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*Ram Jethmalani*  
-Legal Legend  
Late Shri Ram Jethmalani

*Visited*  
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# VIDHIGYA

## LEADER IN CLAT PREPS

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# CLAT



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AIR

# 14



**Aman Patidar**

1 year Vidhigya Offline  
Classroom Program Student  
St. Paul Public School

I am Aman patidar, an exclusive student of Vidigya CLAT Tutorials. We were given over a hundred movks by Vidigya and they were strikingly similar to the actual CLAT. I gave all of them religiously and analysed them thoroughly which helped me a lot in my preparation.

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# VIDHIGYA

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Sri Sathya Sai School, Dewas



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Saksham Agrawal  
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Tushar Sharma  
The Shishukunj School, Indore



Mridul Kothari  
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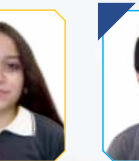
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Khushi Patidar  
Choithram School,  
Manikbagh



Sanika Gadgil  
St. Raphael's H.S.  
School, Indore



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Jerrin Mathew  
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Lavesh Verma  
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Tanay Kaushal  
IBP Global Academy,  
Ujjain

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

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

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

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

**Right Method**

**Wrong Methods**


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

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

**Section A – English****PASSAGE I**

“Metropolitan regions are increasingly at the forefront of climate action. They house a large proportion of the population, face costly threats from climate-related disasters, and consume 78 percent of the world’s energy and emit 60 percent of the world’s greenhouse gases, according to UN estimates. Yet, in my studies of climate action in US cities, business leaders are largely missing from the pledging, planning, and execution of local and regional climate goals.

Most cities can point to some business actions: parking lot EV charging stations or shared bicycles, rooftop gardens or ground level trees, wind power turbines, flood-proofing, and the like. But they tend to be isolated one-off examples with limited impact. If enlightened leaders join forces, their collaborations can stimulate innovations, create new markets, or push government to accelerate infrastructure projects, some of which already have funds allocated.

Coalitions with business leadership are vital to encourage the most innovative and help the most vulnerable. Climate tech startups need support from established companies—for testing sites, referrals, and partnerships—to enrich the ecosystem and enable more solutions to grow, whether energy efficient technologies or inventions that directly capture and store carbon.

At the same time, coalitions should include advocates for climate justice to ensure that areas most vulnerable to climate disasters, where residents tend to be Black and Latinx and have low incomes, can access affordable renewable energy, building upgrades, and electric buses. This can also help businesses meet diversity, equity, and inclusion goals by enlarging employment pools.

Business leaders must think outside their own buildings to the communities that make their success possible. To get the most impact from climate investments requires not just concrete infrastructure but an infrastructure for collaboration.” (282 words)

1. According to the passage, what is the primary concern of the author for the climate action?
  - (a) Large population moving to the metropolitan cities are facing threats from climate disasters.
  - (b) Metropolitan cities consuming maximum amount of world’s energy.
  - (c) Businessmen not contributing to the public welfare related to climate betterment.
  - (d) Metropolitan cities adopting various technologies harming the climate of the region.
2. What does the author mean by the following statement: ‘Coalition with business leadership are vital to encourage the most innovative and help the most vulnerable’?
  - (a) The climate goals associating with the business leaders will create ways to increase employment and welfare.
  - (b) The climate goals aligning with the business leaders will create new markets, innovations and opportunities.
  - (c) The climate goals merging with the business market will accelerate the economy of the countries.
  - (d) The business leaders will find different horizon of profits if they collate with the climate actions.
3. According to the passage, what can be inferred from including advocates for climate justice?
  - (a) Coalition of business and climate action must entirely focus on the Black and Latinx residents.
  - (b) Coalition of business and climate action should provide a balance between the energy and requirements in vulnerable conditions.
  - (c) Coalition of business and climate action should focus on the upgradation of the employment goals for the underprivileged public.
  - (d) Coalition of business and climate action should focus on diversities and enlarging employment pools in the economically backward countries.
4. Based on the passage, what are the views of the author regarding the cities taking business actions?
  - (a) The author supports the business actions as it will be the best use of the new technologies.
  - (b) The author is ambivalent to the business actions as the implication will profit a part of the population.
  - (c) The author criticizes the business actions as the plan’s influence is restricted.
  - (d) The author is influenced by the business actions as it had a positive impact on the future.
5. Which of the following captures the meaning of the last sentence best?
  - (a) Climate investment can be a success only with the collaboration.
  - (b) Climate investment is impacted with the help of infrastructure done with collaboration.
  - (c) Concrete infrastructure cannot provide the impact of climate investments.
  - (d) Collaborations can only provide an impact from the climate investments.

**PASSAGE II**

Having lived nowhere other than the western coast of India for the first 21 years of my life, seafood was an indispensable part of my diet growing up. When the family business was prospering, we'd feast on plump pomfrets and juicy tiger prawns. When it wasn't, there'd be smaller, bonier fish like anchovies and sardines. Or the less popular bycatch at least. If nothing else, my mum would bring out wares she'd stashed away for the greyer days; a jar of spicy pickled shrimp or salted, sundried mackerel perhaps. But fruits of the Arabian Sea always featured prominently in most meals. In fact, the act of procuring seafood was almost as delightful as consuming it. My Saturday mornings were often spent at the fish market with my mum, watching her negotiate with Hira – our family's favourite fishmonger. 'I saved these for you, I know your kids enjoy them,' I remember Hira saying, trying to sell us her most formidable pair of mud crabs. She wasn't wrong, I do love a good mud crab curry.

These days, my Saturday mornings are spent shopping for the week's groceries at the supermarket in my neighbourhood in Rotterdam in the Netherlands. Every week, I spend several minutes eyeing squeaky-clean salmon steaks and delicate basa fillets packed in the most sterile-looking plastic boxes I've ever seen. The stickers on the box tell me so much about the fish – freshness, origin, environmental impact, recyclability of the packaging. Yet I long to run my fingers through its non-existent scales and inspect its long-discarded gills for tactile cues about quality. Without the sights, sounds and serendipitous communal life of a coastal fish market, buying seafood has lost its allure for me. I guiltily move to the meat section to check for other protein options for the week.

Like me, many have 'upgraded' to consuming more meat than previous generations did. By factory farming livestock, we are now able to produce meat at unbelievably low costs. We also have more money to spend than we ever did. Data show a strong positive correlation between a country's GDP per capita and the amount of meat the average citizen consumes in a year. Collectively, we eat three times the meat we did just 50 years ago. In rapidly industrialising countries like China and Brazil, meat consumption has doubled in a span of two to three decades. Meanwhile, developed countries continue to consume meat in even more copious amounts than they did before. For many, eating more meat means improved food security and nutritional status. But it also pushes against our planet's boundaries like few other anthropogenic activities do. With cow flatulence enveloping Earth in temperature-raising gases and the Amazon losing its cover to cattle feed, the current ways of producing and consuming meat have been pronounced detrimental to the planet's health. In fact, it isn't particularly good for human health, either. Consuming meat excessively, especially the red and processed kinds, exposes us to higher risks for various lifestyle-related diseases.

We are currently at a point in time where the evidence against the ills of factory-farmed meat are simply too jarring to ignore. Results from scientific studies are clear – we cannot keep eating this way without inducing a climate apocalypse. There's a strong push to find new ways to feed billions of protein-hungry mouths without destroying the planet. With the area of arable land available to us remaining limited, scientists have urged policymakers and decision-takers to turn their attention towards 'blue foods' – animals, plants and algae harvested from natural and artificial aquatic environments.

The logic of blue foods, particularly aquatic animals, being less burdensome to the environment is fairly simple. Being cold blooded, they do not use energy gained from their feed to keep their bodies warm. This means more meat per unit of feed compared with warm-blooded terrestrial livestock. (630 words)

6. Why the consumption of meat is considered detrimental to the planet's health, according to the passage?

- (a) Due to the global warming. (b) Due to the Amazon forest losing its sustainability.  
 (c) Due to earth's temperature-raising gases. (d) Because it is harmful for consumption.

7. What change has the author conveyed through his routine of past and present?

- (a) The author nurtures his past when he used to eat meat freely.  
 (b) The author compares the packaged way of selling of the sea food in the present to that of the past in the fish market.  
 (c) The author conveys the change in environment due to the excess consumption of sea food.  
 (d) The author changed his routine by not having sea food anymore.

8. What are the effects of excessively consuming meat on human body?

- (a) Excessive consumption of meat exposes one to higher-risks of lifestyle-related diseases.  
 (b) Consumption of meat leads to the imbalance of the human environment.  
 (c) Excessive consumption of meat proves to be detrimental to the planet's health.  
 (d) Recent studies of excessive consumption of meat has shown chronic diseases in human bodies.

9. What does the author mean by the 'blue foods'?
- (a) Animals and plants harvested from natural aquatic environment.  
 (b) All the natural aquatic animals.  
 (c) Energy received from the sea in the form of food.  
 (d) Animal plants and algae gathered from natural and artificial aquatic environment.
10. Which of the following is synonymous to 'serendipitous' in the context of the passage?
- (a) Unexpected                      (b) Accidental                      (c) Fortuitous                      (d) Deliberate

### PASSAGE III

When I was 21, I was trying to decide whether to become a doctor or a philosophy professor. My older brother, whose advice I usually followed, asked me why I wanted to study philosophy. I was evasive. Finally I admitted that a lot of the books I loved had been written by philosophers and philosophy professors. Plus, one of my favorite books at the time, a book I'd read and reread since I was a teenager, was Hermann Ludi: *The Glass Bead Game*, which unabashedly romanticized the life of the professor. "Be practical. Books are dangerous things," my brother warned me. "Just because it's on paper, you think it's true. "Moneylove" was one of the most damaging books I ever read. Not to mention *How to Win Friends & Influence People*." (I should probably mention that my brother is a very successful luxury jeweler, who continues to love money and, as Dale Carnegie instructs, to "make the other person feel important—and do it sincerely.") This wasn't what I wanted to hear, so I called my dad, at that time a broke New Age guru and sex therapist living in Jupiter, Florida—not exactly the oracle of Delphi, and not someone whose advice I usually followed. "Every doctor I know is miserable, son," he told me. "They work all the time and complain about insurance companies." (Not much has changed since 1988.) "Be a professor. You'll never be rich, but you'll be doing what you love: reading and writing. You get summers off. *It's a good life.*" Note that my father didn't say *the good life*, which is how a philosophically minded adviser might have put it to me—except that philosophy in India in the 1980s and '90s seemed to be losing its way in dry, scholastic debates about the most lifeless of topics (what is the meaning of and?). But he told me what I wanted to hear, and a quarter century later, philosophy is making the kind of comeback that leaves a Hermann Ludi groupie glad to have headed for graduate school and ended up with tenure. Amid hand-wringing about the decline of the humanities, the philosopher (and novelist) Rebecca Goldstein can write a book like *Plato at the Googleplex: Why Philosophy Won't Go Away*, confident that she'll find readers eager to turn to philosophers for help in thinking about the meaning of life and how best to live it. (400 words)

