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**English Language**

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

- I. Fali Sam Nariman passed away on February 21. Senior Advocate, doyen of the Indian bar and legal luminary, his life is an example and an inspiration for all those who cherish the values of the Republic.

Born in Rangoon in 1929, in what was then still British India, Nariman moved to India with his parents in February 1942 in the wake of the Japanese invasion of Burma. As he described in his autobiography *Before Memory Fades* (2010), the Nariman family was forced to leave behind most of their personal belongings. They made the 21-day trek across the Indo-Burmese border, carrying, for the most part, boxes of office records. He came from a generation who knew the cost of war personally.

After he received a second class in his Bachelor of Arts examinations, his father was keen on him sitting for the Indian Civil Service (ICS) examination, but young Fali knew his father could ill-afford the fees. He chose, instead, to study the law.

Though Nariman described law as the “last refuge” of a “second-class arts student”, that second-class degree was the Indian bar’s good fortune. He began his legal career in November 1950. He joined the chambers of Sir Jamshedji Behramji Kanga, which produced such luminaries as Harilal Kania, the first Chief Justice of India, and H M Seervai, whose *Constitutional Law of India* (1967) is one of the definitive accounts of the Indian Constitution.

Nariman’s career was marked by his integrity. He was Additional Solicitor General of India from May 1972 to June 1975, resigning from that post when the Emergency was declared on June 26, 1975. He never accepted any constitutional office thereafter. In a career spanning more than 70 years, the cases he argued shaped the courts as an institution of constitutional governance.

One example is the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association (SCAORA) case of 1993 (the Second Judges case) where the Supreme Court endorsed the collegium system. Before the Court, Nariman had argued that “consultation” with the President meant more than merely seeking advice. The Court upheld the collegium system, finding that the Chief Justice would also have to take into account the opinions of his senior most colleagues.

In later years, Nariman criticised the collegium system, arguing that many fine lawyers had been overlooked for consideration for judgeship. But he appeared again in the 2016 SCAORA case, arguing that the National Judicial Appointments Commission would impinge on the independence of the judiciary. The Constitution’s mandate to uphold the independence of the

judiciary, he argued, was necessary to inspire the faith of citizens in impartial justice and to uphold constitutional values.

I was one of the lawyers who briefed him, in 2012, in Suresh Kumar Koushal vs Naz Foundation, where the Supreme Court upheld the sodomy law, under Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860. His arguments were a masterclass in the fundamental principles of criminal law. He laid bare the structure of the Penal Code to argue that there were no grounds to make sexual acts between consenting adults a criminal offence. He urged the Bench that the law had to move with the times.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/fali-s-nariman-an-example-and-inspiration-9174407/>

1. What is the central theme of the passage?
  - (a) The life and achievements of Senior Advocate Fali Sam Nariman.
  - (b) The history of the Indian bar and legal luminaries.
  - (c) The impact of British colonialism on legal education in India.
  - (d) The challenges faced by second-class arts students in pursuing law.
  
2. Which event prompted Fali Sam Nariman's family to move from Rangoon to India?
  - (a) The outbreak of World War II.
  - (b) The Japanese invasion of Burma.
  - (c) The Indian Civil Service (ICS) examination.
  - (d) Economic hardship faced by his family.
  
3. What was Nariman's role during the Emergency declared in India in 1975?
  - (a) He continued to serve as Additional Solicitor General of India.
  - (b) He resigned from his post as Additional Solicitor General of India.
  - (c) He was appointed as Chief Justice of India.
  - (d) He was elected as a member of the Parliament.
  
4. Which legal case did Nariman argue in 2016 related to the judiciary's independence?
  - (a) Second Judges case.
  - (b) National Judicial Appointments Commission case.
  - (c) Suresh Kumar Koushal vs Naz Foundation case.
  - (d) Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association (SCAORA) case.
  
5. What aspect of the Indian Penal Code did Nariman challenge in the Suresh Kumar Koushal vs Naz Foundation case?
  - (a) Section 377
  - (b) Section 302
  - (c) Section 420
  - (d) Section 498A



6. Which word best describes Nariman's legal arguments in the Suresh Kumar Koushal vs Naz Foundation case?
- (a) Convoluted (b) Persuasive  
(c) Incoherent (d) Perfunctory

II. It was Lady Windermere's last reception before Easter, and Bentinck House was even more crowded than usual. Six Cabinet Ministers had come on from the Speaker's Levee in their stars and ribands, all the pretty women wore their smartest dresses, and at the end of the picture-gallery stood the Princess Sophia of Carlsruhe, a heavy Tartar-looking lady, with tiny black eyes and wonderful emeralds, talking bad French at the top of her voice, and laughing immoderately at everything that was said to her. It was certainly a wonderful medley of people. Gorgeous peeresses chatted affably to violent Radicals, popular preachers brushed coat-tails with eminent sceptics, a perfect bevy of bishops kept following a stout prima-donna from room to room, on the staircase stood several Royal Academicians, disguised as artists, and it was said that at one time the supper-room was absolutely crammed with geniuses. In fact, it was one of Lady Windermere's best nights, and the Princess stayed till nearly half-past eleven. As soon as she had gone, Lady Windermere returned to the picture-gallery, where a celebrated political economist was solemnly explaining the scientific theory of music to an indignant virtuoso from Hungary, and began to talk to the Duchess of Paisley. She looked wonderfully beautiful with her grand ivory throat, her large blue forget-me-not eyes, and her heavy coils of golden hair. Or pur they were – not that pale straw colour that nowadays usurps the gracious name of gold, but such gold as is woven into sunbeams or hidden in strange amber; and gave to her face something of the frame of a saint, with not a little of the fascination of a sinner. She was a curious psychological study. Early in life she had discovered the important truth that nothing looks so like innocence as an indiscretion; and by a series of reckless escapades, half of them quite harmless, she had acquired all the privileges of a personality. She had more than once changed her husband; indeed, Debrett credits her with three marriages; but as she had never changed her lover, the world had long ago ceased to talk scandal about her. She was now forty years of age, childless, and with that inordinate passion for pleasure which is the secret of remaining young. [www.lawpreptutorial.com](http://www.lawpreptutorial.com) Suddenly she looked eagerly round the room, and said, in her clear contralto voice, 'Where is my cheiromantist?'. 'Your what, Gladys?' exclaimed the Duchess, giving an involuntary start. 'My cheiromantist, Duchess; I can't live without him at present. 'Dear Gladys! you are always so original,' murmured the Duchess, trying to remember what a cheiromantist really was, and hoping it was not the same as a chiropodist. 'He comes to see my hand twice a week regularly,' continued Lady Windermere, 'and is most interesting about it.' 'Good heavens!' said the Duchess to herself 'he is a sort of chiropodist after all. How very dreadful. I hope he is a foreigner at any rate. It wouldn't be quite so bad then.'

'I must certainly introduce him to you.'

'Introduce him!' cried the Duchess; 'you don't mean to say he is here?' and she began looking about for a small tortoise-shell fan and a very tattered lace shawl, so as to be ready to go at a moment's notice.

Source: <https://englishliterature.net/oscar-wilde/lord-arthur-saviles-crime>

7. What event was Lady Windermere hosting at Bentinck House?  
(a) A charity auction. (b) A Cabinet meeting.  
(c) A reception. (d) A fashion show.
8. What was the Princess Sophia of Carlsruhe doing at the reception?  
(a) Singing opera. (b) Discussing politics.  
(c) Speaking bad French and laughing. (d) Dancing with Cabinet Ministers.
9. How does the passage describe Lady Windermere's appearance?  
(a) With a thin frame and green eyes.  
(b) With a pale complexion and red hair.  
(c) With a grand ivory throat, blue eyes, and golden hair.  
(d) With a petite stature and brown eyes.
10. What did Lady Windermere want to find at the reception?  
(a) Her jeweller. (b) Her astrologer.  
(c) Her tarot card reader. (d) Her cheiromantist.
11. Which word best describes the Duchess's reaction to Lady Windermere's mention of the cheiromantist?  
(a) Excited (b) Confused  
(c) Amused (d) Relieved
12. What was Lady Windermere's attitude toward her past indiscretions?  
(a) She regretted them deeply.  
(b) She revealed in them as part of her personality.  
(c) She denied ever having committed any.  
(d) She was embarrassed by them.

III. It was an indirect election in which a mere 35 councillors could vote. Yet, the election of Chandigarh's Mayor has emerged as a microcosm of the sort of serious electoral malpractice that can undermine democracy. The Supreme Court of India, while declaring the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) candidate Kuldeep Kumar as the duly elected Mayor, has exposed a malaise that is not often recognised in the great Indian election scene: the role of officials in helping parties steal elections through fraudulent means during counting. The act of the Returning Officer, Anil Masih, in marking or defacing ballot papers, was not only captured on camera but was also proven to be a ruse to declare invalid votes that were validly cast in Mr. Kumar's favour. Mr. Masih, a man with Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) affiliation, appears to have committed the illegality to help Manoj Sonkar, the BJP candidate, win the mayoral election, but it ultimately backfired on him, as the apex court has initiated the process to prosecute him for giving false information to the Court. Ever since he controversially declared Mr. Sonkar elected after ruling eight votes invalid, Mr. Masih had sought to brazen it out by claiming that the votes were invalid as they were defaced. His claim was shown to be false, as the Court found nothing on the ballots indicating defacement.

When Mr. Sonkar resigned from his post on the eve of the hearing, the Court was alive to the possibility that the BJP was looking for a reason to have a fresh election, as by that time, it had won over three AAP councillors to its side, a development that may impede the new Mayor's functioning. The Court warned against the democratic process being set at naught by "subterfuge". It was, therefore, logical that it did not order a fresh election, but decided to go ahead with the original votes, taking into account the valid votes illegally declared invalid. There is little doubt that the development is a setback to the BJP, which seems to have resorted to the fraud with the aim of subverting the cooperation between the Congress and the AAP, which are part of the Opposition INDIA bloc and had forged an alliance for the municipal election. BJP president J.P. Nadda had sought to use the election result to underscore the failure of both arithmetic and chemistry in the Opposition alliance, but will now have to deal with the party's loss of face. It was indeed a fit case for the Court to invoke its extraordinary powers to decide on fact who actually won the election. The prosecution of Mr. Masih should also establish at whose behest he had resorted to such flagrant fraud.

13. What was the Supreme Court's decision regarding the election of Chandigarh's Mayor?
- (a) It ordered a fresh election.
  - (b) It declared Kuldeep Kumar as the duly elected Mayor.
  - (c) It sided with the BJP candidate, Manoj Sonkar.
  - (d) It remained neutral and did not interfere in the election process.
14. What was the role of the Returning Officer, Anil Masih, in the election malpractice?
- (a) He supported the AAP candidate, Kuldeep Kumar.
  - (b) He declared invalid votes that were cast in favor of Kuldeep Kumar.
  - (c) He remained impartial throughout the election process.
  - (d) He facilitated a fair and transparent election.

15. What was the consequence for the Returning Officer, Anil Masih, following the Supreme Court's ruling?
- (a) He was awarded for his efforts in maintaining electoral integrity.
  - (b) He was declared innocent of any wrongdoing.
  - (c) He was prosecuted for giving false information to the Court.
  - (d) He was promoted to a higher position in the election commission.
16. What was the Supreme Court's warning regarding the democratic process?
- (a) It warned against interference from political parties in election procedures.
  - (b) It warned against the misuse of extraordinary powers by the judiciary.
  - (c) It warned against setting the democratic process at naught by "subterfuge."
  - (d) It warned against excessive government intervention in electoral affairs.
17. What was the motive behind the fraudulent actions in the mayoral election?
- (a) To ensure a fair and transparent election process.
  - (b) To facilitate cooperation between the Congress and the AAP.
  - (c) To prevent the BJP candidate from winning.
  - (d) To subvert the cooperation between the Congress and the AAP.
18. What did the Supreme Court decide to do with the original votes in the mayoral election?
- (a) Invalidate all votes and order a fresh election.
  - (b) Uphold the validity of the original votes, including those illegally declared invalid.
  - (c) Side with the BJP candidate's request for a recount.
  - (d) Nullify the election results and appoint an interim Mayor.

