months later. Later, Ms. Poorvi demands for rent to be given by the Department of Post for their banking service which they oblige. She also asks for the refund of her personal deposit in the India post bank. Will she succeed?
- (a) Yes, because the banking service was authorized by the central government under section 3.
 - (b) No, because the rented premise is not included in the definition of post office under section 2.
 - (c) Yes, because there is legitimate expectation on the banking service to restore the person any sum asked in Posts under section 8.
 - (d) No, because the service offered by the Post Office was not authorized by the central government.
83. Mr. Taresh Kumar, is authorized by a central government notification, to intercept, open or detain any communication sent through India post by a known terrorist supporter, Mr. Palam Tauqik. He follows the orders and regularly intercepts all communication from Mr. Palam. As there are certain problematic persons seen in the vicinity of Mr. Tauqik's house, one letter mentions a huge meeting to be taking place in his house. Mr. Taresh destroys the letter due to it being threatening to the security of the nation. Is his action valid in light of the passage?
- (a) Yes, because there is express allowance of destruction of such postal items under section 9.
 - (b) No, because the destruction of such postal matter requires the approval of the director general.
 - (c) Yes, because he has acted in national interest to safeguard his nation and its citizens under the Indian constitution.
 - (d) No, because there is no express mention of destruction of such items under section 9.
84. Ms. Ruchika is a student who had taken part in an essay competition. Her essay was sent through the post and she receives first prize in the essay competition. Her prize money cheque is dispatched through the India post services. But she receives the letter containing it after three months. The cheque is beyond its honourable and cashable date. She sues the post office near her as the date mentioned on the letter with India post stamp was of three months ago. Will she be able to use the letter as proper evidence in Court?
- (a) Yes, because the official marks on the postal items can be used as prima facie evidence of the date.
 - (b) No, because the official marks on the postal items are not legal facts which can be admitted in Courts as evidence.
 - (c) Yes, because the official marks on the postal items can be used as conclusive evidence of the facts denoted under section 8.
 - (d) No, because an informal envelop cannot be used in legal proceedings for denoting any prima facie evidence under the Indian evidence Act.

SECTION D: LOGICAL REASONING

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

Passage (Q.85-Q.90): A meeting last week between Indian diplomats and the Taliban foreign minister, Amir Khan Muttaqi, in Kabul has underscored New Delhi's changing relationship with a group it once shunned as a proxy of the Pakistani military establishment. Led by J.P. Singh, joint secretary in charge of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran in the foreign office, the Indian delegation discussed New Delhi's continuing humanitarian aid as well as the prospects of enhanced economic ties, including the utilisation of the Chabahar port that India is developing in Iran. The Indian team also met the former Afghan president, Hamid Karzai, officials of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, and Afghan business representatives. This outreach builds on India's increasing engagement with Taliban-ruled Afghanistan, which has included earlier diplomatic visits to Kabul since the group returned to power in August 2021. In June 2022, India effectively reopened its embassy in Kabul, sending what it has described as a technical team to run the mission. Back in New Delhi, diplomats representing the earlier elected Afghan government at their country's embassy in India have said they are unable to work because the Indian government is no longer supporting them.

All of this stands in stark contrast to India's approach to the Taliban when the group was in power in the 1990s and when it was fighting against the United States of America-backed Afghan government forces for two decades after being ousted. Through that period, the Taliban's close relationship with the Pakistani military and intelligence structure meant that India eschewed all engagement with the Taliban. But times have changed: today, relations between Pakistan and the Taliban are tense. Islamabad is also in the middle of a campaign to expel more than a million Afghan refugees. The Indian strategic community rightly views this as an opportunity to explore stronger ties with the Taliban, given the group's firm control over Afghanistan. In itself, this is a sensible approach. Yet, India must be careful in its outreach. The Taliban remains fundamentally undemocratic and has crushed the rights and aspirations of Afghan women since returning to power. India should therefore draw its own red lines on how far it will engage with the group, making sure that it does not give the appearance of condoning the Taliban's brutal practices. The Taliban can be tactical working partners, no more. India must not forget that.