11. The writer of the passage is a philosopher because:
- (a) He liked philosophy.  
 (b) His father advised him.  
 (c) He couldn't get into medical school.  
 (d) His brother guided him.
12. The difference between "a good life" and "the good life" is:
- (a) A life of opportunity and a life of opulence.  
 (b) The life of the rich and the life which is for the rich.  
 (c) The life that one would like to live and the life which is of a high standard.  
 (d) A life which is fulfilling and a life which is enriching.
13. In the passage, Hermann Ludi symbolizes -
- (a) The fantabulous philosopher  
 (b) The happy teacher  
 (c) The quintessential drifter  
 (d) The new age philosopher
14. What does the word UNABASHEDLY mean in the passage?
- (a) Embarrassment or shame  
 (b) Insulting and humiliating  
 (c) Shameless and indolent  
 (d) Without embarrassment or shame
15. Why the author was trying to decide whether to become a doctor or a philosophy professor?
- (a) He was not sure of medicine.  
 (b) He was trying to figure out which one pays more.  
 (c) He has friends who were doctors and philosophers.  
 (d) Can't be inferred.

### PASSAGE IV

#### Seven Strophes

I was but what you'd brush  
with your palm, what your leaning  
brow would hunch to in evening's  
raven-black hush.

I was but what your gaze  
in that dark could distinguish:  
a dim shape to begin with,  
later – features, a face.

It was you, on my right,  
on my left, with your heated  
sighs, who molded my helix,  
whispering at my side.

It was you by that black  
window's trembling tulle pattern

who laid in my raw cavern  
a voice calling you back.

I was practically blind.

You, appearing, then hiding,  
gave me my sight and heightened  
it. Thus some leave behind  
a trace. Thus they make worlds.

Thus, having done so, at random  
wastefully they abandon  
their work to its whirls.

Thus, prey to speeds  
of light, heat, cold, or darkness,  
a sphere in space without markers  
spins and spins.

(Source—"Seven Strophes" from COLLECTED POEMS IN ENGLISH by Joseph Brodsky.)

16. How does the person addressed contribute to the speaker's identity and perception in the poem?

- (a) By merely observing from a distance.
- (b) By shaping the speaker's senses and self-awareness.
- (c) By attributing the speaker's abilities solely to external factors.
- (d) By predetermined and purposeless interactions.

17. What is the central idea of the poem "Seven Strophes"?

- (a) The speaker's independence and self-sufficiency.
- (b) The transformative power of external forces on the speaker's identity.
- (c) The randomness and purposelessness of life.
- (d) The speaker's solitude and isolation.

18. What does the word "helix" in the poem "Seven Strophes" most likely refer to?

- (a) A dark and mysterious place.
- (b) A specific feature of the person addressed.
- (c) A spiral shape, possibly representing the speaker's genetic makeup.
- (d) An emotional state of confusion.

19. What is the significance of the black window's "trembling tulle pattern" in the poem "Seven Strophes"?

- (a) It represents a barrier separating the speaker from the person addressed.
- (b) It symbolizes the unpredictability and fragility of the speaker's perception.
- (c) It signifies the ominous nature of the external forces shaping the speaker's identity.
- (d) It reflects the speaker's emotional turmoil and confusion.

20. What does the term "raven-black hush" in the passage primarily convey?

- (a) A comforting silence in the evening.
- (b) A mysterious dark atmosphere during the night.
- (c) The sound of birds in the twilight.
- (d) The feeling of warmth and tranquillity.

### PASSAGE V

Garden design is the first step in having a productive fall garden. One design that works well is to mark off a ten by sixteen-foot rectangle. Divide the rectangle into no more than five or six plots. The plots should be small enough so gardeners can reach to the middle for easy weeding and picking. A trench should be dug about three inches deep and wide around each plot to make sure rain will not drown the plants. One tip to make gardening more pleasant is to use lawn woods (eight feet in length) to form a border around the outside of the lot. Using lawn woods is an excellent idea because they help control weeds and are very inexpensive; seconds sell for about a dollar each. Soil preparation is also an important step to having an abundant harvest. If the garden space was used in the summer, it must be cleaned out to eliminate all the old plants, including all the roots. A tiller will soften and aerate the soil; it will help loosen any roots missed. After the first tilling (preparing and cultivating (land) for crops), add fertilizer, top soil, mulch and vermiculite and then till the garden plot again to mix everything. It is just like mixing a cake; it must be mixed thoroughly. When tilling is complete, gardeners should take a rake (a pole with a toothed crossbar at the end, used especially for drawing together cut grass or smoothing loose soil) and smooth the top of the soil. Selecting and planting the seeds is the next step in the gardening process. It is imperative to make sure seeds are

selected for the area of the country where the garden is located. Seeds that grow well in the mountains may not grow as well near the ocean. One piece of advice is to subscribe to a gardening magazine or purchase a good gardening book. The information obtained from either source will help prevent the disappointment of no harvest. Most seeds only need to be planted one fourth inch deep. The seeds should be sprinkled on your garden and raked to get them below the soil. After planting the seeds, the entire garden needs a thorough watering; water every day for a week to speed up seed germination.

21. Which of the following would weaken the argument of the passage?  
 (a) There are people who may want to have productive fall garden.  
 (b) There is hardly anyone out there who is interested in gardening at all.  
 (c) There are some people who would follow the techniques to enhance their productive fall garden.  
 (d) None of the above.
22. What is the main purpose of using lawn woods when you plant a fall garden?  
 (a) They help control weeds  
 (b) They make the garden more beautiful.  
 (c) They help ventilate the soil.  
 (d) They work as manure.
23. The passage does not concern with which of the following?  
 (a) How to prepare a fall garden  
 (b) Selecting and planting the seed  
 (c) Comparing gardening to baking a cake  
 (d) Drawbacks of fall gardens
24. What is the tone of the author in the passage?  
 (a) Informative  
 (b) Didactic  
 (c) Laudatory  
 (d) Sanguine

### Section B-Current Affairs with GK

#### PASSAGE VI

According to the recently released International IP Index by the U.S. Chambers of Commerce, India holds the [1] position among 55 prominent global economies. This ranking underscores India's burgeoning potential as a frontrunner for emerging markets endeavouring to revolutionize their economic landscape through innovation driven by intellectual property (IP). Patrick Kilbride, the senior vice president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Global Innovation Policy Center, emphasized that as India's stature and economic influence expand globally, it stands poised to lead the charge for IP-centric innovation in emerging markets. The report delves into various facets ranging from patent and copyright regulations to the efficacy of IP asset monetization and adherence to international agreements. It commends India's sustained efforts in bolstering its IP ecosystem. Notably, India has intensified enforcement measures against copyright infringement and boasts a robust framework aimed at enhancing the comprehension and utilization of IP assets, which is deemed exemplary. Nonetheless, the report underscores the imperative of addressing longstanding deficiencies within India's IP framework to solidify its position as a trailblazer for the region and to sustain its economic momentum. Rectifying these gaps is deemed crucial for India's trajectory, as it strives to pioneer a novel paradigm for IP-driven innovation and ensure continued economic prosperity.

25. Which of the following will replace [1] in this passage?  
 (a) 35<sup>th</sup> (b) 42<sup>nd</sup> (c) 48<sup>th</sup> (d) 55<sup>th</sup>
26. Which country topped the International Intellectual Property Index?  
 (a) United States (b) United Kingdom (c) France (d) None of the Above
27. International IP Index evaluates the IP framework in each economy across 50 unique indicators. How many categories of protection do the indicators in the International IP Index span?  
 (a) 5 (b) 7 (c) 9 (d) 11
28. In which year was the National Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy adopted by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)?  
 (a) 2014 (b) 2015 (c) 2016 (d) 2017
29. What legislative action in India is highlighted in the International IP Index report, showcasing commendable efforts in addressing film piracy?  
 (a) Copyright Act (Amendment) Bill 2023 (b) Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill 2023  
 (c) Patent Law (Amendment) Bill 2023 (d) Trademark Act (Amendment) Bill 2023



**PASSAGE VII**

The National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL), recently achieved a significant technological milestone by successfully test-flying a prototype of a cutting-edge unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV). This innovative UAV stands out for its remarkable capabilities—it can soar to great heights, operates solely on solar power, and boasts an extended endurance period, remaining airborne for months at a time. Classified as High-Altitude Pseudo-Satellite (HAPS) or High-Altitude Long-Endurance (HALE) vehicles, these UAVs offer exceptional utility, particularly in surveillance, monitoring, and disaster management applications. Despite being in the nascent stages of development, HAPS technology holds immense promise. While satellites offer wide-area observation, those in low-earth orbits face limitations due to their constant motion, making continuous monitoring challenging. On the other hand, geostationary satellites, stationed at approximately 36,000 km above the Earth, provide constant coverage over a single area but come with significant costs and inflexibility in terms of reorientation or repurposing. HAPS aim to address these shortcomings and offer additional advantages. By combining the benefits of wide-area observation with the ability to maintain a constant gaze over specific regions, HAPS represent a versatile and cost-effective solution for various applications, including surveillance, disaster management, and beyond. While several countries and companies have made strides in developing HAPS vehicles, achieving mastery over this technology remains an ongoing endeavour.

**30.** CSIR-NAL recently conducted successful tests on a High-Altitude Pseudo-Satellite (HAPS), marking a significant milestone in UAV technology. Where is the headquarters of National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) located?