**IV.** When the wind blew from the land he caught nothing, or but little at best, for it was a bitter and black-winged wind, and rough waves rose up to meet it. But when the wind blew to the shore, the fish came in from the deep, and swam into the meshes of his nets, and he took them to the market-place and sold them.

Every evening he went out upon the sea, and one evening the net was so heavy that hardly could he draw it into the boat. And he laughed, and said to himself 'Surely I have caught all the fish that swim, or snared some dull monster that will be a marvel to men, or some thing of horror that the great Queen will desire,' and putting forth all his strength, he tugged at the coarse ropes till, like lines of blue enamel round a vase of bronze, the long veins rose up on his arms. He tugged at the thin ropes, and nearer and nearer came the circle of flat corks, and the net rose at last to the top of the water.

But no fish at all was in it, nor any monster or thing of horror, but only a little Mermaid lying fast asleep.

Her hair was as a wet fleece of gold, and each separate hair as a thread of line gold in a cup of glass. Her body was as white ivory, and her tail was of silver and pearl. Silver and pearl was

her tail, and the green weeds of the sea coiled round it; and like sea-shells were her ears, and her lips were like sea-coral. The cold waves dashed over her cold breasts, and the salt glistened upon her eyelids.

So beautiful was she that when the young Fisherman saw her he was filled with wonder, and he put out his hand and drew the net close to him, and leaning over the side he clasped her in his arms. And when he touched her, she gave a cry like a startled sea-gull and woke, and looked at him in terror with her mauve-amethyst eyes, and struggled that she might escape. But he held her tightly to him, and would not suffer her to depart.

And when she saw that she could in no way escape from him, she began to weep, and said, 'I pray thee let me go, for I am the only daughter of a King, and my father is aged and alone.'

But the young Fisherman answered, 'I will not let thee go save thou makest me a promise that whenever I call thee, thou wilt come and sing to me, for the fish delight to listen to the song of the Sea-folk, and so shall my nets be full.'

Source: <https://englishliterature.net/oscar-wilde/the-fisherman-and-his-soul>

19. What was the young Fisherman's reaction when he found the Mermaid in his net?
  - (a) He was frightened and threw the Mermaid back into the sea.
  - (b) He was filled with wonder and clasped the Mermaid in his arms.
  - (c) He ignored the Mermaid and continued fishing.
  - (d) He felt indifferent and left the Mermaid in the net.
  
20. What was the Mermaid's initial response when the young Fisherman clasped her in his arms?
  - (a) She cried out in joy and hugged him back.
  - (b) She remained still and silent, not knowing how to react.
  - (c) She gave a cry like a startled sea-gull and tried to escape.
  - (d) She smiled warmly and thanked him for rescuing her.
  
21. What did the young Fisherman request of the Mermaid when he clasped her in his arms?
  - (a) He asked her to marry him and live with him on land.
  - (b) He asked her to promise to come and sing to him whenever he called her.
  - (c) He asked her to help him catch more fish for his livelihood.
  - (d) He asked her to guide him to hidden treasures in the sea.
  
22. What is the Mermaid's reason for wanting to escape from the young Fisherman's grasp?
  - (a) She is afraid of the Fisherman and wants to return to the sea.
  - (b) She is angry at being caught in the Fisherman's net.
  - (c) She is concerned about her aging father who is alone.
  - (d) She wants to find her fellow Mermaids and return to her underwater kingdom.

23. What does the young Fisherman compare the veins on his arms to when he tries to pull the heavy net?
- (a) Lines of blue enamel around a vase of bronze.
  - (b) Threads of gold woven into sunbeams.
  - (c) Thin ropes that are difficult to untangle.
  - (d) Waves crashing against the shore.
24. What does the passage primarily focus on?
- (a) The daily routine of a young Fisherman.
  - (b) The beauty and mystery of the sea.
  - (c) The encounter between a young Fisherman and a Mermaid.
  - (d) The economic hardships faced by fishermen.

**Current Affairs and General Knowledge**

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

- V. India's first septic tank/manhole cleaning robot, offering an end-to-end solution to eliminate manual scavenging, is strengthening the swachhata abhiyan in different corners of the country.

The technology called a)\_\_\_\_\_ developed by the startup incubated in the Department of Science and Technology (DST) – Technology Business Incubator (TBI) of b)\_\_\_\_\_, solves manual cleaning methods and transforms it to robotic cleaning methods. It has reached 16 cities in different parts of India and empowers extensive blade cleanings, solid waste desilting, suction and storage at one device; thereby reducing the cost of owning multiple assets and promotes robotic cleaning in sewers. [www.lawpreptutorial.com](http://www.lawpreptutorial.com)

The startup called c)\_\_\_\_\_, which developed this affordable robotic solution integrated Artificial Intelligence (AI) to inspect, clean, and manage confined space for sanitation purposes. It helped clean up manhole blockages and reduced sewer overflows in Madurai. The application of a)\_\_\_\_\_ was also extended to the intricate lanes of Chennai's densely populated areas. Targeting septic tanks associated with large apartments, housing boards, and individual houses, this process enabled Municipalities to promptly and efficiently clean, clear, and transport waste to treatment plants. Besides, sanitary workers were empowered with manhole cleaning robots that helped them clean the manholes from outside and avoid going inside the toxic environment, thus providing dignity to the sanitary workers.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=2009068>

25. India is ranked \_\_\_\_\_among 132 among the top innovative economies globally as per the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2022?  
(a) 44<sup>th</sup> (b) 40<sup>th</sup>  
(c) 38<sup>th</sup> (d) 35<sup>th</sup>
26. Government of India launched the flagship initiative, "Startup India" in which year?  
(a) 2019 (b) 2020  
(c) 2016 (d) 2014
27. Which of the following will come in place of a)\_\_\_\_\_in the passage?  
(a) Jasap Atom (b) Mohosep Molecule  
(c) Homosep Atom (d) Sepnon Molecule

28. Which of the following will come in place of b)\_\_\_\_\_ in the passage?  
(a) IIT Madras (b) IIT Delhi  
(c) IIT Bombay (d) IIT Kharagpur

29. Which of the following will come in place of c)\_\_\_\_\_ in the passage?  
(a) Solina (b) Sepnon  
(c) Senops (d) Sweepnon

**VI.** National Science Day is celebrated across India on February a)\_\_\_\_\_ to honor the discovery of the Raman Effect by physicist Sir CV Raman in 1928. The Raman Effect is the inelastic scattering of light by molecules, a discovery that earned Raman the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930, making him the first Asian to receive the prestigious award in any branch of science. National Science Day aims to promote scientific thinking and highlight the importance of science in everyday life. Educational institutions, scientific organizations, and various other institutions across India organize events such as seminars, workshops, and exhibitions to celebrate the occasion. The day serves as a reminder of India's rich scientific heritage and encourages scientific research and innovation. National Science Day is a celebration of India's scientific achievements and a reminder of the importance of science in society. It serves as an inspiration for future generations to pursue careers in science and technology, contributing to the nation's development and progress.

In 1986, the National Council for Science and Technology Communication (NCSTC) proposed to the Government of India that February a)\_\_\_\_\_ be designated as National Science Day. Since 1987, this day has been celebrated to commemorate the discovery of the Raman Effect and to promote scientific temper in the country. The day is observed to raise awareness about the importance of scientific applications in our daily lives.

The day also aims to celebrate and acknowledge the efforts and achievements of scientists in human welfare.

The best way to observe National Science Day is by understanding the way science and technology have progressed and exploring the spaces where more efforts need to be made.

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/science/national-science-day-2024-everything-you-need-to-know-about-the-day/articleshow/108056937.cms?from=mdr>

30. What is the theme of 2024 National Science Day?  
(a) Integrated Approach in S&T for Sustainable Future  
(b) Future of STI: Impact on Education Skills and Work  
(c) Global Science for Global Wellbeing  
(d) Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat



31. The Government has launched VAIBHAV fellowships programme in 2023 to connect the Indian STEMM (Science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine) diaspora with Indian academic and R&D institutions. The VAIBHAV Fellow would identify an Indian Institution for collaboration and may spend up to two months there in a year for a maximum of how many years?
- (a) 2 (b) 3  
(c) 4 (d) 5
32. Which are the highest multidisciplinary science awards in India for the young scientists?
- (a) Vigyan Ratna Awards (b) Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar  
(c) SASTRA-CNR Rao Awards (d) HK Firodia Awards
33. The iCET initiative was launched by India and which country?
- (a) UK (b) USA  
(c) Israel (d) Brazil
34. Which of the following will come in place of a)\_\_\_\_\_ in the passage?
- (a) 6<sup>th</sup> (b) 15<sup>th</sup>  
(c) 21<sup>st</sup> (d) 28<sup>th</sup>
- VII.** The Sea Phase of Naval exercise a)\_\_\_\_\_ concluded aboard INS Vikrant in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday, the Navy said. "All units undertook a series of complex and advanced exercises in the domains of surface, sub-surface and air warfare including exercises against asymmetric threats," the Navy said.
- It said that some of the major exercises included surface firings, complex anti-air shoots, advanced Anti-Submarine Warfare exercises with Indian Navy submarines, air defence exercises against fighters, extensive operations of ship-borne helicopters, and seamanship evolutions, including fuelling from Indian Navy tankers.
- All the 35 participating units arrived at the anchorage off Visakhapatnam and the Commanding Officers assembled onboard INS Vikrant for the closing ceremony, the Navy said.
- "The Closing Ceremony included a debrief about operational aspects of the Sea Phase and enabled all participating navies to interact, exchange views and enhance mutual understanding and interoperability by sharing experiences and best practices," it said.
- Source: INDIA TODAY*
35. Which of the following countries originally did not take part in this exercise?
- (a) Indonesia (b) Japan  
(c) Singapore (d) Thailand

36. What is the significance of INS Jatayu in Lakshadweep?  
(a) It is the 1<sup>st</sup> Naval Base in Lakshadweep.  
(b) It is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Naval Base in Lakshadweep.  
(c) It is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Naval base in Lakshadweep.  
(d) It is the Primary Research Facility in Lakshadweep.
37. Which countries participate in the joint military exercise "Dharma Guardian"?  
(a) India and China (b) India and Japan  
(c) India and Pakistan (d) India and Russia
38. Which is India's first Survey Vessel Large (SVL) ship commissioned into the Indian Navy recently?  
(a) INS Vagir (b) INS Sandhayak  
(c) INS Mormugao (d) INS Vikrant
39. Which of the following will come in place of a)\_\_\_ in the passage?  
(a) EUNAVFOR (b) MILAN  
(c) INDRA (d) SIMBEX

**VIII.** Nearly 19 months after he retired as a Supreme Court judge, Justice a)\_\_\_\_\_ was appointed the chairperson of the anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal on Tuesday. The post fell vacant nearly two years ago.

"President Droupadi Murmu is pleased to appoint Justice a)\_\_\_\_\_ as the chairperson of the Lokpal," a statement released by Rashtrapati Bhavan said.