85. Which of the following best represents the main idea of the passage?
- (a) India should acknowledge the rule of the Taliban in Afghanistan, while also recognizing potential opportunities for cooperation.
 - (b) Indian diplomats meet with the Taliban's foreign minister in Kabul to discuss humanitarian aid, economic ties, and the utilization of the Chabahar port.
 - (c) Since the governance style of the Taliban remains unacceptable, India should exercise caution while exploring potential opportunities with the group.
 - (d) India's relationship with the Taliban has shifted significantly in recent years, evolving from a stance of complete avoidance to no-holds-barred engagement
86. What can be inferred about India's diplomatic strategy towards Afghanistan from the recent meeting between Indian diplomats and the Taliban Foreign Minister in Kabul?
- (a) India is prioritizing its humanitarian aid over political considerations in Afghanistan.
 - (b) India's approach is to cautiously engage with the Taliban to explore economic ties.
 - (c) The meeting signifies India's complete acceptance of the Taliban's governance in Afghanistan.
 - (d) India aims to use the Chabahar port to assert its influence in Central Asia.
87. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the argument that India's engagement with the Taliban-ruled Afghanistan marks a significant shift in its foreign policy approach compared to the 1990s?
- (a) India continues to provide humanitarian aid to Afghanistan, despite the change in governance.
 - (b) India has developed a strategic port in Iran to facilitate trade with Afghanistan.
 - (c) India has officially recognized the Taliban government by reopening its embassy in Kabul.
 - (d) Historical documents reveal India had covert contacts with the Taliban in the 1990s.

88. Which of the following, if true, would most seriously weaken the assertion that India's strategic community views its engagement with the Taliban as an opportunity to explore stronger ties?
- (a) India has not officially recognized the Taliban government at the United Nations.
 - (b) Recent trade agreements between India and Afghanistan have been put on hold indefinitely.
 - (c) India's humanitarian aid to Afghanistan has been decreasing annually since the Taliban's return.
 - (d) Economic ties with Taliban will be used by India as a leverage to restore the rights of the politically repressed.
89. What conclusion can be drawn about the impact of the historical relationship between the Taliban and the Pakistani military on India's previous stance towards the Taliban?
- (a) India's engagement with the Taliban was purely based on economic interests.
 - (b) India viewed the Taliban as an independent entity separate from Pakistan's influence.
 - (c) The relationship prompted India to avoid engagement with the Taliban for security reasons.
 - (d) India's previous non-engagement policy was due to a lack of diplomatic opportunities.
90. Which piece of evidence best supports the claim that India is cautiously optimistic about enhancing economic ties with Taliban-ruled Afghanistan?
- (a) India's ongoing development of the Chabahar port in Iran for trade with Afghanistan.
 - (b) The official reopening of India's embassy in Kabul with a technical team.
 - (c) The provision of humanitarian aid to Afghanistan by the Indian government.
 - (d) Meetings between Indian diplomats and Afghan business representatives in Kabul.

Passage (Q.91-Q.96): Art has no boundaries or laws. It transcends the rules and irrespective of gender, race, religion, or class. Yet, it is regrettable that artists themselves seek to create an impression that their art is not for all and attempt to build walls. An example is the despicable comments passed by Kerala-based dancer Kalamandalam Sathyabhama against a fellow dancer from the state, which set off a debate.

Indirectly referring to Mohiniyattam dancer R L V Ramakrishnan without naming him, Sathyabhama said he has the "colour of a crow" and men who perform the dance form should be fair-skinned. "Even the mother who gave birth to him cannot bear his looks," she said in an interview to a YouTube channel and then stood by her comments when faced with backlash.

While Sathyabhama's views deserve thorough condemnation, the fact is they are reflective of the deep-rooted sense of casteism, classism, and racism prevalent in Kerala's cultural society that claims to be progressive but is yet to let go of the feudal mindset. Not long back, acclaimed filmmaker Adoor Gopalakrishnan had to resign as chairman of K R Narayanan National Institute of Visual Science and Arts after students alleged caste discrimination by its director.

The renowned performing arts centre Kerala Kalamandalam did not have students belonging to lower castes for courses like Kathakali, chenda and maddalam, deemed to be the domain of the forward communities, till about a decade ago. A controversy erupted in 2013 when permission was denied for the performance of Gurudeva Mahatmyam, a Kathakali play depicting the life of Sree Narayana Guru, venerated by the Ezhava community, at a temple.