- (a) Delhi (b) Bangalore (c) Mumbai (d) Chennai

**31.** What is the typical altitude at which High Altitude Pseudo-Satellites (HAPS) operate?

- (a) 10-15 km (b) 12-18 km (c) 18-20 km (d) 20-25 km

**32.** Who is the current director of National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL)?

- (a) Abhay Anant Pashilkar (b) Jitendra J Jadhav (c) Purnima Sinha (d) None of the Above

**33.** What is the target year set for the deployment of HAPS according to director of National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL)?

- (a) 2025 (b) 2026 (c) 2027 (d) 2028

**34.** Consider the following statements:

1. High-altitude pseudo satellite vehicle (HAPS) technology is still under development, with recent successful test flights placing India among a select group of countries like Japan, Australia, and the Turkey that are developing this technology.

2. HAPS can significantly enhance India's surveillance and monitoring capabilities in border areas.

3. In the event of calamities damaging normal networks, HAPS can deploy mobile communication networks in remote areas.

Which of the statements above are true?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1 and 3 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2, and 3

**PASSAGE VIII**

The 28th convening of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) took place in New Delhi. Dr. Bhagwat Karad, serving as the Minister of State for Finance, graced the gathering alongside esteemed dignitaries and officials representing diverse financial regulatory entities falling under her purview. The 28th FSDC assembly also welcomed the presence of luminaries representing prominent regulatory bodies such as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDA), and Forward Markets Commission (FMC), among others. The high-level Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) convened to deliberate on the multifaceted challenges stemming from both global and domestic developments, underscoring the imperative for regulators to maintain unwavering vigilance over the financial sector. Against the backdrop of the recent global economic downturn, which exerted considerable pressure on governments and institutions worldwide to enhance their regulatory frameworks, this council emerges as a strategic initiative by India to fortify its resilience and pre-emptively mitigate the recurrence of such crises. The guidelines formulated for the operation of the FSDC, a pivotal entity tasked with addressing inter-regulatory intricacies, aim to delineate the precise role of the finance ministry while safeguarding the autonomy of member regulators, thereby ensuring a harmonized and robust regulatory apparatus.

**35.** When was the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) constituted?

- (a) 2008 (b) 2010 (c) 2012 (d) 2015

- 36.** Who proposed the creation of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)?  
 (a) Raghuram Rajan Committee (b) Urjit Patel Committee  
 (c) Bimal Jalan Committee (d) Y. V. Reddy Committee
- 37.** Who chairs the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)?  
 (a) Prime Minister (b) Finance Minister (c) Governor of RBI (d) Chief Economic Adviser
- 38.** Consider the following statements regarding the functions of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC):  
 Statement 1: The primary function of FSDC is to strengthen and institutionalize mechanisms for maintaining financial stability, enhancing inter-regulatory coordination, and promoting financial sector development.  
 Statement 2: FSDC is responsible for monitoring macro-prudential supervision of the economy and assessing the functioning of large financial conglomerates.  
 Which of the following options is correct?  
 (a) Only Statement 1 is true. (b) Only Statement 2 is true.  
 (c) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are true. (d) Neither Statement 1 nor Statement 2 is true.
- 39.** Which of the following individuals were included as members of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) after its reconstitution in 2018?  
 (a) Minister of State responsible for the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA)  
 (b) Secretary of the Department of Electronics and Information Technology and Revenue Secretary  
 (c) Chairman of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)  
 (d) All of the Above

#### PASSAGE IX

The recent disclosure by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice to the Lok Sabha has highlighted a significant development: the Law Ministry's acceptance of its proposal to establish regional benches of the Supreme Court across India. However, it's noteworthy that the apex court has consistently opposed this idea, with the matter currently under judicial consideration. The question of whether India should have regional benches of the Supreme Court sparks considerable debate. In its action taken report on "Judicial Processes and Their Reforms," the Standing Committee observed that while the government has endorsed its recommendation, the Supreme Court's stance remains steadfastly resistant. This report, presented in the Lok Sabha, specifically underscores the committee's earlier suggestion regarding the feasibility of regional Supreme Court benches. The committee acknowledges the enduring clamour for regional Supreme Court benches, emphasizing the desire to bring justice closer to the doorsteps of ordinary citizens. This aspiration resonates with the broader objective of enhancing accessibility and expediency in the delivery of justice.

- 40.** What is the constitutional basis for the recommendations regarding the establishment of regional benches of the Supreme Court in India?  
 (a) Article 132 (b) Article 130 (c) Article 143 (d) Article 72
- 41.** In which Law Commission's report was the suggestion made to establish a Constitutional Bench and four Cassation Benches?  
 (a) Sixteenth Law Commission (b) Eighteenth Law Commission  
 (c) Twentieth Law Commission (d) Twenty-Second Law Commission
- 42.** Consider the following statements:  
 1. Setting up a Constitutional Bench will fulfill the constitutional mandate of Article 39A.  
 2. The setting up of regional benches of the Supreme Court would lead to the democratisation of the SC Bar by securing greater opportunities for lawyers belonging to different geographical regions.  
 Which of the statements above highlights the potential advantages of establishing regional benches of the Supreme Court?  
 (a) Statement 1 only (b) Statement 2 only  
 (c) Both statements 1 and 2 (d) Neither statement 1 nor statement 2
- 43.** The power to increase the number of judges in the Supreme Court of India is vested in—  
 (a) The President (b) The Parliament  
 (c) The Law Commission (d) None of the Above
- 44.** How many judges, including the Chief Justice of India, currently serve in the Supreme Court of India?  
 (a) 28 judges (b) 33 judges  
 (c) 30 judges (d) 34 judges

**PASSAGE X**

The operational license of Paytm Payments Bank hangs precariously in the balance following a directive from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to the financial entity. The RBI, citing "persistent non-compliance and supervisory concerns," has mandated Paytm Payments Bank, of which 49% ownership lies with Paytm's parent company, to cease its widely used mobile wallet operations and other associated activities. This regulatory intervention underscores the pivotal juncture at which the bank finds itself, with the prospect of losing its operational license looming ominously. A representative from Paytm Bank has acknowledged the RBI's directive, characterizing it as an integral facet of the ongoing supervisory engagement and compliance process. The bank asserts its adherence to the instructions set forth by the regulator. Nonetheless, the situation underscores the gravity of regulatory oversight in the financial landscape, signaling a critical imperative for compliance with regulatory mandates and the safeguarding of customer deposits.

**45.** Which Committee recommends the establishment of Payment Banks in India?

- (a) Raghuram Rajan (b) Urjit Patel  
 (c) Nachiket Mor (d) C. Rangarajan

**46.** What is the minimum capital requirement for payment banks?

- (a) Rs. 50 crores (b) Rs. 100 crores  
 (c) Rs. 200 crores (d) Rs. 500 crores

**47.** How many Payment Banks are currently operational in India?

- (a) 4 (b) 5  
 (c) 6 (d) 7

**48.** Under which company was Paytm founded?

- (a) Pay90 (b) Paytm India  
 (c) One97 Communications (d) One97 India

**PASSAGE XI**

India, a bastion of democracy, upholds the cardinal principle that every citizen possesses the fundamental right to partake in the electoral process, a quintessential avenue for selecting leaders deemed capable of navigating the nation through its multifaceted challenges and orchestrating positive transformations. The bedrock of this democratic ethos is the sacrosanct National Voters Day, a day of profound significance, as it serves as the nexus between the citizenry and their civic duty. National Voters Day stands as a testament to the pivotal role citizens play in shaping the destiny of the nation, wielding the power to elect leaders who resonate with their aspirations and can adeptly address the myriad concerns of the common populace. This annual commemoration transcends mere festivity; it is a clarion call to the youth, the torchbearers of the future, imploring them to actively engage in the electoral discourse, for their choices are the linchpin upon which the trajectory of the nation pivots. The celebration of National Voters Day not only seeks to galvanize the youth into robust participation but also underscores the elemental nature of the right to vote. It is an unequivocal acknowledgment that voting is not a mere privilege but an elemental right that undergirds the democratic edifice. In essence, this commemoration encapsulates the essence of democratic governance, wherein the will of the people finds expression through the ballot. The overarching objective behind the fervent celebration of National Voters Day is to instil a culture of active citizenship. It is a concerted effort to not only encourage but also to facilitate and optimize the enrollment of new voters, ensuring that the democratic fabric of the nation is continually invigorated. By accentuating the centrality of this civic duty, the day aspires to imbue citizens, especially the nascent electorate, with a sense of responsibility, impressing upon them that their participation is not a mere choice but a collective imperative.

**49.** When is National Voters' Day celebrated in India?

- (a) 26th March (b) 25th January (c) 1st February (d) 15th August

**50.** Which year did India first celebrate National Voters' Day?

- (a) 2005 (b) 2011  
 (c) 1990 (d) 1982

**51.** Which Constitutional Amendment formalized the reduction of the voting age?

- (a) Fifty-First Amendment Bill (b) Sixty-First Amendment Bill  
 (c) Seventy-Fifth Amendment Bill (d) Eighty-Third Amendment Bill

**52.** What is the title of the commemorative postage stamp released during the event?

- (a) Democracy in Action (b) Service to the Nation  
 (c) Inclusive Elections (d) 75 Years of ECI

## Section C-Legal Reasoning

### PASSAGE XII

Until 2018, the Indian Penal Code (IPC) contained Section 497, which defined adultery as a criminal offence that attracted up to five years in prison, or a fine, or both. However, only men could be punished under Section 497, not women. The section read: “Whoever has sexual intercourse with a person who is and whom he knows or has reason to believe to be the wife of another man, without the consent or connivance of that man, such sexual intercourse not amounting to the offence of rape, is guilty of the offence of adultery. In such case the wife shall not be punishable as an abettor.” This was contrary to both the common understanding and the dictionary definition of adultery, which is simply voluntary sexual intercourse between a married person, man or woman, and someone other than that person’s current spouse or partner. In *Joseph Shine vs Union Of India*, a five-judge Bench of the Supreme Court unanimously struck down Section 497 of the IPC on grounds that included discrimination, though adultery can still be used as a ground for divorce. The report on the *Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023*, said that adultery should be reinstated as a criminal offence, but it should be made gender-neutral — that is, both men and women should be punished for it. The Committee recommended: “This section only penalised the married man, and reduced the married woman to be a property of her husband.” These recommendations have not been accepted yet. The discriminatory nature of Section 497, and its “manifest arbitrariness” in punishing only men for adultery, was just one of the grounds on which the court had struck down the provision. The judgment went much farther. Section 497 was violative of Articles 14, 15, and 21 of the Constitution (which protect the fundamental rights to equality, non-discrimination, and life respectively) the Bench ruled. The CJI declared that the husband is neither master of his wife, nor does he have legal sovereignty over her — and that “any system treating a woman with indignity ... invites the wrath of the Constitution”. Also, adultery “does not fit into the concept of crime”, the court ruled. “We may repeat at the cost of repetition that if it is treated as a crime, there would be immense intrusion into the extreme privacy of the matrimonial sphere. It is better to be left as a ground for divorce,” the CJI said.