He had a six-year tenure as an SC judge. In his last year, he authored a series of crucial verdicts that validated the state's sweeping powers against citizens in special legislations — the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act and the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Act. He retired in July 2022. Turkey, a 1987-batch Madhya Pradesh cadre IAS (retd) officer, superannuated as Secretary, Department of Land Resource, Ministry of Rural Development on December 31, 2023. He has served in various ministries, including women and child development and defence. Justice Yadav, whose parent HC is the Madhya Pradesh High Court, had a tenure of just 13 days as Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court in June 2021. During his tenure as CJ, when the Uttar Pradesh ordinance on anti-conversion had been passed as a law, Justice Yadav had refused permission to the petitioners to amend their pleas.

Pankaj Kumar, a 1986-batch IAS officer was chief secretary of Gujarat from August 2021 to January 2023. A civil engineer from IIT – Kanpur, Kumar was at the helm during the Covid 19 pandemic, and was given an extension in May 2022. Kumar had served as Additional Principal Secretary in the Chief Minister's Office from 2004-2008 when Narendra Modi was the Chief Minister.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/former-sc-judge-khanwilkar-is-new-lokpal-chairperson-9184975/>

40. How many members can a Lokpal have apart from a chairperson?  
(a) 6 (b) 7  
(c) 8 (d) 10
41. Institution of Ombudsman was first created in which country?  
(a) Netherlands (b) Sweden  
(c) Germany (d) Italy
42. Who was the first Lokpal of India?  
(a) Justice Pradip Kumar Mohanty (b) Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose  
(c) Justice Dilip Babasaheb Bhosale (d) Justice Ajay Kumar Tripathi
43. The Lokpal chairperson and the members are appointed for a term of five years or serve till they are how many years old?  
(a) 5 years and 65 years of Age, whichever is earlier  
(b) 5 years and 70 years of Age, whichever is earlier  
(c) 6 years and 65 years of Age, whichever is earlier  
(d) 6 years and 70 years of Age, whichever is earlier
44. Which of the following will come in place of a) \_\_\_\_\_ in the passage?  
(a) Hon'ble Mr. Justice B.L. Hansaria (b) Hon'ble Mr. Justice Faizan Uddin  
(c) Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.K. Mukherjee (d) Hon'ble Mr. Justice A M Khanwilkar

- IX.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday virtually launched India's first indigenously-developed and built hydrogen fuel cell ferry, in Kochi, Kerala. The Prime Minister joined the ceremony in virtual mode from Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu.

The inland waterway vessel built under the Harit Nauka initiative, is a pilot project to demonstrate the technology for the maritime sector. The adoption of green hydrogen as a maritime fuel is at the forefront of India's commitment to a sustainable future that aims for 'net zero' emissions by a) \_\_\_\_\_ in order to limit global warming. [www.lawpreptutorial.com](http://www.lawpreptutorial.com)

The fuel cell-powered vessel has zero emission, zero noise and is energy-efficient. In line with the Government of India's green vision, b) \_\_\_\_\_ took up the ambitious project to design, develop and construct India's first fully indigenous hydrogen fuel cell catamaran ferry vessel to demonstrate the technology for the maritime sector. The fuel cell powered vessel has zero emission, zero noise and is energy efficient, which in turn reduces the effect of global warming. The inauguration of the fuel cell ferry will provide impetus for using hydrogen in marine application as envisaged under National Green Hydrogen Mission and early adoption of hydrogen fuel cell technology in the marine sector will provide it a global competitive advantage whereby meeting sustainable green energy aspirations of the country for net zero emission.

Source: <https://www.indianarrative.com/india-news/pm-modi-launches-indias-first-indigenously-built-hydrogen-powered-ferry-154676.html>

45. What is the timeline set by the Harit Nauka Initiative for achieving 100% usage of green fuels in inland waterways-based passenger fleets?
- (a) By 2035 (b) By 2040  
(c) By 2045 (d) By 2050
46. Which port also in focus of the passage is the first Green Hydrogen Hub Port of the country?
- (a) Valiyathura Seaport (b) Vizhinjam Port  
(c) Kollam Port (d) VO Chidambaranar Port
47. Which of the following will come in place of a)\_\_\_\_\_ in the passage?
- (a) 2030 (b) 2040  
(c) 2060 (d) 2070
48. Which of the following will come in place of b)\_\_\_\_\_ in the passage?
- (a) Cochin Shipyard (b) Essar Ports  
(c) Adani Group (d) Larsen & Toubro

- X. a)\_\_\_\_\_, the seat of the European Union (EU), has scored another first. The country has become the first in the European Continent to recognise 'ecocide' as a national as well as an international crime. The Federal Parliament of a)\_\_\_\_\_ voted in favour of a new penal code which makes ecocide a national and international crime on February 22, 2024, according to a document uploaded on its website.

"Unlawful or wanton acts committed with knowledge that there is a substantial likelihood of severe and either widespread or long-term damage to the environment being caused by those acts" is how 'ecocide' was defined by the Independent Expert Panel for the Legal Definition of Ecocide. The Definition was given in June 2021 by the Panel, which itself was formed in late 2020 by the Stop Ecocide Foundation.

The Stop Ecocide International was co-founded in 2017 by late barrister Polly Higgins (1968-2019) and current Executive Director Jojo Mehta. "Nationally, the new crime of ecocide, aimed at preventing and punishing the most severe cases of environmental degradation, such as extensive oil spills, will apply to individuals in the highest positions of decision-making power and to corporations. The punishment for individuals may include up to 20 years in prison, while corporations could face fines of up to 1.6 million euros," the Foundation said in a note on its website. a)\_\_\_\_\_ is a federal and constitutional monarchy. It is divided into two main linguistic and cultural regions.

"Within a)\_\_\_\_\_ federal monarchy, domestic environmental legislation is primarily the responsibility of the three regional governments of Flanders etc... The scope of this new law is limited to areas within the jurisdiction of the federal authority, including the North Sea and nuclear waste management," the Stop Ecocide Foundation article noted.

*Source: Extracted, Edited, Cockpit Of Europe: Down To Earth.*

49. Presently, Ecocide is a crime in how many countries?  
(a) 12 (b) 17  
(c) 20 (d) 22
50. Which landmark case first used the word “ecocide” in India?  
(a) Chandra CFS and Terminal Operators Pvt. Ltd. v. The Commissioner of Customs  
(b) Narmada Bachao Andolan v. Union of India  
(c) Vellore Citizen's Welfare Forum v. Union of India  
(d) TN Godavarman Thirumulpad vs Union Of India & Ors
51. Who coined the term “Ecocide”?  
(a) Arthur W. Galston (b) Olof Palme  
(c) Polly Higgins (d) Raphael Lemkin
52. Which of the following will come in place of a)\_\_\_\_in the passage?  
(a) France (b) Germany  
(c) Belgium (d) Italy

**Legal Reasoning**

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

**XI. Current Affairs**

The Supreme Court of India has taken a significant step towards addressing the issue of feral, free-ranging, and domestic dogs in wildlife and protected areas by directing the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) to consider a representation made by the Bombay Natural History Society. This representation calls for the establishment of guidelines for the management of these dogs to protect endangered species and maintain ecological balance.

The case was presented before a Division bench comprising Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and Prasanna BhalachandraVarale. The petition not only sought directions for the framing of guidelines but also challenged the constitutionality of Rule 11 and Rule 3(ii) of Schedule II of the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023. Rule 11 pertains to the capture, sterilization, immunization, or release of street dogs, while Rule 3(ii) empowers the Local Animal Birth Control Monitoring Committee to oversee these activities.

The core of the petitioner's argument was the absence of specific guidelines for managing free-ranging dogs, which pose a threat to various species, notably the endangered Great Indian Bustard. The Supreme Court, recognizing the gravity of the situation and the potential for these dogs to disrupt wildlife habitats, decided not to dismiss the matter outright. Instead, it emphasized the need for the AWBI to consider the petitioner's concerns thoroughly. The court mandated the AWBI to provide the petitioner with a personal hearing and to issue a detailed order on the matter within four weeks.

Senior Advocate Mr. Arvind Datar, representing the petitioner, successfully argued for the case to remain open until the AWBI reaches a decision, highlighting the unnecessary financial burden that filing a new petition would entail.

The petitioner's demands extend beyond the creation of management guidelines. They include proposals for controlling the population of feral and free-ranging dogs in protected areas through sterilization and immunization. In instances where these methods are impractical, the petitioner suggests the removal or elimination of these dogs from wildlife habitats. Additionally, the petition calls for the development of an effective mechanism to address incidents of wildlife attacks by these dogs.

A significant legal request made in the petition is for the Supreme Court to issue a declaration or directive that would adjust the applicability of the ABC Rules, 2023, specifically to exclude protected areas. This is based on the argument that the rules, as currently written, do not differentiate between the categories of dogs found in protected areas and those covered under the existing rules, potentially violating Article 14 of the Indian Constitution.

The petitioner seeks comprehensive action from the court, including the issuance of a writ of mandamus or a similar order, compelling the relevant authorities to implement the proposed guidelines in wildlife areas and protected forests. This would also involve providing the Forest Department with the necessary financial and other resources to effectively manage the dog population in these sensitive ecological zones.

*Source: Extracted with edits and revisions from, <https://www.livelaw.in/top-stories/supreme-court-directs-animal-welfare-board-to-decide-the-issue-of-feral-dogs-in-wildlife-and-protected-areas-250322>*

53. In the forests of Sundarbans, renowned for its unique tiger reserve and delicate ecosystem, a local NGO, "EcoGuardians," has observed an alarming increase in the population of feral dogs. These dogs have been seen hunting in packs, posing a threat to the endangered species of the area, including the rare Bengal Florican and even young deer. EcoGuardians submits a detailed representation to the AWBI, urging the formulation and implementation of specific guidelines for the control and management of feral dog populations in the Sundarbans, to prevent further ecological imbalance and protect the endangered species. What should be the course of action taken by the AWBI in response to the representation by EcoGuardians as per the passage?
- (a) Reject the request, arguing feral dogs' ecological role and right to survival outweigh the concerns.
  - (b) Acknowledge the issue but delay action due to prioritizing other wildlife conservation efforts.
  - (c) Promptly instruct local authorities to cull the feral dogs to immediately safeguard endangered species.
  - (d) Thoroughly review the request and engage EcoGuardians in a hearing, aiming for a balanced order soon.