Even today, most Kathakali performers belong to forward communities. While film actors like Vinayakan and Manikandan Achary have talked about discrimination based on caste and colour in the industry, Dalit folk singers say they face both abuse and pay disparity.

The casteist undertones in Sathyabhama's apparently racist comments cannot be ignored, given how skin colour is associated with caste and class in India, and Ramakrishnan, who has a PhD in Mohiniyattam, belongs to a Scheduled Caste. While the remarks are particularly reprehensible because they came from an artist and the base outlook they exposed is a disgrace to her art community, it's a moment of retrospection for the people of Kerala. The dancer must face the consequences and society must see this as an opportunity to set right historical wrongs.

91. What piece of evidence would most strengthen the argument that Kerala's cultural society, despite its progressive claims, still harbors a feudal mindset deeply embedded in casteism, classism, and racism?
- (a) A survey shows a high percentage of Kerala's population identifies as progressive and anti-casteist.
 - (b) Interviews with various artists across Kerala reveal a unanimous denial of caste-based discrimination.
 - (c) Historical data indicating the long-standing representation of only forward castes in prestigious art academies.
 - (d) A recent increase in the number of art scholarships awarded to students from marginalized communities.
92. Based on the passage, what can be inferred about the role of traditional performing arts institutions like Kerala Kalamandalam in perpetuating caste-based divisions in society?
- (a) They openly advocate for the inclusion of all castes in performing arts education.
 - (b) Their curriculum includes extensive studies on the history of caste in Kerala
 - (c) They have only recently begun to admit students from lower castes into their programs.
 - (d) Their performances regularly celebrate themes of caste equality and social justice.
93. What effect do the comments made by Kalamandalam Sathyabhama and the subsequent backlash have on the broader conversation about inclusivity in the arts within Kerala's cultural community?
- (a) They lead to the immediate implementation of stricter anti-discrimination policies in art institutions.
 - (b) They spark a widespread public debate on the need for inclusivity in traditional art forms.
 - (c) They result in the creation of new art forms that prioritize inclusivity and diversity.
 - (d) They cause a significant increase in public funding for arts programs targeting underrepresented groups.
94. Which of the following could most effectively weaken the argument that Sathyabhama's remarks were solely based on racial prejudice, without considering the intertwined caste and class implications in Kerala's society?
- (a) Sathyabhama has a history of advocating for more diversity in dance forms across Kerala
 - (b) The comments made by Sathyabhama were outliers and not reflective of broader attitudes within Kerala's cultural society
 - (c) Previous comments by Sathyabhama also highlighted socioeconomic disparities in arts education.
 - (d) Evidence that Sathyabhama's comments were directed at multiple dancers of various backgrounds.
95. Which statement best captures the main idea of the passage regarding the impact of casteism, classism, and racism on the arts community in Kerala, as exemplified by the incident involving Kalamandalam Sathyabhama?
- (a) The incident is a rare example of personal prejudice within a largely inclusive arts community.
 - (b) Discriminatory attitudes, like those of Sathyabhama, are isolated and not indicative of broader societal issues.
 - (c) Kerala's arts community reflects the societal struggle with deep-seated casteism, classism, and racism.
 - (d) The backlash against Sathyabhama's comments demonstrates the eradication of caste-based biases in Kerala.
96. What role does the mention of Adoor Gopalakrishnan's resignation and the exclusion of lower castes from certain courses in Kerala Kalamandalam play in the author's argument about systemic issues within Kerala's cultural institutions?
- (a) They illustrate the individual actions taken against systemic issues, leading to significant reforms.
 - (b) They serve as examples of the cultural institutions' efforts to address and correct caste-based biases.
 - (c) They highlight instances of systemic discrimination and resistance to change within cultural institutions.
 - (d) They indicate a growing awareness and acknowledgment of caste issues by the artistic community.

Passage (Q.97-Q.102): Just like a room with closed doors and windows remains without ventilation, a closed mind remains devoid of scientific temper, sound reasoning and a sense of inquisitiveness. Such minds are exposed to questionable beliefs and half-truths that give birth to myths and superstitions, and are vulnerable to getting seeded with ideas that develop hatred and divisiveness. Lack of scientific temper makes one prone to developing herd mentality—a trait that helps any political establishment trying to create and capture vote banks.