Justice Malhotra, the only woman judge on the Bench, observed that Section 497 was “replete with anomalies” — for instance, an adulterous relationship would not be an offence if the married woman had her husband’s consent. Also, a wife could not prosecute her husband or his lover, even if they committed this offence. The court also struck down Section 198(2) of the CrPC to the extent that it applies to the offence of adultery under Section 497. Section 198(2) of CrPC treats the husband of an adulterous wife to be an aggrieved person but wife of an adulterous husband is not considered to be aggrieved.

**Source:** Extracted (with edits and revisions) from an article titled “Why adultery was struck off IPC, and why a House panel wants to make it a crime again” published in Indian Express.

**53.** In Delhi, Mr. Varun, a successful entrepreneur, married Mrs. Vaishali, a renowned artist in 2021. Their marriage, however, has been strained due to Varun's frequent business trips and Vaishali's busy schedule. During a local art exhibition, Vaishali meets Mr. Vivek, a gallery owner from Ranchi, and they develop a close relationship. Varun hires a private investigator, who confirms the affair through photographs and messages. Varun confronts Vaishali, who admits to the affair but insists it was consensual and that Vivek was unaware of her marital status. In light of the passage, which of the following actions should Varun pursue?

- (a) Varun can file a criminal case against Mr. Vivek under Section 497 of the IPC for adultery.
- (b) Varun can initiate a civil case against Mr. Vivek for damages due to emotional distress and tarnishing Varun's reputation.
- (c) Varun can seek a divorce from Mrs. Vaishali on the grounds of adultery.
- (d) File a criminal case against both Mrs. Vaishali and Mr. Vivek under the proposed gender-neutral adultery law.

**54.** In Indore, Mr. Vikram, a renowned architect, and his wife, Mrs. Vidya, a corporate lawyer, have an open marriage agreement, allowing each other to engage in relationships outside their marriage. Mrs. Vidya starts a relationship with Mr. Varun, a colleague from her law firm. Varun is unaware of Vikram and Vidya's open marriage agreement. However, when the affair becomes public, Vikram felt compelled to take action and files a case against Varun in 2016. In the light of the passage, decide whether Varun can be held liable for adultery?

- (a) Yes, Mr. Varun can be held liable for adultery under Section 497, citing the lack of explicit consent.
- (b) Yes, Mr. Varun can be held liable for adultery as having an affairs with a married wife is morally incorrect.
- (c) No, Mr. Varun cannot be held liable for adultery as Mrs. Vidya had the consent of Mr. Vikram.
- (d) No, Mr. Varun cannot be held liable for adultery as adultery has been decriminalised.

**55.** Assume that an additional fact is added in the previous question. Vikram and Vidya's open marriage agreement was a formal, legally documented contract. What would be the impact of additional fact on Vikram's case against Varun?

- (a) The additional fact would strengthen Vikram's case because a formal contract indicates a clear understanding and agreement.
- (b) The additional fact would weaken Vikram's case, as the formal agreement between Vikram and Vidya affirms their mutual consent, negating any grounds for legal action against Varun for adultery.
- (c) The additional fact would have no effect on Vikram's case.
- (d) The additional fact would strengthen Vikram's case, but only if the contract includes clauses that allow for legal action against third parties.

**56.** In 2014, Mrs. Vaishali, a successful entrepreneur, discovers that her husband, Mr. Vishal, is having an extramarital affair with Ms. Vinita, a colleague from his office. Distraught by this revelation, Vaishali decides to take legal action. Considering this legal context, which of the following actions can Mrs. Vaishali legally pursue?

- (a) Mrs. Vaishali can file a criminal case against Ms. Vinita for adultery, asserting her status as the aggrieved wife.
- (b) Mrs. Vaishali can request Ms. Vinita to leave her husband.
- (c) Mrs. Vaishali cannot take any action against Mr. Vishal as the offense of adultery has been decriminalised.
- (d) Mrs. Vaishali can seek a divorce from Mr. Vishal on the grounds of adultery, without pursuing any legal action against Ms. Vinita.

**57.** In the context of the Supreme Court's judgment in *Joseph Shine vs Union Of India* regarding Section 497 of the IPC, which of the following statements is correct?

- (a) The Supreme Court upheld Section 497, emphasizing the need to maintain the sanctity of marriage by criminalizing adultery.
- (b) The Supreme Court struck down Section 497, declaring that adultery should remain a criminal offense but be made gender-neutral.
- (c) The Supreme Court ruled that Section 497 was unconstitutional as it violated Articles 14, 15, and 21 of the Constitution, and that adultery should not be treated as a criminal offense.
- (d) The Supreme Court modified Section 497 to allow both the husband and wife to be prosecuted for adultery, ensuring gender neutrality.

**58.** Which of the following cannot be inferred from the passage about the Supreme Court's judgment in *Joseph Shine vs Union Of India* regarding Section 497 of the IPC?

- (a) The Supreme Court's decision to strike down Section 497 was based on the argument that adultery should be treated as a ground for divorce, not a criminal offense.
- (b) The Supreme Court considered the discriminatory nature of Section 497 against men as the sole reason for its unconstitutionality.
- (c) The judgment emphasized that the concept of marital sovereignty, where the husband is seen as the master of his wife, is unconstitutional.
- (d) The court's ruling indicated that the privacy and dignity of individuals within a marriage are protected under Article 21 of the Constitution.

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

Assertion (A): As per reports on *Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita*, adultery should be reinstated as a criminal offence, but it should be made gender-neutral.

Reason (R): The discriminatory nature of Section 497, and its "manifest arbitrariness" in punishing only men for adultery, was one of the grounds on which the court had struck it down.

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

### PASSAGE XIII

The Delhi High Court has found "large-scale infringement" in the reproduction on the Internet "of copyrighted works" of the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust, which publishes books and commentaries on Indian religious philosophy and spiritualism, especially classic Vaishnava texts. In an order on September 21, Justice Prathiba M Singh allowed the trust to approach tech companies Google and Meta, with takedown orders against those reproducing copyrighted works on the *Srimad Bhagavad Gita*.

Religious scriptures are in the public domain, and in copyright law, no exclusive intellectual property rights apply to creative works in the public domain. So, the Old Testament and New Testament, or the King James Version (KJV) of the Bible, are not protected by copyright. However, many modern translations of the Bible are copyright-protected because they represent new creative works by the translators. For example, the New International Version (NIV), which was first published in 1978, is copyright-protected.

Indian copyright law protects “original work” — a creative and independently created expression fixed in a tangible medium. The law grants the creator/ author of the work the exclusive right to “use, reproduce, distribute, perform, and display their work”. The law also protects transformative work which is a creative/ artistic work that takes existing material (text, music, art) and significantly modifies, reinterprets, or builds upon it to create something new and distinct. For example, the comedy group AIB’s 2015 spoof video ‘Every Bollywood Party song’, was a parody of ‘Party all night’, and it would not amount to infringement as it can be termed as inspired work. The fact of commercial use of copyrighted content by anyone except the copyright holder corroborates the claim of copyright violation.

The trust said that its founder’s works published in various Indian and foreign languages had “simplified the religious books and scriptures” making it easy for the common man to understand. The copyright of his work would vest with the trust after he died in 1977. The trust claimed that certain websites, mobile apps, and Instagram handles were making available a large number of the trust’s copyrighted works “almost in a verbatim manner on their online platforms” without its permission, which amounted to infringement. In its interim order, the court said adaptation of the scriptures, including “explanation, meaning, interpretation or creating any audio visual works”, would be entitled to copyright protection. The court said this is so because these are the original works of the authors themselves. “Thus, there can be no objection in the actual reproduction of the text of Srimad Bhagavad Gita or similarly other spiritual books. However, the manner in which the same is interpreted by different gurus and spiritual teachers being varied in nature, copyright would vest in respect of the original parts of the literary works which preach, teach or explain the scripture,” the court said. The HC added that since Srila Prabhupada had himself handed over the copyrights to be administered by the trust, the works cannot be “reproduced without authorization, license or the permission” of the trust.

**Source:** Extracted (with edits and revisions) from an article titled “Scriptures may be copyright-free, but adaptations are protected: What HC has said,” Published in The Indian Express.

**60.** Vandana, an author, recently published a book titled “Modern Reflections on the Bhagavad Gita.” The book contains her personal interpretations, insights, and modern-day applications of the teachings found in the Bhagavad Gita. Vandana’s work includes direct quotations from the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust’s Bhagavad Gita, as well as her own commentary and comprehensive analysis. The Bhaktivedanta Book Trust, upon discovering Vandana’s book, claims that her use of direct quotations from their copyrighted translation of the Bhagavad Gita constitutes copyright infringement. In the light of the passage decide whether Vandana’s act amounts to copyright infringement?

- (a) Vandana’s use of direct quotations from the Bhagavad Gita constitutes copyright infringement as it uses copyrighted material without permission.
- (b) Vandana’s work is not an infringement as it is a transformative work that adds new meaning and insights to the public domain text of the Bhagavad Gita.
- (c) Vandana’s book is an infringement because any use of the Bhagavad Gita, regardless of the nature of the work, requires permission from the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust.
- (d) Vandana’s work is not an infringement as the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust’s Bhagavad Gita is itself copied from original text of Bhagavad Gita.