54. In the city of Metroville, the street dog population has skyrocketed, leading to numerous complaints from the residents about dog bites and the spread of rabies. In response, the city council decides to implement an aggressive dog control program, which includes the capture and euthanasia of street dogs. A local animal welfare organization, "Paws & Care," files a lawsuit against the city council's decision, arguing that it violates the law and the authority of the Local Animal Birth Control Monitoring Committee.
- What is the most legally sound action for the city council to take in response to the lawsuit filed by "Paws & Care"?
- (a) Proceed with the planned culling, citing urgent public health and safety needs.
  - (b) Pause the culling to seek guidance from the Monitoring Committee on humane alternatives.
  - (c) Transfer all dog control duties to "Paws & Care," removing the council from further actions.
  - (d) Increase funding for the culling program to hasten its execution despite the legal challenge.
55. In the town of Greenvalley, a recent increase in incidents involving aggressive interactions between free-ranging dogs and local wildlife has alarmed the community. A group of concerned citizens, "Greenvalley Guardians," petitions the AWBI to implement stricter controls on the movement of free-ranging dogs to protect the local wildlife, particularly the endangered Greenvalley Sparrow. The AWBI, however, has been slow to respond, citing resource constraints and other priorities.
- What is the most appropriate next step for the "Greenvalley Guardians" to ensure their concerns are addressed by the AWBI? [www.lawpreptutorial.com](http://www.lawpreptutorial.com)
- (a) Stage a protest to demand quicker AWBI action on the dog control issue.
  - (b) Remind the AWBI of the Supreme Court's ruling for a prompt and thorough response.
  - (c) Independently start relocating dogs, bypassing AWBI's delayed action process.
  - (d) Initiate a campaign to publicly urge AWBI action, leveraging popular support.
56. In the Kaziranga National Park, known for its one-horned rhinoceros, a local conservation group, "EcoShield," has observed a troubling increase in the population of feral dogs. These dogs, initially from nearby villages, have started venturing into the park, endangering the nesting sites of the rare and vulnerable Indian Florican and occasionally attacking smaller mammals. "EcoShield" submits a comprehensive proposal to the AWBI, demanding the formulation of specific guidelines for the control and management of feral and free-ranging dogs in national parks, emphasizing the need for immediate action to prevent potential damage to the park's unique biodiversity. What should be the AWBI's response to "EcoShield's" proposal?
- (a) Dismiss "EcoShield's" proposal, citing the lack of jurisdiction over wildlife areas under the current ABC Rules, 2023.
  - (b) Recognize the proposal but decide against immediate action, preferring to wait for more evidence of harm caused by the dogs.
  - (c) Instruct the local Forest Department to capture and relocate the feral dogs outside the park boundaries without further study.
  - (d) Undertake a thorough examination of "EcoShield's" proposal and conduct a hearing with the group, with plans to draft detailed guidelines based on their findings.



57. In the Thar Desert, the critically endangered Great Indian Bustard is threatened by free-ranging dogs preying on its eggs and chicks. "DesertWatch" NGO petitions the Supreme Court, arguing that the ABC Rules, 2023, don't protect endangered species in wildlife areas and violate Article 14 of the Indian Constitution by not differentiating between urban stray dogs and those in protected areas. How should the court respond to "DesertWatch's" petition?
- (a) Reject the petition on the grounds that the ABC Rules, 2023, adequately cover all necessary aspects of animal birth control and dog management.
  - (b) Acknowledge the petition but refrain from issuing any directives, suggesting that "DesertWatch" work with local authorities under the existing ABC Rules, 2023.
  - (c) Direct the AWBI to amend the ABC Rules, 2023, to specifically include provisions for the management of free-ranging dogs in protected areas like the Thar Desert.
  - (d) Recommend "DesertWatch" to initiate a public awareness campaign in the villages to prevent dogs from entering the protected areas, without altering the existing rules.

## **XII. Trespass to Land**

Trespass to land means interference with the possession of land without lawful justification. In trespass, the interference with the possession is direct and through some tangible object. Trespass is actionable per se and the plaintiff need not prove any damage for an action of trespass.

To constitute the wrong of trespass neither force, nor unlawful intention, nor actual damage is necessary.

Trespass may be committed by entering upon the land of the plaintiff, by remaining there, or by doing an act affecting the sole possession of the plaintiff in each case without any justification.

Trespass could be committed either by a person himself entering the land of another person or doing the same through some material object, e.g., throwing stones on another person's land. Allowing cattle to stray on another person's land is also trespass. It is, however, no trespass when there is no interference with the possession.

If the interference is not direct but consequential, the wrong may be a nuisance. Eg.- to throw stones upon one's neighbour's premises is wrong of trespass; to allow stones/smoke from a ruinous chimney to fall upon those premises is the wrong of a nuisance. Planting a tree on another's land is a trespass but if a person plants a tree over his land and its roots or branches escape on the land of the neighbour, that will be a nuisance.

Going beyond the purpose for which a person has entered certain premises- *Perera v. Vandiyar* or crossing the boundary where he has the authority to go amounts to trespass. Thus, if a person, who is allowed to sit in a drawing-room, enters the bedroom without any justification, the entry into the bedroom is a trespass. However, if the area to which a person is lawfully invited and one which is the prohibited area has not been properly marked, a person does not become a trespasser merely by going beyond the area of invitation- *Pearson v Coleman Brothers*.

Where there is a justification to enter the premises of another person, it is no trespass. In *Madhav Vithal Kudwa v. Madhavdas Vallabhdas*, the defendant was the plaintiff's tenant. He was living on the first floor of the multi-storeyed building. He used to park his car in the compound of the plaintiff's building. The plaintiff contended that the parking of the car in his compound without his permission was a trespass and sued for an injunction. It was held that the tenant of a multi-storeyed building has a right to use the compound, if any, around the building for parking of his car or other vehicles without causing any inconvenience to anybody and that right can be exercised without the permission of the landlord.

*Source: Extracted with edits and revisions from, Trespass to land, <https://blog.ipleaders.in/trespass-to-land/>*

58. Mr. Arjun finds his neighbour, Mr. Bhaskar, constructing a shed that extends onto Mr. Arjun's property. Mr. Arjun had previously made it clear that his property is not to be used by Mr. Bhaskar for any purpose. Despite this, Mr. Bhaskar continues with the construction, claiming that the shed will barely encroach upon Mr. Arjun's land and will not cause any significant harm. Mr. Arjun is considering legal action for trespass against Mr. Bhaskar. Is Mr. Bhaskar's construction of the shed on Mr. Arjun's property considered trespass?
- (a) No, because the shed's minor encroachment is deemed insignificant.
  - (b) Yes, due to Mr. Bhaskar's unpermitted interference with Mr. Arjun's land.
  - (c) No, because Mr. Bhaskar believes the construction causes negligible harm.
  - (d) Yes, if harm to Mr. Arjun's property is demonstrably significant.
59. During a friendly neighbourhood cricket match, Varun hits a ball that accidentally breaks through the window of Mrs. Gupta's house, located adjacent to the playing field. Mrs. Gupta had previously warned the players to be careful and avoid causing damage to her property. Varun immediately apologizes and offers to pay for the damage, but Mrs. Gupta is considering pressing charges for trespass. Does Varun's cricket ball causing damage to Mrs. Gupta's window constitute trespass?
- (a) Yes, as the ball constitutes unauthorized property interference.
  - (b) No, given the accidental nature and Varun's prompt compensation offer.
  - (c) Yes, but only due to prior warnings from Mrs. Gupta about property damage.
  - (d) No, because the neighbourhood consensually agreed to the cricket match location.
60. Mr. Singh discovers that his new neighbour, Mr. Kapoor, has installed a large satellite dish that slightly overhangs Mr. Singh's property without physically touching the ground. Mr. Singh had not been consulted or informed about the installation, and he views the overhang as an intrusion. Mr. Singh is contemplating legal action for trespass against Mr. Kapoor. Is the overhanging satellite dish considered trespass on Mr. Singh's property?
- (a) Yes, due to unauthorized aerial space interference by Mr. Kapoor.
  - (b) No, as there's no direct physical contact with Mr. Singh's property.
  - (c) Yes, if Mr. Singh proves the overhang devalues his property.
  - (d) No, because Mr. Kapoor aimed to enhance TV reception, not intrude.

61. Mr. Varun operates a small cafe next to Mrs. Aarti's house. Over time, Mrs. Aarti notices an increase in noise and a strong smell of coffee emanating from the cafe, which disturbs her peace and quiet, especially early in the morning and late at night. She feels that the operation of the cafe has significantly affected her quality of life by preventing her from enjoying her property as she did before the cafe opened. Mrs. Aarti is considering legal action against Mr. Varun for nuisance. Is the disturbance caused by Mr. Varun's cafe to Mrs. Aarti's living conditions considered a nuisance?
- (a) Yes, because the interference with Mrs. Aarti's enjoyment of her property is consequential.
  - (b) No, since the cafe operates during normal business hours.
  - (c) Yes, but only if Mrs. Aarti can prove the cafe violates local zoning laws.
  - (d) No, because the smell of coffee and noise are typical for cafes.
62. During a severe storm, a large tree branch from Mr. Sharma's property falls and blocks the entrance to Ms. Priya's home. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, Mr. Sharma enters Ms. Priya's property without her permission to remove the branch and ensure her safety. Ms. Priya is aware of Mr. Sharma's actions but questions whether his entry onto her property constitutes trespass. Given the circumstances, was Mr. Sharma's entry onto Ms. Priya's property justifiable, thus not constituting trespass?
- (a) Yes, because Mr. Sharma had a justification to enter the premises for safety reasons.
  - (b) No, since Mr. Sharma entered Ms. Priya's property without obtaining prior consent.
  - (c) Yes, but only if Ms. Priya acknowledges the necessity of Mr. Sharma's actions afterwards.
  - (d) No, because any entry onto another's property without permission is always considered trespass.

### **XIII. Quasi-Contract**

The obligation arising out of a quasi-contract was first recognized by the English law. The Indian Contract Act, 1872 also follow the same elements which are followed by the English Contract Act. There is no definition given for quasi-contract in the Indian Contract Act. But the Act states that it in the case of a quasi-contract, certain relations are created which are very similar to contracts. But quasi-contract can be defined as a set of rights and liabilities between the parties even when there is no formal contract. The law creates this obligation to maintain justice and fairness between the parties. The law does not allow one person to enrich himself at the expense of the other. If the rights and obligations are not created (quasi-contract) one party would be unjustly enriched. Going by this, it can be said that a quasi-contract is kind of a remedy instead of being a pure contract. Formation of a quasi-contract allows the aggrieved party to recover the benefit which the enriched party has taken at his expense. Since a quasi-contract is a law made by law, there is no statement of consent between the parties. The obligation and rights which are placed on the shoulder of the parties are rather by law than by assent.

Many times, a situation may arise that a legal obligation is placed on a person to uphold justice, even though, the person has not committed any tortious activity or has broken any contract.

For instance, X forgets some goods at Y's place. Y's is under a legal obligation to restore the goods to X. This goes on to show that Y cannot enrich himself at the expense of X. Such kind of obligations are described as Quasi-contractual Obligation. They are not actual contract in which the parties agree to enter, but are fictional agreements which are created between the parties by law so as to ensure equity.

In quasi-contracts the liability imposed is based on the doctrine of unjust enrichment. Quasi-contract is applied with regards to payment of services rendered or goods delivered or used. In such situations, the main question which arises is the liability of the person who got enriched. Since the basic concept of a quasi-contract is to prevent unjust enrichment, the liability of the enriched party is limited to the value of services rendered or cost of the goods used or delivered. Thus, the liability is limited to the amount of benefit only.

*Source: Extracted with edits and revisions from, The Concept of Quasi-Contract, <https://blog.ipleaders.in/concept-quasi-contract/>*

63. After a heavy storm, Ravi finds his neighbour, Anita's, expensive garden decorations scattered in his yard. Knowing they belong to Anita and understanding she values them greatly, he safely stores them until she can retrieve them. Anita, unaware of who saved her decorations, was prepared to face the loss. Upon learning what Ravi did, she wants to compensate Ravi for his efforts and the minor repairs he made to some of the decorations.
- Is Ravi entitled to compensation from Anita under the principle of quasi-contract?
- (a) Yes, because Ravi's actions saved Anita's property, imposing a legal obligation on her to compensate him.
  - (b) No, since Ravi voluntarily decided to save and repair Anita's decorations without her request.
  - (c) Yes, but only if Ravi can prove the decorations were at risk of being further damaged or stolen.
  - (d) No, because there was no prior agreement between Ravi and Anita regarding compensation for such actions.