Democracy thrives with an inherent scientific temper among the people who constitute it. Or it exists with large sections of people lacking scientific temper and reasoning, divided in flocks, but kept together as a whole by the checks and balances of constitutional, legal, social and political processes acting on them. The latter is where India belongs after seven-and-a-half-decades of craving to be a thriving democracy with a scientific temper among the people. But the increasing number of people falling for rumours disguised as ‘facts’ on social media without questioning and spewing hate is an indicator of our poor scientific temper.

India has the distinction of being the first in the world to officially adopt scientific temper as a fundamental duty. The 42nd Amendment added Article 51 A(h) to the Constitution in 1976. It laid down developing a “scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform” as a fundamental duty of every Indian citizen. Unfortunately, scientific temper is being viewed as being restricted to scientists and those linked with science streams. It is not. It goes beyond professional boundaries. It is relevant to every citizen—in fact, every human.

It has to do with developing a questioning and inquisitive mind, to reason, to apply logic rather than fall for hearsay, to broaden the mind, to empathise and sympathise, to understand, and to arrive at the whole truth rather than fragments of it that fuel assumptions. Scientific temper demolishes religious bigotry and superstitions. It flattens social barriers demarcating castes, creeds, religions, languages and cultures—all abounding in a vastly diverse India. As we pass the 37th National Science Day on February 28, we need to open our eyes to the fact that we are still far from realising Rabindranath Tagore’s 111-year-old vision of Indians having a “clear stream of reason that has not lost its way into the dreary desert sand of dead habit”.

97. Considering the argument that a closed mind leads to vulnerability towards myths and superstitions, which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the link between lack of scientific temper and susceptibility to questionable beliefs?
- (a) People with scientific education tend to question the validity of unfounded claims more often.
 - (b) Individuals often adopt the beliefs and superstitions prevalent within their communities.
 - (c) Studies show a correlation between critical thinking skills and resistance to false information.
 - (d) Most people who believe in myths also lack formal education in the sciences.
98. The passage suggests that democracy thrives on scientific temper among its citizens. Which of the following scenarios, if true, would most undermine the argument that a thriving democracy is contingent upon the scientific temper of its populace?
- (a) A country with high scientific literacy rates experiences significant political unrest and division.
 - (b) Democracies with low scientific temper among citizens have the highest voter turnout rates.
 - (c) Nations where scientific temper is promoted see poor democratic participation.
 - (d) Some of the most stable democracies have not implemented educational reforms to foster scientific temper.
99. Based on the passage, what can be inferred about the role of social media in shaping the scientific temper of Indian citizens?
- (a) Social media platforms significantly enhance the scientific temper by spreading factual information.
 - (b) Social media has no substantial impact on the scientific temper of its users.
 - (c) The misuse of social media leads to the spread of misinformation, affecting scientific temper negatively.
 - (d) Social media's role is limited to entertainment, having little to do with developing scientific temper.

100. What is the primary argument of the author regarding the current state of scientific temper among the Indian populace?
- (a) Scientific temper is widely appreciated and practiced across all demographics in India.
 - (b) India's efforts to promote scientific temper have been largely successful and impactful.
 - (c) The Indian constitution effectively encourages the development of scientific temper nationwide.
 - (d) Scientific temper is not as prevalent as it should be, leading to various societal issues.
101. Given the passage's emphasis on the importance of scientific temper beyond professional boundaries, which of the following situations best exemplifies the practical application of scientific temper in everyday life?
- (a) A teacher uses scientific experiments to explain concepts in a science classroom.
 - (b) A person evaluates the credibility of news sources before sharing information online.
 - (c) A doctor applies the latest medical research to treat patients effectively.
 - (d) An engineer designs a bridge using advanced mathematical calculations.
102. Based on the passage, in what year was the 42nd Amendment, which added Article 51 A(h) promoting scientific temper, passed?
- (a) The Amendment was enacted in 1950, aligning with the establishment of the Republic of India.
 - (b) The Amendment came into effect in 1986, a decade after the Emergency era.
 - (c) It was passed in 1976, amidst efforts to strengthen the Constitution's democratic ideals.
 - (d) The law was introduced in 1966, following significant social and economic reforms.