**61.** Vinay, a popular YouTuber based in Ranchi, creates a series of videos titled “Exploring the Gita with Vinay.” In these videos, he reads excerpts from the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust’s translation of the Srimad Bhagavad Gita and then discusses his personal experiences from these excerpts. His aim is to educate people. He did not seek permission from the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust for using their translation. The Trust discovers Vinay’s videos and decides to take legal action, claiming copyright infringement for using their copyrighted translation without authorization. In the light of the passage, choose the most appropriate option.

- (a) Vinay’s use of the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust’s translation in his videos constitutes copyright infringement as he did not obtain permission for using their copyrighted material.
- (b) Vinay’s videos are not an infringement because they are for educational purposes and thus qualify as fair use.
- (c) Vinay’s videos are not an infringement as the original text of the Bhagavad Gita is in the public domain.
- (d) Vinay’s use of the excerpts is transformative and therefore does not constitute copyright infringement.

**62.** In the previous question, assume that an additional fact is added. Suppose that Vinay's videos on "Exploring the Gita with Vinay" have gained significant popularity and he earns revenue from these videos. What would be the impact of additional fact on Bhaktivedanta Book Trust's claim of copyright violation?

- (a) The additional fact would strengthen Bhaktivedanta Book Trust claim of copyright violation, as earning revenue from the videos indicates commercial use.
- (b) The additional fact would weaken Bhaktivedanta Book Trust claim, because the popularity of Vinay's videos implies that they were meant for educational purpose.
- (c) The additional fact would have no effect on Bhaktivedanta Book Trust claim of copyright violation, as the legality of the use of copyrighted material is independent of the popularity or commercial use of the videos.
- (d) The additional fact would weaken Bhaktivedanta Book Trust claim of copyright violation as popularity of videos suggest that the content of Vinay was good.

**63.** Deepak, an author based in Delhi, writes a book titled "Modern Interpretations of Ancient Wisdom," in which he extensively quotes the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust's translation of the Srimad Bhagavad Gita. He argues that his book is a transformative work, as it provides a modern, psychological analysis of the teachings in the Gita, juxtaposing them with contemporary life scenarios. The Bhaktivedanta Book Trust files a lawsuit against Deepak for copyright infringement. Which of the following facts, if true, would strengthen the claim of Bhaktivedanta Book Trust?

- (a) That Deepak's book provides a new interpretation and analysis of the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust's translation.
- (b) Deepak's book, without authorization, reproduces substantial portions of the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust's copyrighted translation and it does not contain anything new.
- (c) Deepak's book is an academic work that contributes to scholarly discourse on the Bhagavad Gita.
- (d) Deepak's book serves an educational purpose and adds new insights to the original work.

**64.** On the basis of the passage, which of the following statement can be concluded?

- (a) The court ruled that any adaptation of the Srimad Bhagavad Gita, including explanations or interpretations, is not eligible for copyright protection.
- (b) Srila Prabhupada, the founder of the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust, retained the copyrights of his works even after his death in 1977.
- (c) The court allowed the trust to approach tech companies with takedown orders against unauthorized reproductions of copyrighted works on the Srimad Bhagavad Gita.
- (d) The court stated that the actual text of the Srimad Bhagavad Gita and other spiritual books can be reproduced without any copyright restrictions.

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

- (a) The Delhi High Court's decision implies that all religious scriptures, regardless of their age or origin, are exempt from copyright protection.
- (b) The court acknowledged that Srila Prabhupada had transferred the copyrights of his works to the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust.
- (c) Transformative works, which significantly modify or reinterpret existing material to create something new, are protected under Indian copyright law.
- (d) The court's interim order recognized that explanations, interpretations, or audio-visual adaptations of religious texts can be allowed copyright protection if they are original works.

#### PASSAGE XIV

First announced during the Union Budget session in 2017, "electoral bonds" are interest-free "bearer instruments", which means that they are payable to the bearer on demand, similar to a promissory note. Essentially, electoral bonds allow Indian citizens or a body incorporated in India to purchase bonds. Usually sold enabling anonymous donations to political parties in denominations ranging from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1 crore, these bonds can be bought from authorised SBI branches through accounts complying with KYC norms. Responsibility of verifying KYC compliance lies with the bank issuing the electoral bonds. Clause 11 to the electoral bond scheme stipulates that the donor may only use banking channels, such as cheque or ECS, which completely preserve audibility and leave a trail. The electoral bond scheme is also subject to KYC regulations by RBI. Following this, the political parties can choose to encash the bonds within 15 days of receiving them and fund their electoral expenses. Importantly, electoral bonds can only be used to donate to political parties registered under Section 29A of the Representation of the Peoples Act, 1951, securing at least 1% of the votes polled in the last election to the House of the People or a Legislative Assembly. Section 29A of the RPA deals with the registration of associations and bodies as political parties with the Election Commission.

Procedurally, the scheme was designed to infuse transparency and accountability into political funding. Any non-compliance with the procedures, or any attempt to bypass such procedure, leaves the transaction illegal. The implementation of electoral bonds involved amending several laws, including the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, 2010, the Representation of the Peoples Act, 1951, the Income Tax Act, 1961, and the Companies Act, 2013. However, the scheme faced legal challenges, with NGOs arguing that it facilitated anonymous funding, potentially from foreign sources, thus compromising the transparency it sought to establish. The Supreme Court's involvement added another layer to the procedural aspect. In an interim order, the court mandated political parties to confidentially disclose bond donation details to the Election Commission of India (ECI), a procedural safeguard to monitor and track the bond transactions.

The Supreme Court's ongoing review of the scheme, including the referral to a larger bench, underscores the complexity of its procedural and constitutional implications. The Court's deliberations focus on balancing the need for transparency in political funding with the right to privacy of donors. In its stance, the Election Commission of India initially objected to the non-disclosure provision for donations received through electoral bonds. This objection was procedurally significant, as it highlighted concerns about the potential influence of unchecked foreign funding on national policies. The government defended the scheme, emphasizing the need for confidentiality to encourage clean funding.

**Source:** Extracted (with edits and revisions) from an article titled "What are electoral bonds, how has govt. defended them, what Supreme Court has to decide", published in The Indian Express, October 30, 2023.

**66.** Varun Enterprises, a company incorporated in Delhi, decided to support a political party in the upcoming state elections. The company purchased electoral bonds worth Rs. 50 lakhs from an authorized State Bank of India branch in Delhi. Varun Enterprises' bank account was not in compliance with the Know Your Customer (KYC) norms as mandated by the electoral bond scheme. Therefore, they used a subsidiary company's account, which was compliant with KYC norms, to purchase the bonds. The political party, upon receiving the bonds, encashed them within the stipulated 15-day period. Later, an investigation revealed the non-compliance of KYC norms by Varun Enterprises in the purchase of the electoral bonds. On the basis of the passage, decide whether the donation is legal or not.

(a) The transaction is legal as the political party encashed the bonds within the 15-day period, which is the primary requirement of the electoral bond scheme.

(b) The transaction is illegal because Varun Enterprises bank account was not in compliance with the KYC norms directly, violating the procedural requirements of the electoral bond scheme.

(c) The transaction is legal as the use of a subsidiary company's KYC-compliant account for purchasing the bonds is an acceptable practice under the electoral bond scheme.

(d) The transaction is illegal as the political party should have verified the KYC compliance of Varun Enterprises before encashing the bonds.

**67.** A regional political party registered under Section 29A of the Representation of the Peoples Act, 1951, received electoral bonds worth Rs 10 lakhs from an anonymous donor. The party, which had secured 500 votes out of the 1, 00,000 votes polled in the last election to the House of the People, encashed these bonds to fund its campaign for the upcoming local elections within 7 days. In the light of the passage, decide whether the transaction is legal or not?

(a) The acceptance and encashment of the bonds by the political party is legal, as the electoral bond scheme allows all registered political parties to receive and encash bonds irrespective of their vote share.

(b) The acceptance and encashment of the bonds by the political party is illegal, as the party is ineligible to receive funding under electoral bond scheme.

(c) The acceptance and encashment of the bonds by the political party is legal, as the vote share requirement applies only to national elections, not local elections.

(d) The acceptance and encashment of the bonds by the political party is illegal, as the bonds were received from an anonymous donor, which is against the principles of the electoral bond scheme.

**68.** In the previous question, assume that an additional fact is added. The political party in question has a significant presence in the local government of Ranchi and has been actively involved in community development projects. What would be the impact of additional fact on legality of the transaction?

(a) The additional fact would make the transaction legal as party's active involvement in local governance and community development could be seen as a justification for needing funds.

(b) The additional fact would not make the transaction legal, because the party's local presence and activities alter the eligibility criteria set by the electoral bond scheme.



(c) The additional fact would have no effect, as the eligibility to accept and encash electoral bonds is strictly determined by the criteria outlined in the electoral bond scheme, not by the party's local activities or governance role.

(d) The additional fact would make the transaction legal but only if the party can demonstrate that their community development projects have significantly increased their public support since the last election.

**69.** In October 2023, a prominent business conglomerate incorporated in United States of America decided to contribute to the political funding landscape by purchasing electoral bonds worth Rs. 50 crores. It donated these to a political party eligible to receive such bonds. The conglomerate, known for its diverse business interests, including foreign investments, made the purchase during the designated 10-day window in October. In the light of the passage, decide whether the transaction is legal or not?

(a) The purchase of electoral bonds by the conglomerate is illegal, as the entity is ineligible to buy electoral bonds.

(b) The purchase of electoral bonds by the conglomerate is legal, as the electoral bond scheme allows foreign entities to purchase electoral bonds.

(c) The purchase of electoral bonds by the conglomerate is legal as it has been donated to an eligible political party.

(d) The purchase of electoral bonds by the conglomerate is illegal, as the amendments to the Representation of the Peoples Act, 1951, specifically restrict entities with foreign investments from participating in the electoral bond scheme.

**70.** Based on the passage, which of the following statements can be concluded?

(a) Electoral bonds are interest-bearing instruments that can be purchased throughout the year.

(b) Political parties can encash electoral bonds within a month of receiving them.

(c) The scheme was introduced to enhance transparency and accountability in political funding.

(d) Only political parties securing at least 5% of the votes polled in the last election are eligible to receive donations through electoral bonds.

**71.** Based on the passage, which of the following statements cannot be concluded?

(a) The electoral bonds scheme allows for limited anonymity of donors to political parties.