64. Karan borrowed a textbook from his college library and later found out that the book belonged to his classmate, Priya, who had lost it and the library had mistakenly shelved it. Priya had been searching for this rare textbook for weeks as it was crucial for her thesis. Realizing the mix-up, Karan returns the book to Priya. Priya, relieved and grateful, wonders if she is legally obligated to reward Karan for returning the book, considering he went out of his way to do so. Is Priya legally obligated to compensate Karan for returning her textbook based on the principle of quasi-contract?
- (a) Yes, because Karan incurred costs in returning the book to Priya.
  - (b) No, since Karan's action of returning the book does not constitute a legal obligation for Priya to compensate him.
  - (c) Yes, if Karan had to go through significant effort to return the book to Priya.
  - (d) No, because Priya had no knowledge of Karan's actions until after the book was returned, removing any expectation of compensation. [www.lawpreptutorial.com](http://www.lawpreptutorial.com)
65. Lata discovers a wallet containing a significant amount of cash and personal identification belonging to her neighbour, Vikram, on the sidewalk. Aware of the potential distress losing such items could cause, Lata spends several hours ensuring the wallet and its contents are safely returned to Vikram. Vikram had not realized the wallet was missing until Lata returned it. Feeling indebted, Vikram wonders if he is legally obligated to compensate Lata for her time and effort in returning his lost property, despite no prior agreement between them. Is Vikram legally obligated to compensate Lata for returning his wallet based on the principle of quasi-contract?
- (a) Yes, since Lata's actions prevented potential loss and distress to Vikram.
  - (b) No, because Lata voluntarily chose to return the wallet without any expectation of reward.
  - (c) Yes, if Lata had to incur expenses to ensure the wallet's safe return to Vikram.
  - (d) No, since the act of returning lost property does not create a legal obligation for compensation.
66. During a severe flood, Neha's home is at risk of significant water damage. Seeing the imminent danger, her neighbour, Raj, without any prior discussion with Neha, uses his own sandbags to protect her property. The sandbags successfully prevent any damage to Neha's home. After the flood, Raj informs Neha of his actions and requests reimbursement for the cost of the sandbags. Neha appreciates Raj's efforts but is unsure if she is legally obligated to compensate him for the cost of the sandbags. Is Neha legally obligated to reimburse Raj for the cost of the sandbags based on the principle of quasi-contract?
- (a) Yes, because Raj's actions resulted in a benefit to Neha's property.
  - (b) No, since Neha did not agree to the use of the sandbags beforehand.
  - (c) Yes, but only if Raj can prove the sandbags were necessary to prevent damage.
  - (d) No, because Raj acted without Neha's consent, making his actions voluntary.

67. Sunita finds a lost dog and spends her own money on veterinary care and food for the animal while she searches for its owner. A week later, she successfully locates the owner, Vikram, who was unaware of the whereabouts of his pet. Upon returning the dog, Sunita presents Vikram with the bills for the expenses she incurred. Vikram is grateful but questions whether he is legally required to pay Sunita back for the costs she incurred during the care of his dog. Is Vikram legally obligated to compensate Sunita for her expenses based on the principle of quasi-contract?
- (a) Yes, since Sunita's actions conferred a direct benefit on Vikram by caring for his lost dog.
  - (b) No, because Sunita chose to take care of the dog without Vikram's prior knowledge or consent.
  - (c) Yes, but only if Sunita can prove the expenses were reasonable and necessary for the dog's care.
  - (d) No, as the care provided was voluntary and without any expectation of payment.

#### **XIV. Fundamental Duties**

Our Constitution has provided us with various rights and expects us to perform certain duties as a return. Article 51(a) talks about these Fundamental Duties and has 11 fundamental duties that are expected to be performed by the citizens (there were 10 earlier and 11th was added later by the 86th amendment). First, we will discuss these 11 fundamental duties and then we can move on to the next topic whether it is needed or not.

- We need to follow our Constitution and should respect our national flag and national anthem.
- Should follow the ideals of the freedom struggle.
- Protect the sovereignty and integrity of our nation.
- Protect our nation and provide national services when required.
- Should have the spirit of a common brotherhood.
- Preserve the culture of our country.
- Protect the environment of our country.
- Generate scientific rationale for every thought.
- To protect public property.
- Strive for excellence.
- It is the duty of every parent to send their children between 6-14 years to school.

From these fundamental duties, one can easily understand the need for the fundamental duty in our constitution. It is required to protect the sovereignty of our nation. To maintain the unity and integrity of our nation. Rights and duties go hand in hand and cannot be separated at any cost. Fundamental duties and fundamental rights are two sides of a coin which we know that it can't be separated. Also, it is found as the need of the hour to introduce fundamental duties in our constitution.

Fundamental Duties do not have any legal devour for its violation. There are six positive duties which are expected to be done by the citizens of our country and there are five negative duties

which are not expected to be carried out by the citizens. There is no legal enforceability for its breach, it is because of the nature of the Fundamental Duties. We can clearly understand that it is practically impossible to enforce these duties.

It is important to know that Fundamental Duties are only enforceable for the citizens holding public offices. It is possible by way of departmental rules of conduct and by making suitable legislation. There are appropriate sanctions for the breach of Fundamental Duties in Public Offices.

There are many places in India where a person holding public office can be barred from departmental promotions, also their increment can be refused. An officer who takes part in strikes and organized a rally against the institution can be made to give up his salary for that day.

*Source: Extracted with edits and revisions from, Fundamental Duties: Article 51-A Under Indian Constitution, <https://blog.ipleaders.in/fundamental-duties-3/>*

68. An NGO dedicated to environmental preservation launches a nationwide campaign urging citizens to fulfill their fundamental duty to protect and improve the natural environment, including forests, lakes, rivers, and wildlife, and to have compassion for living creatures. The campaign includes organizing clean-up drives in various cities and promoting the planting of trees. Despite widespread publicity, a significant portion of the population remains indifferent, not participating in any environmental preservation activities.
- Is the general population's indifference to participating in environmental preservation activities a violation of fundamental duties that carries legal repercussions?
- (a) Yes, because protecting the environment is a fundamental duty of every citizen.
  - (b) No, since fundamental duties do not have any legal enforceability for their violation by the general population.
  - (c) Yes, if the NGO can prove that the indifference has directly harmed the environment.
  - (d) No, because only actions taken by citizens in public offices are subject to legal sanctions for not fulfilling fundamental duties.
69. A government official is found neglecting their duty to promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India, transcending religious, linguistic, and regional or sectional diversities. This neglect is evidenced by their failure to intervene in a situation that could have fostered communal harmony within their jurisdiction.
- Is the government official's neglect to promote communal harmony a breach of fundamental duties that can result in sanctions?
- (a) Yes, because promoting harmony is a fundamental duty of all citizens, including those holding public offices.
  - (b) No, since fundamental duties, including the promotion of harmony, do not apply to government officials.
  - (c) Yes, if there is a direct consequence of their neglect that led to communal discord.
  - (d) No, because there are no appropriate sanctions for the breach of fundamental duties in public offices.

70. During a local government initiative to promote cultural heritage awareness among the youth, a member of the city council, Mr. Anand, is responsible for organizing events and workshops in public schools. However, Mr. Anand neglects his duties, failing to organize any such events during the initiative's duration. His actions, or lack thereof, come under scrutiny, with concerns raised about his commitment to promoting the cultural heritage among the youth, a fundamental duty of his public office.
- Is Mr. Anand's neglect to promote cultural heritage awareness among the youth, as part of his official duties, enforceable under the principle of fundamental duties?
- (a) Yes, because promoting cultural heritage is a fundamental duty enforceable against citizens in public offices.
  - (b) No, since fundamental duties are advisory in nature and not enforceable against individuals, regardless of their office.
  - (c) Yes, if it can be proven that Mr. Anand's neglect directly resulted in a decline in cultural heritage awareness among the youth.
  - (d) No, because fundamental duties, including the promotion of cultural heritage, do not apply to actions taken in public offices.
71. In the diverse city of Cosmopolis, a group of citizens from various religious, linguistic, and regional backgrounds come together to form a community organization named "Unity Collective." Their primary goal is to organize events that celebrate the cultural diversity of India, aiming to foster a spirit of common brotherhood among the city's inhabitants. However, a local political figure argues that such events could potentially disturb the peace by bringing together groups with historical tensions.
- Is the organization of cultural diversity events by "Unity Collective" in alignment with the principle of promoting a spirit of common brotherhood transcending religious, linguistic, and regional diversities?
- (a) Yes, because their actions directly contribute to fostering unity and brotherhood among diverse groups.
  - (b) No, since organizing such events could potentially lead to disturbances, as argued by the local political figure.
  - (c) Yes, but only if the events include explicit educational components about national integration.
  - (d) No, because the principle does not apply to actions taken by citizens' groups, only individuals.



72. An IT professional, Arjun, dedicates his weekends to teaching computer skills to underprivileged children in his neighborhood. He believes that equipping these children with digital literacy will not only improve their individual prospects but also contribute to the nation's development by preparing a skilled future workforce. A debate arises in his community about whether such individual efforts are valuable or necessary for national development. Does Arjun's initiative to teach computer skills to underprivileged children align with the principle of contributing to the nation's development and participating in community service to enhance social welfare?
- (a) Yes, because Arjun's actions contribute to educational upliftment and skill development, aligning with national development goals.
  - (b) No, as individual efforts are too small to have any significant impact on national development.
  - (c) Yes, but only if Arjun's initiative is recognized and supported by a governmental or non-governmental organization.
  - (d) No, because the principle explicitly requires participation in community service through formal channels only.

#### **XV. Extortion**

The offence of extortion is covered under Sections 383 to 389 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), focusing on offences against property. Extortion involves intentionally inducing or threatening someone to deliver property, valuable security, or any document that can be converted into valuable security. The threat may involve physical violence, destruction of property, or imminent criminal action, aiming at financial harm, physical harm, or abuse of official power. The essence of extortion is the threat itself, not necessarily the actual obtainment of money or property.

Extortion is defined as the unlawful exaction of money or property through intimidation or coercion. Historically, it involved threats of violence or blackmail. Modern forms include cyber-extortion, where threats involve the disclosure of information or attacks on electronic infrastructure. Section 383 IPC defines extortion as intentionally putting someone in fear of hurt to deceitfully induce them to deliver their property or valuable security. It is a crime of forcing someone to transfer their possessions through force or threat, resulting in wrongful loss to the property holder and wrongful gain to the extortioner.

##### **Essential elements of extortion**

###### **1. Deliberately putting a person in fear of hurt or injury**

For extortion, the perpetrator must have a mala fide motive, causing wrongful gain to themselves and wrongful loss to the victim. The actual delivery of property is necessary to constitute extortion. Fear and threat are essential elements, without which the offence is not complete.

###### **2. Dishonest inducement to the person**

The core of extortion is dishonest inducement, leading to the delivery of property. Wrongful loss or gain is crucial. The offence is incomplete without the delivery of property by the victim to the extortioner. Consent obtained through dishonest inducement is a key feature, as the act of inducement must at least make the victim consent to deliver their property, even if the actual delivery does not occur.

### 3. Delivery of valuable security

The delivered item under extortion can be any valuable or property, or any document that can be converted into valuable security. The term "valuable security" encompasses a wide range of items, including signed or sealed documents that can be converted into a valuable asset. The use of force to obtain such delivery, especially under threat or fear of injury, is punishable under this section.

Extortion is a complex offence that requires the satisfaction of specific elements, including the induction of fear or threat, dishonest intention, and the transfer of property. The legal framework aims to address and penalize the wrongful gain obtained through such coercive means.