Passage (Q.103-Q.108): Over the past few years, the Narendra Modi government has been actively pursuing trade agreements. It has signed an economic cooperation and trade agreement with Australia and a comprehensive economic partnership agreement with the UAE. Talks are also on with the UK and the EU. And on Sunday, after 16 years of negotiation, the government has signed another trade agreement with the four-nation European Free Trade Association (EFTA), comprising Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. These are welcome developments. They signal greater openness and desire to push through trade agreements and a change from the times when negotiations would be abandoned midway.

As per the newly signed agreement, the EFTA states shall aim to increase FDI into India by \$50 billion within 10 years, and another \$50 billion in the five years thereafter. This could facilitate the generation of one million direct jobs in the country. To provide some perspective — EFTA investment stood at \$10.7 billion in 2022. Switzerland is India's largest trading partner in this bloc of nations, followed by Norway.

In fact, India has a trade deficit with Switzerland, largely due to gold imports. After the treaty comes into effect, the EFTA nations will see a reduction in tariffs. As reported in this paper, the agreement will result in the "elimination of duties on most industrial goods exported to India", such as pharmaceutical products, machinery, watches, fertilisers, medicine, chemical products and others.

India is offering "82.7 per cent of its tariff lines which cover 95.3 per cent" of the grouping's exports. However, most agricultural items have reportedly been kept outside the purview of this deal. EFTA's "market access offer covers 100 per cent of non-agri products". The services sector also forms a vital part of this trade agreement. The agreement would help stimulate services exports in areas such as information technology and facilitate the movement of key skilled personnel.

The Indian government had set an ambitious target of \$2 trillion in exports of goods and services by 2030. Achieving this will require policy action on a range of issues — from lowering tariffs to entering into deeper, more expansive free trade agreements while safeguarding the country's interests. It also calls for ensuring that measures are taken so that the benefits from these trade agreements are fully reaped. At this critical juncture in the country's development trajectory, it must push ahead.

103. Considering Switzerland's role as India's largest trading partner within EFTA and the trade deficit driven by gold imports, what evidence, if true, would most directly justify the strategic focus on reducing tariffs for non-gold imports from EFTA countries?
- (a) Data showing a substantial portion of India's trade deficit with EFTA is not due to gold imports.
 - (b) Analysis indicating a high demand in India for EFTA-produced non-gold goods and services.
 - (c) Projections of significant job creation in India from increased trade in non-gold sectors.
 - (d) Reports of EFTA's willingness to invest in India's infrastructure if non-gold tariffs are reduced.
104. Considering the agreement's goal to increase FDI into India by \$100 billion over 15 years, which factor would most likely enhance the agreement's effectiveness in achieving this target?
- (a) Improving the efficiency of India's bureaucratic processes related to foreign investments.
 - (b) Offering tax incentives specifically for companies from EFTA countries investing in India.
 - (c) Strengthening the intellectual property rights regime in India.
 - (d) Increasing the ease of repatriating profits for foreign investors.
105. What would be most critical to assess when evaluating the potential for the newly signed trade agreement with EFTA to generate one million direct jobs in India?
- (a) The scale of infrastructure development required to support increased trade activities.
 - (b) The current employment rates in sectors targeted by the trade agreement.
 - (c) The compatibility of Indian workforce skills with the needs of EFTA-based companies.
 - (d) The quantum of localization of activities resulting from the planned investment of \$100 billion in next 15 years by EFTA.
106. Based on the information provided, what can be inferred about the impact of reducing tariffs on EFTA nations' exports, particularly in industries such as pharmaceuticals and machinery, on India's domestic market?
- (a) It may lead to a surge in the availability of high-quality goods in India.
 - (b) It could potentially undercut the competitiveness of local Indian manufacturers.
 - (c) It might foster innovation and efficiency among Indian companies.
 - (d) It will likely result in immediate price reductions for consumers in India.
107. Which scenario could potentially undermine the success of India's strategy to achieve a \$2 trillion export target by 2030 through the trade agreements mentioned?
- (a) A significant increase in global demand for services and goods produced by India.
 - (b) A global economic downturn leading to reduced consumption and investment worldwide.
 - (c) An unforeseen technological advancement in a competing nation enhancing their export capabilities.
 - (d) Enhanced trade barriers from non-EFTA countries in response to these agreements.
108. Given the focus on non-agricultural products in the EFTA agreement, what discrepancy exists in the trade strategy that could affect India's overall trade balance?
- (a) The potential for increased imports without a corresponding rise in exports of agricultural products.
 - (b) The exclusion of services, which constitute a significant portion of India's export economy.
 - (c) The reliance on non-agricultural exports to countries with strong agricultural sectors.
 - (d) The limited focus on non-agricultural products could overlook emerging tech and service sectors.