(b) The Supreme Court has completely resolved the legal challenges surrounding the electoral bonds scheme.

(c) Amendments to multiple laws were necessary for the implementation of the electoral bonds scheme.

(d) Electoral bonds can be bought only from authorised SBI branches.

### PASSAGE XV

This is the original title suit in the Gyanvapi issue filed on behalf of the deity Adi Vishweshwar, like in the Ayodhya case. In 1995, Civil Judge (Senior Division), Varanasi, had framed eight key issues to be adjudicated in the plea. Among these was the crucial aspect of whether the suit would be barred under the Places of Worship Act, 1991 (PoW Act). The PoW Act prohibits conversion of any place of worship and to provide for the maintenance of the religious character of any place of worship as it existed on the 15th day of August, 1947. Further, the Act provides that, any suit, appeal or other proceeding with respect to the conversion of the religious character of any place of worship, existing on the 15th day of August, 1947, is pending before any Court, tribunal or other authority, the same shall abate, and no suit, appeal or other proceeding with respect to any such matter shall lie on or after such commencement in any Court, tribunal or other authority.

In a civil suit, averments made by the petitioners are to be prima facie accepted. The Code of Civil Procedure (CPC) bars a strict scrutiny of the claims made in a plaint at the initial stage. Once the plea is accepted, only then the petitioners are called upon to bring evidence to the table. The only way to challenge a suit is under Order 7 Rule 11 of the CPC, which provides for rejection of a plaint where the suit appears from statement to be barred by any law. If a Court decides that there is no bar under any law or by limitation (where time to file a suit has expired), then the Court has to hear the claims, however flimsy they might be.

In the Gyanvapi case, the trial court initially decided that the suit was barred under the POW Act. However, the Hindu side filed a revision application, and the revisional court set aside the trial court order and directed that the suit had to be decided on merits. On appeal, the Allahabad High Court on October 13, 1998 stayed the revision order and effectively the suit, which meant that the proceedings were stalled. This prompted the petitioners to file several new pleas in 2021 in SC to revive their claim over the Gyanvapi mosque. These pleas have been filed on behalf of other deities, including Maa Shringar Gauri, seeking the right to worship.

In 2018, a two-judge Bench of the Supreme Court in the case of Asian Resurfacing of Road Agency P Ltd Director vs CBI held that the interim order of stay granted by courts other than the SC itself will stand vacated automatically after six months unless they are specifically extended. The ruling was aimed at ensuring that criminal and civil

trials are not unduly delayed due to an indefinite stay. This judgement is now being reconsidered by a larger five-judge Bench since several instances of miscarriage of justice have been noticed when the stay is automatically vacated. Relying on this 2018 verdict, the Hindu side argued that the stay was not in operation and that the case must be heard again.

**Source:** Extracted (with edits and revision) from an article titled “Gyanvapi mosque case: What is the 1991 suit, why it was revived,” published in the Indian Express.

**72.** In the city of Bhopal, a group of local residents files a suit in the Civil Court in 2023. They are claiming historical rights over a religious site managed by a trust. They argue that the site was originally a temple, which was converted into a place of worship for another religion centuries ago. In the light of the passage, choose the most appropriate option.

- (a) The Court will dismiss the suit, upholding the Places of Worship Act, 1991.
- (b) The Court will admit the suit for hearing as the petitioners have fundamental right to worship and historical rights over the site.
- (c) The Court direct the case to be heard by a higher court, given the complexity and sensitivity surrounding the historical and religious claims.
- (d) The Court temporarily stay the proceedings until a larger bench of the Supreme Court provides clarity on the interpretation of the Places of Worship Act, 1991, in such cases.

**73.** Vidhan Kothari borrowed Rs. 1,00,000 from Vidhi on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2024 for the purpose of visiting Ayodhya to witness the Pran-pratishtha of Ram Mandir. This was a historic moment in India, and Vidhan wanted to witness it as it was his life-long dream. Vidhi left for USA after few days. She returned after 5 years and asked Vidhan to return the money he had borrowed. On his denial, she decides to file a civil suit against him for recovery of money. Decide whether the court will accept her plaint or not.

Note: The limitation Act prescribes a time limit of 3 years to file a suit for recovery of money.

- (a) The Court will reject her plaint as Vidhan borrowed money for a noble cause.
- (b) The Court will accept the petition as Vidhi filed the plaint within 3 years after returning from USA.
- (c) The Court will accept the plaint as Vidhi helped Vidhan to witness the historic moment and now he is denying to return her money.
- (d) The Court will reject her plaint as it is barred under the law.

**74.** In the town of Varanasi, a historical building used as a community centre is claimed by a local religious group. They file a suit in the Civil Court, arguing that the building was originally a religious site for their community until it was repurposed by the local administration in the early 20th century. The Civil Court decided the case in favour of the local religious group and ordered restoration of the religious site. The local administration challenged this decision and High Court which stayed the order of the Civil Court on interim basis after considering all the facts. The stay was never extended again as the matter never came up for hearing in the High Court in 4 years. In the light of the passage, choose the most appropriate option.

- (a) Interim stay imposed by HC will remain valid as the matter never came up for hearing again.
- (b) Interim stay imposed by HC will be vacated as the matter never came up for hearing again.
- (c) Interim stay imposed by HC will be automatically vacated as it was not extended.
- (d) Interim stay imposed will remain valid as it was imposed by High Court after considering all facts.

**75.** In Kolkata, a group of historians and archaeologists file a petition in the Civil Court to conduct an excavation and study at a historical site currently used as a place of worship. They argue that the site holds significant archaeological value, which could provide insights into the region's ancient history. The managing committee of the place of worship opposes the petition, citing the Places of Worship Act, 1991, which aims to maintain the religious character of places of worship as it existed on August 15, 1947. The historians contend that their petition is purely for academic and historical research, without any intention to alter the site's religious character. Considering the provisions of the Places of Worship Act, 1991, and the nature of the petition, how should the Civil Court respond to this matter?

- (a) The Court can permit the archaeological study as it is not barred as per the provisions of Places of Worship Act.
- (b) The Court shall dismiss the petition, upholding the Places of Worship Act, 1991, which seeks to prevent any disturbance to the current status of religious sites.
- (c) The Court shall allow the study under strict conditions and appoint a committee headed by an Ex-CJI to oversee the excavations.
- (d) The Court shall request the Supreme Court to decide in the matter given the sensitivity and potential legal complexities of the case.

76. Based on the passage about the Gyanvapi issue and the legal proceedings involved, identify which of the following statements is correct:

- (a) The trial court initially decided that the suit was not barred under the Places of Worship Act, 1991.
- (b) The Supreme Court's 2018 ruling in *Asian Resurfacing of Road Agency P Ltd Director vs CBI* applies only to criminal trials.
- (c) One of the crucial aspect for the case whether the suit is barred by Places of Worship Act.
- (d) The Allahabad High Court's stay on the revision order in 1998 allowed the proceedings to continue without interruption.

77. Based on the passage about the Gyanvapi issue and the legal proceedings, identify which of the following statements cannot be inferred:

- (a) The Places of Worship Act, 1991, is designed to maintain the religious status of places as they were on August 15, 1947.
- (b) The Supreme Court's 2018 ruling automatically vacates any stay granted by courts after six months unless specifically extended.
- (c) The Gyanvapi issue's original title suit was filed on behalf of the deity Adi Vishweshwar.
- (d) The Allahabad High Court's stay in 1998 was specifically extended beyond six months as per the Supreme Court's 2018 ruling.

#### PASSAGE XVI

A single-judge bench of Justice Rakesh Kainthla allowed pre-arrest bail to a hotel manager accused of failing to report an offence committed against a minor, as mandated by Section 21 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. He said that since the Act is silent on whether the offence is bailable or not, the nature of the offence must “be determined with reference to the Code of Criminal Procedure.” The classification of offences under the CrPC “clearly” states that offences punishable with imprisonment of less than three years are bailable and non-cognizable. Section 21 of the POCSO Act prescribes imprisonment of 6 months to a year — thus making it a bailable offence. Section 19 of the POCSO states that anyone having “apprehension” that an offence under POCSO is likely to be committed, or knowledge that such an offence has been committed, “shall” provide such information to the Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU) or the police. The term “any person” also includes a child who may report an offence. This reporting provision becomes binding due to Section 21 of the POCSO Act, which prescribes punishment for failing to report the commission of an offence under Section 19. Imprisonment of six months to one year, or a fine, or both is prescribed under Section 21.

It must be noted, however, that children cannot be held liable for failing to report the commission of a sexual offence. Similarly, children making false complaints or giving false information are also exempt from punishment under Section 22 of the Act.

In 2013, SC in *Shankar Kisanrao Khade vs. State of Maharashtra* ruled that “the non-reporting of the crime by anybody, after having come to know that a minor child below the age of 18 years was subjected to any sexual assault, is a serious crime. The apex court, in this ruling, put an even greater obligation on certain categories of professionals, such as medical practitioners and those in charge of educational institutions to report cases of child sexual abuse to the nearest Juvenile Justice Board, or Special Juvenile Police Unit. This created a conundrum for medical practitioners, since their professional ethics require them to maintain the confidentiality of their clients.

Led by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, a three-judge SC bench in September 2022 tried to strike a balance between the mandatory reporting provision under POCSO and the confidentiality provision under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 (MTP Act). In *X vs The Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department, Govt of NCT of Delhi*, the bench pointed to cases where minors might approach a Registered Medical Practitioner (RMP) for a medical termination of pregnancy arising out of consensual sexual activity. It recognised that minors or their guardians might be wary of the mandatory-reporting requirement, to avoid entangling themselves with the legal process, and thus approach an unqualified doctor for abortion instead. The court said that by insisting on disclosing the minor’s name in the report under Section 19(1) of POCSO, minors may be reluctant to seek out RMPs for safe termination of their pregnancies under the MTP Act. Pointing to Rule 3B(b) of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Rules 2003, as amended on October 12, 2021, which allows minors to terminate their pregnancy up to 24 weeks, the court said that to ensure its benefit to minors engaging in consensual activity, “it is necessary to harmoniously read both the POCSO Act and the MTP Act” and prioritizing the minor's health and confidentiality over reporting requirements under POCSO.