*Source: Extracted with edits and revisions from "All about Section 384 of Indian Penal Code, 1860", <https://blog.ipleaders.in/all-about-section-384-of-indian-penal-code-1860/>*

73. Rohan, a local businessman, was approached by Vikas, who claimed to have incriminating evidence of Rohan's tax evasion. Vikas threatened to report Rohan to the authorities unless he paid him a substantial sum of money. Fearing legal trouble and potential damage to his reputation, Rohan agreed to pay. Later, Rohan contemplates whether this incident could be classified as extortion under Section 383 of the IPC. Which of the following statements is most accurate regarding this scenario?
- (a) Since Rohan voluntarily agreed to pay Vikas, it cannot be considered extortion.
  - (b) If Vikas had no actual incriminating evidence, then it cannot be considered extortion.
  - (c) Even if Vikas did not actually obtain the money, his actions could still constitute extortion if Rohan was induced to agree to pay under threat. [www.lawpreptutorial.com](http://www.lawpreptutorial.com)
  - (d) Extortion can only be claimed if the threat involved physical harm.
74. Ayesha received an anonymous email threatening to release her personal photos online unless she paid a ransom. Fearing public embarrassment, she considered paying but then wondered if this scenario could be classified as extortion, as she hadn't actually handed over any money. Which statement correctly applies to Ayesha's situation under the principle of extortion?
- (a) As long as Ayesha does not actually pay the ransom, it cannot be considered extortion.
  - (b) The act of threatening Ayesha to induce fear, leading her to consider paying, already constitutes extortion.
  - (c) Extortion requires the actual physical taking of property, so this situation does not qualify.
  - (d) The threat must be of physical harm for it to be considered extortion.

75. Karan was approached by his neighbour, who requested a loan to cover urgent medical expenses, promising to repay within a month. Trusting his neighbour, Karan lent him the money. A month passed, and not only was the loan not repaid, but the neighbour also started avoiding Karan. Karan considered taking legal action to recover his money but was unsure if this situation could be considered extortion, given the initial voluntary nature of the loan. Which of the following best applies to Karan's situation based on the principle of extortion?
- (a) Since Karan voluntarily gave the money as a loan, it cannot be considered extortion.
  - (b) The neighbour's failure to repay the loan and avoidance constitutes extortion.
  - (c) Extortion requires a threat to be made before the money is handed over, which did not occur here.
  - (d) Only if the neighbour threatened Karan after failing to repay the loan could it be considered extortion.
76. Ankit, a restaurant owner, was approached by Rakesh, who claimed to have evidence of health code violations at Ankit's restaurant. Rakesh threatened to report Ankit to the health department unless Ankit paid him a lump sum. Ankit knew his restaurant met all health standards and suspected Rakesh had fabricated the evidence. Considering the potential damage to his reputation and business, Ankit contemplated paying Rakesh to avoid any investigation. Which of the following best describes Rakesh's actions?
- (a) Rakesh's actions cannot be considered extortion since Ankit suspected the evidence was fabricated.
  - (b) Since no actual health code violation existed, Rakesh's actions do not constitute extortion.
  - (c) Rakesh's demand for money, under the threat of reporting false violations, constitutes extortion.
  - (d) Extortion only applies if Rakesh had actual evidence of violations.
77. Priya received a letter from a stranger claiming they would reveal her personal emails to her employer unless she paid a certain amount. The letter induced significant anxiety in Priya, fearing job loss and reputational damage. Priya considered meeting the demand to avoid the potential fallout. In this scenario, which element is critical in determining whether the stranger's actions constitute extortion?
- (a) The actual loss of Priya's job or damage to her reputation must occur for it to be considered extortion.
  - (b) The existence of the personal emails and their content is crucial for determining extortion.
  - (c) The stranger's ability to actually access and reveal the emails is key to constituting extortion.
  - (d) The induction of fear in Priya, regardless of the emails' existence or revelation, is essential for extortion.

78. During a heated argument, Varun threatens to destroy his roommate Nikhil's laptop unless Nikhil agrees to pay him a portion of the rent that Varun believes is unfairly distributed. Nikhil, fearing the loss of his valuable property and the data within, decides to comply with Varun's demand. This situation raises the question of whether Varun's actions can be considered extortion. Which statement is true regarding this scenario?
- (a) Extortion can only be claimed if Varun actually destroys the laptop.
  - (b) The threat to destroy property unless a demand is met constitutes extortion.
  - (c) Since the disagreement is over rent, it cannot be classified as extortion.
  - (d) Extortion requires the threat of revealing personal information, not destroying property.

#### **XVI. Adoption in India**

Adoption benefits the orphans, homeless children and destitute youngsters as well as childless couples. Adoption makes life meaningful for lone single adults too as they gain a parent-child relationship. Adoption empowers a powerful relationship between the child and its adopted parents even though they are not related. Section 2(2) of the Juvenile Justice Act of 2015 states that adoption is the process through which the adopted child is permanently separated from his/her biological parents and becomes the lawful child of his/her adoptive parents with all the rights, privileges and responsibilities that are attached to a biological child.

Many Hindu groups practice different procedures for adoption across their cultures and the idea of adoption can be traced back to ancient times through adoption between different ethnic, caste, culture and lingual groups. Generally in older days adoption was practised to get a male heir. While some adopt legally giving full rights to the adopted child as that of the biological child, some just act as legal guardians until they attain the age of legal maturity. Different religious faiths and lack of uniform civil code made adoption impossible across religions and this had a derogate effect and unjust to destitute youngsters.

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act of 2015 read with Adoption Regulation of 2017 has recognized five kinds of adoption namely:

- An abandoned, surrendered, destitute children adopted by an unrelated person(s) living within the country.
- An abandoned, surrendered, destitute children adopted by an unrelated person(s) living outside the country.
- A related child by relatives living within the country.
- A related child by relatives living outside the country.
- Adoption of a child by step-parents within the country.

When the adoption is done not per the adoption laws and procedure it is called as illegal adoption. The illegally adopted child usually tends to suffer abuses. To eradicate such abuses The Hague Adoption Convention was established. Kidnapped or abducted children, illegally trafficked children, bonded labour children and illicit or illegal Activities against children are resulting in an illegal adoption. An illegal adoption may be mainly in two forms:

1. Illegal actions or misconduct from adoption agencies.
2. Black market adoptions.

Parents of children below 6 years who were unable provide to provide for them may relinquish them to an adoption agency, or deserted and abandoned youngsters whose parents or guardians cannot be traced may be declared eligible for adoption by the child welfare committee. Alternatively, at times, children can be declared eligible for adoption by the court through Juvenile welfare board. This may be for the rehabilitation of delinquent youth.

*Source: Extracted with edits and revisions from, Adoption in India, <https://blog.ipleaders.in/adoption-in-india/>*

79. After a lengthy investigation, it was discovered that a couple had taken in a child from a distant relative without going through the legal adoption process. Over time, neighbours reported concerns about the child's well-being, noting signs of neglect and emotional distress. Authorities are considering the best course of action to protect the child. Is the situation of the child, as described, consistent with the principle regarding the consequences of illegal adoption?
- (a) No, since the child was taken in by family members.
  - (b) No, because the adoption was intended to be a benevolent act.
  - (c) Yes, but only if there is direct evidence of physical abuse.
  - (d) Yes, because the child was not legally adopted and shows signs of suffering.
80. Rita and John, facing financial instability due to unexpected layoffs, find themselves unable to adequately provide for their 4-year-old daughter, Maya. After much deliberation and with heavy hearts, they decide that Maya would have a better chance at a fulfilling life with a family that can provide her with the opportunities they currently cannot. They approach a licensed adoption agency to relinquish Maya, hoping to find her a loving and supportive home. Is Rita and John's decision to relinquish Maya to an adoption agency valid under the given principle?
- (a) Yes, because they are unable to provide for her.
  - (b) No, because financial instability is a temporary issue.
  - (c) Yes, but only if they have sought financial counseling first.
  - (d) No, since parents should never give up on their children.
81. A couple, eager to adopt a child quickly and without the lengthy procedures typical of legal adoptions, are approached by a private individual claiming to have direct contacts in several orphanages. For a significant fee, this individual offers to facilitate an adoption, bypassing standard legal channels and promising complete confidentiality. The couple, aware that this route skirts the edges of legal adoption procedures, is tempted by the prospect of a quick resolution to their long-standing desire to adopt. Is the adoption process being considered by the couple classified as illegal under the given principle?
- (a) Yes, because it involves bypassing standard legal channels.
  - (b) No, if the orphanages are legitimate and the child is in need.
  - (c) Yes, but only if the intermediary is caught and prosecuted.
  - (d) No, since the ultimate goal is to provide a home to a child in need.

82. In a small town, a newborn was found abandoned at a local park. After being discovered, the baby was taken to a nearby hospital for necessary care. Despite extensive efforts by the authorities, neither the parents nor any guardians could be traced. The child welfare committee is now reviewing the case to decide on the next steps for the child's future. Is declaring the abandoned newborn eligible for adoption by the child welfare committee a valid action according to the principle?
- (a) Yes, because the parents or guardians cannot be traced.
  - (b) No, because more time is needed to find the biological parents.
  - (c) Yes, but only if the baby has been in hospital care for over six months.
  - (d) No, since the baby might still have distant relatives who can care for him/her.
83. A couple, after going through the legal adoption process, adopts a child who was in foster care. The child has now been living with them for a year, and they have begun the process of integrating the child into their family, including enrollment in a local school and listing the child as a beneficiary in their will. Does the adoption process completed by the couple validate the child's status as their lawful child with all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities that are attached to a biological child?
- (a) No, because the child was previously in foster care.
  - (b) Yes, because they completed the legal adoption process.
  - (c) No, unless the biological parents give their consent post-adoption.
  - (d) Yes, but only if the child agrees to the adoption after reaching a certain age.
84. A non-profit organization working against child trafficking rescues a group of children who were being transported across borders for the purpose of illegal adoption. The organization works with law enforcement to ensure the perpetrators are prosecuted while seeking to place the rescued children in legal care facilities until they can be safely returned to their families or placed in lawful adoptions. Is the scenario involving the rescued children an example of preventing illegal adoption as defined by the principle?
- (a) Yes, because the children were being transported for illegal adoption.
  - (b) No, since the children have not yet been adopted.
  - (c) Yes, but only if the original families cannot be located.
  - (d) No, because the non-profit's involvement guarantees legal adoption.

**Logical Reasoning**

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

**XVII. Economics**

For decades, California's behemoth economy has outpaced those of most nations, holding an outsize role in shaping global trends in tech, entertainment and agriculture. While that reputation remains, the state has a less enviable distinction: one of the nation's highest unemployment rates. Nationwide, the rate is 3.7 percent, and in January, the country added 353,000 jobs. California's job growth has been slower than the nationwide average over the last year, and the unemployment rate remains stubbornly high — 5.1 percent in the latest data, a percentage point higher than a year earlier and outpaced only by Nevada's 5.4 percent. With layoffs in the tech-centered Bay Area, a slow rebound in Southern California from prolonged strikes in the entertainment industry and varying demand for agricultural workers, California is facing economic headwinds in the new year. And residents feel it. The state has historically had higher unemployment than the U.S. average because of a work force that is younger and fast growing, said Sarah Bohn, a senior fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California. Still, she noted, the labor force shrank in California in the past six months — a troubling trend.

"When looking at this shrinking, are there less opportunities and people have just stopped looking for work?" Ms. Bohn asked. "What will this mean for consumers and businesses?"