SECTION - E : QUANTITATIVE TECHNIQUES

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

Ajay invests Rs. P at 10% compound interest for 2 years. Bhavya invests Rs. Q at 5% compound interest for 2 years. Ajay buys two watches with the interest amount. The cost price of each watch is the same. Ajay sells one watch at an S% profit and the other at a 40% loss. In this scenario, the overall loss is 10%. Chetan invests Rs. 40,000 at $(S/2)$ % simple interest for 2 years. From the interest amount, Chetan buys two cycles. The cost price of the two cycles is the same. He sells one cycle at an R% profit and the other at a $(3R/2)$ % profit. After selling the two cycles, Chetan makes a profit of $(15S/8)$ %. The amount invested by Bhavya is $(15/4)$ times the interest received by Chetan. The amount invested by Ajay is Rs. 400 more than twelve times the selling price of the cycle which is sold at a higher profit percent. The interest received by Chetan is Rs. 8,000.

109. What is the value of S, the profit percentage at which Ajay sells one of the watches?
(a) 25% (b) 10% (c) 20% (d) 30%
110. What is the selling price of the cycle which is sold at a higher profit percentage?
(a) Rs. 5,500 (b) Rs. 5,600 (c) Rs. 5,200 (d) Rs. 5,800
111. What is the profit percentage at which Chetan sells the cycle that is sold at a lower profit percentage?
(a) 10% (b) 15% (c) 30% (d) 25%
112. If Ajay used the total interest received from his investment to buy two identical watches and then sold one at a 70% profit and the other at a 40% loss, what would be the combined selling price of the two watches?
(a) Rs. 16365 (b) Rs. 18225 (c) Rs. 16905 (d) Rs. 15435
113. What is the sum of the investments of Ajay, Bhavya, and Chetan?
(a) Rs. 150000 (b) Rs. 140000 (c) Rs. 160000 (d) Rs. 180000
114. What is the value of $\frac{3}{2}R$, the profit percentage at which Chetan sells one of the cycles?
(a) 60% (b) 30% (c) 45% (d) 15%

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

In a community of 400 individuals (men and women) who enjoy two different fruits: oranges and bananas. A person may enjoy one or both fruits. 40% of the people enjoy only oranges, and the ratio of men to women who enjoy only bananas and only oranges is 7:3 and 3:5, respectively. Women who enjoy both oranges and bananas constitute $33\frac{1}{3}\%$ of the men who enjoy only bananas. The ratio of people who enjoy only bananas to those who enjoy both oranges and bananas is 5:3, respectively.

115. Given the total community is 400 individuals, how many people enjoy bananas?
(a) 250 (b) 220 (c) 240 (d) 260
116. Which of the following statements accurately reflects the information provided in the question?
(a) The number of men who enjoy only bananas is equal to the number of women who enjoy both fruits.
(b) Women who enjoy only oranges constitute 25% of the total community.
(c) The ratio of men to women who enjoy only oranges is 1:2.
(d) The total number of people who enjoy both fruits is equal to the sum of the number of men who enjoy only bananas and the number of women who enjoy both fruits.

117. What is the number of men who enjoy only bananas?
(a) 60 (b) 50 (c) 105 (d) 100
118. What is the sum of the number of people who enjoy only oranges and the number of people who enjoy only bananas?
(a) 320 (b) 290 (c) 300 (d) 310
119. What is the difference between the number of men and women who enjoy only oranges?
(a) 10 (b) 20 (c) 30 (d) 40
120. What is the number of men who enjoy only oranges as a percentage of the total community?
(a) 12% (b) 15% (c) 18% (d) 20%

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Mock Objection Form (MOF)



Notes:

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