**Source:** Extracted (with edits and revisions) from an article titled “How the mandatory reporting provision under POCSO works,” Published in *The Indian Express*.

**78.** A minor guest was sexually assaulted by a staff member inside the hotel premises. Minor's parent's filed a complaint against the accused the hotel administration for failing to report the incident. During the trial Vikram argued that he was unaware of the incident. However, CCTV footage showed that Vikram was present in the vicinity when the incident occurred and was even seen influencing the victim to not to tell about the incident to anyone. Decide whether Vikram is liable under the provision of POCSO?

- (a) Vikram is liable under Section 21 of the POCSO Act for failing to report the offence, as his presence in the vicinity implies awareness of the crime.
- (b) Vikram is not liable under Section 21 of the POCSO Act, as there is no concrete evidence that he had direct knowledge of the offence.
- (c) Vikram is liable under Section 21 of the POCSO Act as his act of influencing the victim to not disclose about the incident to anyone implies awareness of the crime.
- (d) Vikram is exempt from liability under Section 21 of the POCSO Act, as the Act primarily targets medical practitioners and educational institution authorities.

**79.** Assume that in the previous question, an additional fact is introduced. Vikram had delegated the responsibility of monitoring the hotel premises, including CCTV surveillance, to another staff member as he was out of town on the day when incident took place. What would be the impact of additional fact on Vikram's argument?

- (a) The additional fact would strengthen Vikram's argument as he was out of town on that day, eliminating the possibility of knowledge about the incident.
- (b) The additional fact would Weaken Vikram's argument as the delegation of duties does not absolve Vikram of the responsibility to ensure a safe environment in the hotel premises.
- (c) The additional fact would have no effect on Vikram's argument, since the obligation under Section 19 of the POCSO Act extends to any person with knowledge or apprehension of the offence, irrespective of delegation.
- (d) The additional fact would weaken Vikram's argument as being the manager, he should not have left his duties on inexperienced staff.

**80.** Dr. Vidhi, a Registered Medical Practitioner, RMP, was approached by a 16-year-old girl, Vaishali, seeking medical termination of pregnancy resulting from consensual sexual activity with her boyfriend. Dr. Vidhi performed the procedure without reporting the incident, keeping in mind the critical health condition and to maintain confidentiality of the minor. The police later learned about the incident and charged Dr. Vidhi with failing to report the offence under the POCSO Act. In the light of the passage, select the most appropriate option.

- (a) Dr. Vidhi is liable under Section 21 of the POCSO Act for failing to report the offence, as the mandatory reporting requirement overrides the confidentiality provision of the MTP Act.
- (b) Dr. Vidhi is not liable under Section 21 of the POCSO Act, as the Supreme Court's ruling allows for a harmonious interpretation of the POCSO Act and the MTP Act, prioritizing the minor's health and confidentiality.
- (c) Dr. Vidhi is liable as termination of pregnancy of Minor is illegal.
- (d) Dr. Vidhi is exempt from liability under Section 21 of the POCSO Act, as the minor approached her for a medical termination of pregnancy, which is a protected health service.

**81.** In the city of Indore, a hotel manager, Mr. Vikrant, was informed by a staff member that a minor guest appeared distressed and hinted at being a victim of an inappropriate sexual incident. Mr. Vikrant, concerned about the hotel's reputation and unsure of the veracity of the claim, decided not to report the incident to the Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU) or the police. A week later, the police, acting on a tip from another source, investigated the incident and subsequently charged Mr. Vikrant for failing to report the offence under the relevant legal provisions. In the light of the passage, select the most appropriate option.

- (a) Mr. Vikrant is liable for failing to report the offence, as the law mandates reporting by individuals aware of such incidents.
- (b) Mr. Vikrant is not liable, as he had doubts about the credibility of the information and the potential impact on the hotel's reputation.
- (c) Mr. Vikrant is exempt from liability, as the minor did not directly report the incident to him.
- (d) Mr. Vikrant is liable and shall be punished with an imprisonment up to seven years.

**82.** In the context of the recent judgment allowing pre-arrest bail to a hotel manager accused under Section 21 of the POCSO Act, which of the following statements is correct?

- (a) Section 21 of the POCSO Act, prescribing punishment for failing to report a sexual offence against a minor, is non-bailable and cognizable.
- (b) The Supreme Court has consistently held that failure to report cases of child sexual abuse does not constitute a serious crime.

(c) Medical practitioners are exempt from the obligation to report cases of child sexual abuse due to their professional ethics of maintaining client confidentiality.

(d) The Supreme Court, in a 2022 ruling, emphasized the need to harmonize the mandatory reporting provision under POCSO with the confidentiality provision under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971.

**83.** Which of the following cannot be inferred from the passage regarding the judgment on pre-arrest bail in the context of the POCSO Act?

(a) Section 21 of the POCSO Act mandates imprisonment for life for failing to report a sexual offence against a minor.

(b) The Supreme Court has recognized the conflict between mandatory reporting under POCSO and confidentiality under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act.

(c) Children are exempt from liability for failing to report the commission of a sexual offence or for making false complaints under POCSO.

(d) The classification of offences under the CrPC indicates that offences punishable with imprisonment of less than three years are bailable and non-cognizable.

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

Assertion (A): The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act is silent on whether the offence is bailable or not.

Reason (R): Offences punishable with imprisonment of less than three years are bailable and non-cognizable.

(a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation for A's truthfulness.

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

(c) A is true but R is false.

(d) A is false but R is true.

### Section D-Logical Reasoning

#### PASSAGE XVII

The constitution that the people of India gave to themselves was a product of mass struggle, political compromises, idealism and commitment to every citizen.

At a time when the country is overcome with mass hysteria about the inauguration of the Ram temple at the very site where once the majestic Babri Masjid stood, we should recollect the long road we have travelled from the onset of the freedom struggle and commitment to a multi-faith India to the rapid slide to majoritarianism. It is time to reflect on the descent from secularism to a muscular Hinduism that casts a pall of fear over democratic India.

The tragedy is that we came from a good place.

On May 1, 1947, Mahavir Tyagi, the Congress member from the United Provinces, suggested in the Constituent Assembly that consideration of minority rights should be postponed. "If there is to be a partition, we must know what is happening to the minorities on the other side, in the other units," he said. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar replied resolutely that rights of minorities are absolute rights, they should not be held hostage to the policies of another country on its minorities. "I think that the rights which are indicated in clause 18 are rights which every minority irrespective of any other consideration is entitled to." This was the ethos that India began its postcolonial life with.

We should recollect that after the massive communal riot in Kanpur in 1931, the Congress drafted the Karachi Resolution on Fundamental Rights. The Declaration emphasised the right of every citizen to profess, and practice her religion. Later that year, on March 31, Gandhi, moving the resolution on fundamental rights in the open session of the Congress in Karachi, spoke on the issue. Though Islamic and Aryan cultures are not mutually exclusive he said, we must recognise that Muslims look upon Islamic culture as distinctive from Aryan. Let us therefore cultivate tolerance. Religious neutrality is an important provision. Swaraj will favour Hinduism no more than Islam, nor Islam more than Hinduism. Let us from now on, he concluded, adopt the principle of state neutrality in our daily affairs. Gandhi knew that independence would bring formidable problems. These problems had to be resolved principally, not by the brute show of power.

Democratic India contributed to the making of an independent and secular India. A group of poets, who later coalesced into the Progressive Writers Association in 1936, wrote amazing lyrics to inspire the freedom struggle. Today the country is polarised between Hindi and Urdu. We forget that Maulana Hasrat Mohani (1875-1951) coined the phrase 'Inquilab Zindabad'. This became the rallying cry of the freedom struggle; the anthem of revolutionaries. He demanded *Azaadi e Kaamil* or complete independence in 1921: '*Rasm e jafa kaamyab dekhiye kab tak rahe/Hubb e watan mast e khwab kab tak rahe/Daulat e Hindustan qabzah aghyar mein/ Be adad O behisab dekhiye kab tak rahe*' (Let us see how long we are oppressed, how long freedom remains but a dream, and how long

the British plunder India's riches). When Bhagat Singh, Raj Guru, and Sukhdev marched to the gallows they raised the slogan of Inquilab Zindabad.

If revolutionaries were inspired by Chandrashekar Azad's (1906-1931) poem: '*Dushmanon ki goliyan ka hum samna karenge/Azad hi rahe hai, azaad hi rahenge*' (We will face the bullets of the enemy, we have been free and we will continue to be free), they were equally motivated by the poet of revolution Josh Malihabadi (1894-1982), '*mera naara, inquilab o inquilab o inquilab*' (my slogan is revolution). (590 words)

**85.** Which of the following can be rightly concluded based on the passage?

- (a) The inauguration of the Ram temple is a celebration of India's commitment to multi-faith coexistence.
- (b) The passage suggests a shift from secularism to a more dominant form of Hinduism in contemporary India.
- (c) Mahatma Gandhi advocated for the favoring of Hinduism over Islam for the principle of state neutrality.
- (d) The Progressive Writers Association in 1936 promoted polarization between Hindi and Urdu languages.

**86.** The author would agree with which of the following statements except?

- (a) The Indian constitution reflects a product of mass struggle, political compromises and commitment to every citizen.
- (b) Mahavir Tyagi's suggestion in the Constituent Assembly to postpone consideration of minority rights were justified.
- (c) Dr. B.R Ambedkar emphasized that minority rights are absolute and should not be hostage to another country's policy.
- (d) Mahatma Gandhi favoured Hinduism over Islam for the principle of state neutrality.

**87.** Which of the following identifies a flaw in the author's argument regarding the shift in India's approach from secularism to majoritarianism?

- (a) The author fails to provide historical examples supporting the shift in approach.
- (b) The author does not consider the potential benefits of majoritarianism for social cohesion.
- (c) The author overlooks the influence of external factors on India's current approach.
- (d) The author relies solely on opinions and does not present factual evidence for the shift.

**88.** Which of the following statements can be inferred from the author's critical reasoning in the passage?

- (a) Mahavir Tyagi's suggestion to postpone consideration of minority rights was endorsed by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.
- (b) The Progressive Writer's Association in 1936 primarily contributed to the polarization between Hindi and Urdu languages.
- (c) The author views the inauguration of the Ram temple as a positive step towards reinforcing India's commitment to multi-faith coexistence.
- (d) The passage suggests a historical context wherein India transitioned from secularism to majoritarianism, causing concern for the author.