During the early part of the pandemic recovery, the unemployment rate in California was not an outlier — 4 percent in May 2022 versus 3.6 percent nationwide, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. But the situation deteriorated. [www.lawpreptutorial.com](http://www.lawpreptutorial.com)

Roughly 36,000 Californians who work in the information industry, which includes tech, lost their jobs last year. Several powerhouse companies based in the state — Google, Meta and X, formerly known as Twitter — cut tens of thousands of positions to reduce costs as the industry increasingly pivoted its focus toward artificial intelligence. In recent weeks, Snap, the Santa Monica-based parent of the Snapchat messaging app, announced it would cut about 500 employees, 10 percent of its global work force. And Northrop Grumman, the aerospace giant, signaled it planned to lay off 1,000 workers in the Los Angeles area. Despite a bruising several months, the unemployment rate in San Francisco and Silicon Valley remained relatively low — 3.5 percent in the city and 3.2 percent in San Mateo County — indicating that many workers found new jobs relatively quickly. The outlook is worse in Southern California, where the ripple effects from last year's entertainment industry strikes are still having an impact.

Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/03/01/business/economy/california-economy-unemployment.html>

85. What is the central idea of the passage?
- (a) California's economy has historically outpaced most nations.
  - (b) California's unemployment rate is currently lower than the national average.
  - (c) California is facing economic challenges despite its reputation for innovation.
  - (d) California's labor force is primarily comprised of older, slow-growing workers.
86. What does the author's view seem to be regarding California's recent economic performance?
- (a) The unemployment rate in California is expected to decrease significantly in the coming months.
  - (b) Layoffs in California's tech industry are likely to have minimal impact on the state's overall economy.
  - (c) California's economic challenges are primarily due to the aging workforce.
  - (d) Despite its economic challenges, California's tech-centered regions continued to have lower unemployment than the overall economy.
87. Based on the passage, what is a plausible explanation for the higher unemployment rate in California compared to the national average?
- (a) California's entertainment industry is still badly affected by strikes and the unemployment in the sector is probably pushing the average higher.
  - (b) Layoffs in California's tech industry have led to a decrease in available jobs.
  - (c) California's labor force is younger and growing faster than the national average.
  - (d) The state government has implemented policies that discourage workforce participation.
88. What implicit assumption underlies the concern expressed by Sarah Bohn regarding California's shrinking labor force?
- (a) There are ample job opportunities available for individuals actively seeking employment.
  - (b) The labor force participation rate in California has remained consistent over time.
  - (c) A shrinking labor force indicates a lack of available job opportunities in the state.
  - (d) California's economy is primarily driven by industries that require a large workforce.
89. Which title best summarizes the main idea of the passage?
- (a) California's Economic Dominance in Tech and Entertainment Industries
  - (b) Challenges and Contrasts in California's Labor Market
  - (c) The Resilience of California's Job Market Amidst Economic Headwinds
  - (d) Unemployment Trends in California Compared to the Rest of the Nation



**XVIII. International Relations**

Water scarcity is not a distant concern; it is a current challenge with global ramifications. From Europe to Asia, governments and communities are grappling with an issue that threatens international security, contributing to humanitarian crises, social unrest, and even armed conflicts. Alarming, this issue, in the time of climate change, is likely to grow ever more demanding. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, global warming of 2 degrees Celsius could lead to a further 800 million to three billion people experiencing increased water scarcity. The gravity of this threat underscores the urgency for collaborative action to secure a sustainable future for all. The UAE is directly impacted by the challenge of water scarcity. Situated in a dry, arid environment, the UAE has long prioritised effective water management, and has prioritised the implementation of a range of cutting-edge technologies that better support the sustainable use of this critical resource.

Our commitment to responsible management of water resources extends to global initiatives, where the UAE has endeavoured to play a leading role in addressing the urgent issue of water scarcity. During our hosting of COP28, the UAE sought to place the issue of water scarcity front and centre of policy debates. In this context, the UAE government urged nations to accelerate actions for water security and resilience, making water the first target in the Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the Global Goal of Adaptation (GGA). This initiative aims to significantly reduce climate-induced water scarcity and enhance resilience to water-related hazards. The Water Action Event at COP28 focused on supporting countries around the world to develop coherent national policies that integrate water planning, particularly in agriculture, for transformative climate outcomes. Notably, COP28’s Food, Agriculture, and Water Day saw key announcements, new partnerships, and financial commitments dedicated to tackling global water scarcity and food security. Furthermore, the UAE’s release of the discussion paper ‘Ripple Effect Water Scarcity — The Hidden Threat to Global Security and Prosperity’ underlined the gravity of the situation, emphasising the need for international collaboration and increased investment to confront the challenge effectively. Building on these efforts, the UAE’s recent investment of \$150 million in innovative solutions through the XPrize Water Scarcity competition further exemplifies our commitment to fostering actionable strategies to support countries throughout the world grappling with this issue. This transformative initiative seeks to ensure universal access to clean water by harnessing technological innovation.

**Source:** *India and UAE – partners in a water secure future - The Indian Express*

90. What is the central theme of the passage?
- (a) The UAE's commitment to hosting COP28 events.
  - (b) The global impact of water scarcity and the UAE's efforts to address it.
  - (c) The significance of technological innovation in water management.
  - (d) The role of agriculture in exacerbating water scarcity issues.

91. What can be inferred about the relationship between climate change and water scarcity?
- (a) Climate change exacerbates water scarcity issues globally.
  - (b) Water scarcity is unaffected by climate change.
  - (c) Water scarcity mitigates the effects of climate change.
  - (d) Climate change has minimal impact on water resources.
92. What is the author's argument regarding addressing water scarcity?
- (a) International collaboration and increased investment are essential.
  - (b) Technological innovation is the sole solution to water scarcity.
  - (c) Water scarcity can be resolved through local initiatives.
  - (d) Water scarcity is a minor issue compared to other environmental concerns.
93. Which title best captures the main theme of the passage?
- (a) The UAE's leadership and initiatives in Climate Change Mitigation.
  - (b) Innovations in Water Management Technologies.
  - (c) Addressing Global Water Scarcity: The Role of International Collaboration.
  - (d) Climate Change Adaptation Strategies in Arid Environments.
94. What is the author's main argument regarding the UAE's approach to water scarcity?
- (a) The UAE is unaffected by water scarcity due to its arid environment.
  - (b) The UAE relies solely on technological solutions to address water scarcity.
  - (c) The UAE prioritizes responsible water management and global initiatives.
  - (d) The UAE's investments in water scarcity solutions are ineffective.

**XIX. Polity**

The quick, if not hasty, filling up of two vacancies in the Election Commission of India (ECI) has attracted justified criticism. The multi-member body got two new members within days of the resignation of Arun Goel, an Election Commissioner (EC) whose appointment itself came in the midst of a Constitution Bench hearing for a truly independent process of selecting members of the panel that conducts and supervises India's elections. Critics are not wrong when they point out that the Act setting out the process of selecting the Chief Election Commissioner and other ECs appeared to fall short of the sort of independence the Constitution Bench verdict of March 2023 envisaged. The selection took place at a time when a petition challenging the validity of the Act was about to be taken up for hearing. To add to the unfortunate set of circumstances, Mr. Goel's resignation for "personal reasons" has gone unexplained. It is a matter of grave concern that an EC whose term was set to go on for a few more years should choose to resign just days before the Commission finalised the Lok Sabha election schedule. It goes without saying that the discussion on the process selecting the ECs has no bearing on the competence or suitability of Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu, the two new ECs. The real problem may lie with the law that Parliament chose to

enact last year in response to the Supreme Court of India questioning the absence of any legislation since the inception of the Constitution, as required under Article 324, laying down an appointment process for the ECs. The Court's emphasis was on the ECI's independence from the executive so that the elections the panel conducts are truly free and fair. Towards that end, it sought to fill the vacuum by an interim arrangement under which the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and the Chief Justice of India (CJI) formed the selection committee to choose the CEC and ECs. However, it was meant to be in place only until Parliament enacted a law. In response, the government enacted a law that constituted a panel comprising the Prime Minister and any Union Minister, besides the Leader of the Opposition, or the leader of the largest single party in the Opposition. The question now before the Court is whether a committee in which the executive has a two-one majority can be a truly independent authority. The argument that Prime Ministers have always been selecting the CEC and ECs seems attractive, but, ultimately, an executive-driven process has to yield to one more rooted in the constitutional principle of having an independent body to hold free and fair elections, even if the CJI, as an institutional head, might not be the person most suited to be a part of the selection process.

*Source: Selection and election: On the appointment of Election Commissioners - The Hindu Editorial*

95. What is the author's argument regarding the process of selecting members of the Election Commission of India (ECI)?
- (a) The current selection process ensures the independence of the ECI from the executive.
  - (b) The current selection process falls short of ensuring the independence of the ECI from the executive.
  - (c) The current selection process is flawless and meets all constitutional requirements.
  - (d) The current selection process prioritizes the competence and suitability of the appointed members.
96. What inference can be drawn about the timing of the appointment of new members to the Election Commission of India?
- (a) The appointments were made hastily without considering the ongoing legal challenges.
  - (b) The appointments were made after careful deliberation and consideration of all factors.
  - (c) The appointments were made to address the immediate vacancies without political interference.
  - (d) The appointments were made to strengthen the independence of the Election Commission.

97. Which statement would strengthen the author's opinion about the selection process of the Election Commission of India?
- (a) The Act setting out the selection process for the Election Commission was unanimously supported by all political parties.
  - (b) The Supreme Court of India has previously upheld the independence of the Election Commission from executive influence.
  - (c) The recent appointments to the Election Commission were made after consulting with civil society organizations.
  - (d) The Constitution Bench verdict of March 2023 emphasized the need for a truly independent process of selecting members of the Election Commission.
98. Which notion is expressed in the passage regarding the composition of the selection committee for the Election Commission of India?
- (a) The selection committee includes representatives from diverse political parties to ensure fairness.
  - (b) The selection committee lacks adequate representation from non-executive bodies, raising concerns about its independence.
  - (c) The selection committee is solely responsible for appointing members of the Election Commission without any external influence. [www.lawpreptutorial.com](http://www.lawpreptutorial.com)
  - (d) The selection committee is composed of individuals with extensive experience in election administration.
99. According to the objective of the passage, what is the main purpose of the passage?
- (a) To highlight the competence and suitability of the newly appointed members of the Election Commission.
  - (b) To criticize the timing of the recent appointments to the Election Commission.
  - (c) To emphasize the importance of an independent selection process for members of the Election Commission.
  - (d) To discuss the role of civil society organizations in the selection process of the Election Commission.

**XX. Health**

India is an anomaly. Here, life satisfaction was found to be higher among the older people. At 140 million, India's older population is the second largest in the world and growing steadily, with the average growth rate "three times higher than the overall population growth rate". The researchers relied on the Longitudinal Aging Study in India (LASI, 2017-19) dataset and analysed the following metrics: satisfaction with living arrangements, perceived discrimination and self-rated health. Education, wealth, access to healthcare, support systems and social acceptance were also analysed. To their surprise, and a departure from scholarly research, older age in India was associated with higher life satisfaction. The opposite was believed to be true to so far. Age and life satisfaction go hand-in-hand only in high-income countries; the experiences of India's old people were also defined by childhood, financial status, lack of social support, physical frailty, and feelings of loneliness. A dissection of this trend makes visible caste and gender-based discrepancies. Older Indians who belonged to privileged castes, and "never experienced discrimination or ill-treatment" were "more satisfied with their lives". Experiences of discrimination and ill-treatment, on the other hand, contributed "significantly to the caste-based discrepancies in life satisfaction", the research showed. Caste backgrounds governed if one was able to access education, social services, health care or financial safety. People with secondary or higher education, and those of higher social castes, evidently reported higher life satisfaction than those without access to formal education and those from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Regionally, older adults from Western parts of India were much happier than those living in north-eastern or central regions. The verdict on gender was more ambiguous. On average, older women in India reported lower life satisfaction than older men, but the trends reversed when other measures, such as social support were taken into account. "Women, in general, possess wider and more diverse social networks, including a greater number of friends and confidants, which likely translates into not only more social support but diverse forms of it," the researchers explained. Previous research shows age compounds the gender and economic precarity of India's older women: they are vulnerable to abuse, alienation and abandonment. They are also more likely to be excluded from the formal labour force, lack financial savings and access to pension schemes, and are more prone to health issues in comparison to older men. Happiness among the youth squared with global trends. "Young adults are being hit from all sides by a toxic combination of government policy, a housing affordability crisis, stagnating wages, and a high cost of living... No wonder their generation is experiencing unprecedented levels of mental ill-health as their futures look so bleak," the Intergenerational Foundation charity told *The Guardian*. A high rate of unemployment continues to mar the experiences of educated youth in India, data shows. Gender dimensions play out here too: women were more likely to experience "negative emotions" than men, more frequently in women in South Asia in comparison to the rest of the world between 2021-2023. This gap widened with age.

*Source: The Great Indian Unhappiness: What a new report says about India's young and old - The Hindu*

100. What inference can be drawn from the passage regarding the belief about the correlation between age and life satisfaction in India?
- (a) Older age is universally associated with higher life satisfaction, irrespective of socio-economic factors.
  - (b) The correlation between age and life satisfaction in India deviates from global trends observed in high-income countries.
  - (c) Life satisfaction among older Indians is primarily determined by their access to formal education and financial stability.
  - (d) Gender and caste-based discrimination have no significant impact on the life satisfaction of older adults in India.
101. Which statement would strengthen the argument that caste-based discrimination contributes to disparities in life satisfaction among older Indians?
- (a) Older Indians from privileged castes report higher levels of education and access to healthcare.
  - (b) Older Indians with higher life satisfaction were more likely to have experienced childhood financial stability.
  - (c) Older Indians from Scheduled Castes report lower satisfaction with living arrangements and higher levels of perceived discrimination.
  - (d) Older women in India report lower life satisfaction than older men on average.
102. Based on the passage, which inference can be made about the impact of gender on the life satisfaction of older adults in India?
- (a) Older women in India consistently report higher life satisfaction than older men due to wider social networks.
  - (b) Gender dimensions play a negligible role in determining the life satisfaction of older adults in India.
  - (c) Older women in India are more vulnerable to abuse, alienation, and health issues compared to older men.
  - (d) Older men in India are more likely to lack financial savings and access to pension schemes than older women.
103. Which statement, if true, would weaken the argument that older age in India is associated with higher life satisfaction?
- (a) Older adults in India experience higher levels of loneliness and physical frailty compared to younger adults.
  - (b) Older adults from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes report significantly lower life satisfaction compared to those from higher castes.
  - (c) Access to healthcare and social services is limited for a majority of the older population in India.
  - (d) A recent survey indicates that older adults in India experience higher levels of mental ill-health compared to younger adults.

104. What is the main idea discussed in the passage?
- (a) The passage discusses the factors contributing to higher life satisfaction among older adults in India, which is contrary to the global trend.
  - (b) The passage focuses on the challenges faced by the youth in India, such as unemployment and mental health issues.
  - (c) The passage highlights the gender disparities and their impact on the life satisfaction of older women in India.
  - (d) The passage examines the role of cultural values and family support systems in influencing life satisfaction among older adults in India.

**XXI. Literature**

Aruna Marg was a busy road. It connected a number of villages to each other and many people, animals and carts used it every day. Walking along that road, a group of students discovered a rock which no one had bothered to look at in many years. 'Look!' they told each other in excitement, 'there is something written on the rock. What can it mean?' They called out to their teacher. When they examined the rock carefully, they found the markings were actually little drawings. One showed a stick, and the other a donkey. By now a large crowd had gathered. Everyone was puzzled. What could these strange drawings mean, they asked, scratching their heads. They decided to go to the ashram of a wise sage nearby and ask him. But when they trooped into the ashram, they found to their disappointment that the sage had gone on a long pilgrimage. Only his young disciple was there, looking after the cows and calves. They asked the disciple if he could throw some light on the strange drawings. Now this young man was not very bright. But like many foolish people he loved to put on an air of learning and pretend to be very clever. He examined the drawings carefully and minutely. Then he proclaimed, 'It is very simple. This is the drawing of a magic stick. The man with the stick is the hero of this place. He died protecting this village centuries back. Each person using this road must worship the rock and make an offering to it. The one who ignores it will become a donkey! The villagers were astonished to hear this strange explanation. But they were devout people and on that very day they set up a shrine around the rock. They installed the foolish disciple as head priest in charge of taking offerings from passing travellers. The disciple was pleased with his brainwave. Of course he did not know what the silly drawings meant, but he no longer had to run after calves and get kicked by angry cows in the ashram! He could sit by the rock the whole day, taking his pick of the offerings to the rock and mutter a few mumbo-jumbo prayers. His happiness lasted a few months—till the wise old sage returned to the ashram. The old sage was annoyed to find his disciple missing and his beloved animals roaming around, uncared for. Then he looked into the distance and saw a large crowd gathered by the road. He went to investigate, and found his missing disciple there, looking happy and well fed, busy accepting offerings for a rock. He stood watching for a while. Then he walked up to the rock and closely examined the pictures. Without saying a word, he picked up a stout iron rod and, to the astonishment of the gathered crowd, started moving the rock.

Many came forward to help him and when they had been able to move the rock, they found a pot of gold under it!

*Source: Grandma's bag of stories by Sudha Murthy*

105. What inference can be drawn about the disciple's character based on his actions in the passage?
- (a) The disciple is wise and knowledgeable, as evidenced by his explanation of the drawings on the rock.
  - (b) The disciple is cunning and manipulative, as he takes advantage of the villagers' ignorance for personal gain.
  - (c) The disciple is humble and selfless, as he willingly accepts the responsibility of being the head priest at the shrine.
  - (d) The disciple is indifferent and careless, as he neglects his duties at the ashram in favor of accepting offerings at the shrine.
106. What is the main idea conveyed through the passage?
- (a) The passage highlights the importance of traditional beliefs and rituals in rural communities.
  - (b) The passage explores the consequences of blind faith and superstition in society.
  - (c) The passage depicts the journey of a group of students in search of wisdom and enlightenment.
  - (d) The passage illustrates the impact of unexpected discoveries on the lives of ordinary people.
107. **Statement:** The villagers readily accepted the disciple's explanation about the drawings on the rock.  
**Assumption:** Which implicit assumption underlies the villagers' reaction to the disciple's explanation?
- (a) The villagers trust and respect the disciple's authority as a representative of the wise sage.
  - (b) The villagers are skeptical and critical of the disciple's false explanation about the drawings on the rock. [www.lawpreptutorial.com](http://www.lawpreptutorial.com)
  - (c) The villagers are unaware of the disciple's true intentions and believe in the authenticity of his explanation.
  - (d) The villagers are indifferent and unconcerned about the significance of the drawings on the rock.
108. What suitable title can be given to the passage?
- (a) "The Hidden Treasure: A Tale of Deception and Discovery"
  - (b) "The Cunning Disciple: Faith and Fraud"
  - (c) "The Mystic Rock: Legends and Lies in a Village"
  - (d) "The Sage's Return: Lessons Learned and Lost"



**Quantitative Techniques**

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

- XXII. Five friends namely Rakesh, Virat, Rishav, Shreyas, and Prithvi invested their capitals in different schemes offering different rates of simple interest. The information given below describes the total amount accumulated after 3 years and 7 years respectively.
- Total amount accumulated after 7 years of Rakesh is 4824, which is Rs.5346 less than the amount accumulated of Prithvi after 7 years. Sum of Amount accumulated by Virat after 7 years and 3 years is Rs. 9600 and their difference is Rs.1920. Total amount accumulated for Prithvi after 3 years is Rs. 3240 less than his amount accumulated after 7 years. The difference between the amount accumulated of Rakesh after 3 years and after 7 years is the cube of 3rd lowest number existing of two digits. The difference between the amount accumulated of Shreyas is Rs.1320 and the amount accumulated of Shreyas after 3 years is Rs. 2012 more than the difference between the amount accumulated of Rakesh after 3 years and after 7 years. Total amount accumulated by Rishav after 3 years is Rs.860 more than the total amount accumulated by the Shreyas after 7 years. Total amount accumulated by Rishav after 7 years is Rs.2560 more than the amount accumulated by him after 3 years.
109. Shukla invested Rs.5250 at the same rate (compounded annually) at which Virat invested his money. Find the interest received by Shukla at the end of 2 years.
- (a) Rs.2310 (b) Rs.2080  
(c) Rs.2120 (d) Rs.2420
110. What is the ratio of rates at which Rakesh and Rishav invested their money, respectively?
- (a) 5:3 (b) 1:2  
(c) 4:3 (d) None of these
111. Amount invested by Prithvi is how much percent more than amount invested by Shreyas?
- (a) 65.65% (b) 66.67%  
(c) 63.63% (d) 64.56%
112. Among the five friends, who got maximum rate of simple interest?
- (a) Rishav (b) Prithvi  
(c) Shreyas (d) Rakesh

113. If all the friends combined the investments made by them individually and invested the accumulated sum in a scheme offering a simple interest of 18.8%, then find the interest earned by all of them together at the end of 5 years.
- (a) Rs.14493 (b) Rs.14523  
(c) Rs.15523 (d) Rs.15923
114. If Rishav invested the same Principal at 20% interest rate compounded half-yearly for 2 years then find the compound interest?
- (a) 1900 (b) 1850.5  
(c) 1856.4 (d) 1956.4
- XXIII.** The number of permanent employees in firm 'A' is 640, out of which 45% were males. The ratio of the number of permanent male employees in firm 'A' and non-permanent female employees in firm 'B' is 12:5, respectively. The number of non-permanent female employees in firm 'B' is 25% of total number of employees (permanent + non-permanent) and 60 more than the number of non-permanent male employees, in the same firm. The ratio of the number of permanent male and permanent female employees, in firm 'B' is 7:8, respectively. Total number of employees in firm 'A' is 1200. The number of permanent male employees in firm 'C' is 160 more than that in firm 'B' and 25% more than the number of permanent female employees in the same firm. The total number of employees (permanent + non-permanent) in firm 'C' is equal to that in firm 'A'. The number of non-permanent male employees in firm 'C' is 460. Total number of non-permanent female employees in given three firms is 800.
115. The number of non-permanent employees in firms 'B' and 'C', together is how much percent more/less than the number of permanent employees in firm 'A'
- (a) 32.5% (b) 24.75%  
(c) 31.25% (d) 40.5%
116. Find the difference between total number of non-permanent male employees in firms 'A' and 'C', together and number of permanent female employees in firms 'B' and 'C', together.
- (a) 140 (b) 200  
(c) 120 (d) 150
117. Out of total number of employees in firm 'B', 75% were graduates. The number of (permanent + non-permanent) graduate male employees is 120. If 75% of non-permanent female employees in firm 'B' are graduate, then find the number of permanent graduate female employees in firm 'B'.
- (a) 190 (b) 150  
(c) 200 (d) 210

118. Permanent male employees in firm B are how much less than the total permanent employees in firm C?
- (a) 400 (b) 160  
(c) 250 (d) 300
119. Non-permanent male employees in all 3 firms is how much percent more or less than non-permanent female employees in all 3 firms?
- (a) 25% (b) 20%  
(c) 30% (d) 52%
120. If in firm A the expenditure on each permanent male employees is Rs. 100 and in firm C the expenditure on each non-permanent female employees is Rs.50. Then find the sum of the expenditure done on the mentioned category.
- (a) 38800 (b) 67500  
(c) 40000 (d) 28500

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