**89.** Which of the following strengthens the author's argument about the historical commitment to absolute minority rights in India?

- (a) A recent government initiative supporting majoritarian policies.
- (b) Dr. B.R Ambedkar's resolute stance on minority rights in the Constituent Assembly.
- (c) The absence of communal riots in Kanpur after the Karachi Resolution on Fundamental rights.
- (d) The lack of emphasis on religious neutrality in Mahatma Gandhi's speeches during the freedom struggle.

#### PASSAGE XVIII

The recent cancellation of a Cambridge student opera production of Handel's "Saul" has sparked debate over the boundaries of artistic expression and the influence of current events on historical art forms. The opera, which delves into the biblical story of King Saul, was cancelled due to perceived "parallels" with the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict. The decision has been met with both confusion and criticism, as the opera was written in 1739 and is based on events that occurred roughly 3,000 years ago. The director, Max Mason, cited "striking synchronicity with the ongoing Middle East conflict" as the reason for the cancellation. However, this explanation has raised eyebrows. Critics argue that the opera's themes are not directly related to the current conflict and that the cancellation amounts to a form of artistic self-censorship. Mason's interpretation seems to have been the driving force behind the cancellation, rather than the content of Handel's work itself. This incident raises questions about the role of art in society, especially in academic settings known for heightened sensitivities. Are we to retroactively apply modern sensibilities to art forms that were created in entirely different contexts? And if so, where does one draw the line? The cancellation also brings up the issue of "trigger warnings," which could have been an alternative to outright cancellation. If the opera was indeed considered potentially distressing, a warning could have sufficed. Moreover, the cancellation occurs in a broader context where art and literature are increasingly scrutinized for

their political and social implications. From calls to boycott Tchaikovsky due to the Ukraine conflict to the Frankfurt book fair cancelling an award ceremony for a Palestinian-born novelist, the trend is far from isolated to Cambridge. It reflects a growing tension between the desire to be sensitive to current issues and the need to preserve artistic integrity. The Cambridge incident serves as a cautionary tale about the risks of letting contemporary conflicts dictate the terms under which historical art is presented or even allowed to exist. While sensitivity to current events is important, the outright cancellation of an opera based on perceived "synchronicity" with modern conflicts seems to be a step too far. It not only stifles artistic expression but also risks setting a precedent where art is held hostage to the ever-changing landscape of contemporary politics. (380 words)

**Source:** Better call Saul off, The Guardian, October 28, 2023.

**90.** Which of the following judgments most closely conforms to the principle stated in the passage regarding the role of art in society?

- (a) Art should be modified to fit the sensibilities of the current generation.
- (b) Art should be cancelled if it has any potential to distress the audience.
- (c) Art should be preserved while being sensitive to current issues.
- (d) Art should be free from any form of scrutiny or criticism.

**91.** What does the author imply could have been an alternative to the outright cancellation of the opera?

- (a) Boycotting the opera's director, Max Mason.
- (b) Issuing a "trigger warning" before the performance.
- (c) Revising the script of the opera to remove sensitive content.
- (d) Ignoring the potential distress and proceeding with the performance.

**92.** According to the passage, what is the primary reason behind the opera's cancellation?

- (a) The opera's themes were directly related to the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict.
- (b) The opera was written in 1739 and is based on events that occurred roughly 3,000 years ago.
- (c) The director, Max Mason, cited "striking synchronicity with the ongoing Middle East conflict."
- (d) Critics argue that the cancellation amounts to a form of artistic self-censorship.

**93.** Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the author's argument regarding the risks of letting contemporary conflicts dictate artistic presentations?

- (a) The opera's director received threats related to the ongoing Middle East conflict.
- (b) The opera was originally written as a commentary on political conflicts of its time.
- (c) The opera had previously been cancelled for similar reasons in the past.
- (d) The opera's themes have been universally interpreted as unrelated to any modern conflicts.

**94.** What does the author suggest is a broader context in which the cancellation of the opera occurs?

- (a) A trend of increasing scrutiny of art and literature for their political and social implications.
- (b) A decline in the popularity of opera as an art form.
- (c) A growing movement to boycott all forms of historical art.
- (d) A shift towards more contemporary and less controversial art in academic settings.

### PASSAGE XIX

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

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

It is safe to assume that the advocates of each statement of aim believed that their conception was broad enough to insure success for the individual educated in accordance with the particular ideal embodied in their statement of purpose. No aim would be at all acceptable which did not take account of the society in which the individual must work. The education in a tribal society, which consisted in learning how to protect one's self and to provide for

one's physical needs, the acquaintance with tribal ceremonies and tribal lore, quite as truly as our modern education, fitted the individual to get on in life. The individualistic point of view has been constantly emphasized. It has been a case of earning a living for one's self, of getting culture for the satisfaction that it might bring, of acquiring knowledge for the sake of the advancement which was thus made possible, of moral growth for the sake of individual salvation. More recently it has been common to state the aim of education in terms of social efficiency. It is the purpose of this discussion of aim to examine this concept in order to make clear its significance.

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

No one can do the most for the group of which he is a member who has not realized in his education the development of those abilities with which he is peculiarly endowed. The nurture of those abilities upon which society places a premium, and the inhibition of non-social tendencies, means greater opportunity for the exercise of whatever strength the individual possesses, greater individual growth and development, than would otherwise be possible. It is only through participation in social life that the highest individual development is possible, and it is true that "he who loseth his life" for the good of the group "shall find it." There is, then, no opposition between that view of education which declares that the welfare of society is of paramount importance, and that which demands individual well-being. If we are successful in obtaining the former, we must have secured the latter. (670 words)

**95.** What is the primary perspective on the role of education in the development of an individual's activities?

- (a) Education primarily equips individuals with knowledge for personal growth and cultural understanding.
- (b) The main role of education is to foster abilities for individual moral and societal advancement.
- (c) Education's chief function is to prepare individuals for economic self-sufficiency and survival.
- (d) The fundamental purpose of education is to encourage individual abilities that benefit society.

**96.** According to the passage, how do popular and theoretical views on the aim of education differ?

- (a) Popular views focus on practical skills, whereas theoretical views emphasize cultural understanding.
- (b) Popular views prioritize knowledge acquisition, while theoretical views stress individual development.
- (c) Theoretical perspectives lean towards societal betterment, unlike popular views which stress personal gain.
- (d) Popular opinions see education as a path to economic success, theoretical ones as a moral guide.

**97.** How does the concept of 'social efficiency' as an educational aim contrast with earlier individualistic educational goals?

- (a) Social efficiency emphasizes societal contribution, while individualism focuses on self-reliance and survival.
- (b) Individualistic goals prioritize cultural knowledge, whereas social efficiency targets practical societal skills.
- (c) Social efficiency aims at collective well-being, unlike individualistic goals centred on personal success.
- (d) Individualistic education stresses moral development, while social efficiency focuses on economic contributions.

**98.** In what way does the passage suggest that individual and societal benefits of education are not mutually exclusive?

- (a) By indicating that individual development is a prerequisite for societal advancement.
- (b) By proposing that education should be tailored to individual interests for social benefit.
- (c) By asserting that individual growth is maximized through participation in social life.
- (d) By suggesting that the highest individual development occurs independently of societal contexts.

**99.** How does the author propose that the highest individual development can be achieved?

- (a) By fostering a balance between individual interests and societal needs in education.
- (b) Through the pursuit of personal goals that align with societal advancement.
- (c) By nurturing individual abilities that contribute to the welfare of society.
- (d) Through independent personal growth and self-guided educational endeavours.

### PASSAGE XX

India ranks a poor 120 among 131 countries on female labour force participation, according to World Bank data. A majority of women currently employed in the Renewable Energy (RE) sector work at project sites, doing civil masonry work, which is temporary and labour-intensive with little potential for future growth. Moreover, the



working conditions on many sites are not always suitable for women as they are devoid of safety and support systems. Women confront barriers to formal education and training. Technical training institutes do not admit applicants who have not graduated Class 12. And even where they meet the prerequisite for admission into training institutes, the institutes tend to be located in towns and cities, making it difficult for rural women to effectively participate, especially when they are also expected to carry out other household responsibilities. Consequently, there are very few women in production, facilities, and operations and maintenance roles in the RE sector. In a recent study, we found that jobs in the RE sector can impact poverty, provided several “tweaks” are made to the existing systems. Particularly with the growth of the decentralised RE and off-grid energy sector, there is significant potential to include local women in the workforce. Overall, the study concluded that if the government, clean energy enterprises, training institutes and civil society work together to implement these “tweaks”, India could create good-quality employment opportunities that can support the inclusion of more women.

**100.** According to the passage which of the following, if true, would most weaken the author's case for women entering the RE sector?

- (a) Due to conservatism, women are usually barred from working in the RE sector.
- (b) Women are not permitted to study in technical training institutes.
- (c) Women's advancement in the RE industry has been hampered by a lack of infrastructure and knowledge.
- (d) Training institutes and schools find it hard to match and provide high-quality education.

**101.** Which of the following best describes the main idea of the passage?

- (a) Women are supposed to do the domestic work, according to society.
- (b) Poverty reduction should be the country's primary goal.
- (c) By tweaking the current systems women can achieve a higher inclusion than before, in the workforce.
- (d) Women's basic education and training should be made mandatory in order to increase work options.

**102.** Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?

- (a) Because of their incompetence, women are denied jobs in the RE sector.
- (b) The fundamental cause for women's rejection in the RE industry is a lack of excellent education.
- (c) Every step of the way, women face discrimination based on their gender.
- (d) Women from rural areas can work in the RE sector if opportunities are provided and specific precautions are taken.

**103.** Based on the passage with which of the following is the author most likely to disagree?

- (a) Women must endeavour to close the gender gap in various sectors.
- (b) Rural women's access to renewable energy can improve their quality of life.
- (c) Women are underrepresented in technical roles in the renewable energy sector.
- (d) Women are denied skilled labourer positions due to a lack of formal education and training.

**104.** Which of the following follows the author's conclusion from the passage?

- (a) When training institutes and civil society organisations build ties with sustainable energy businesses, opportunities of inclusion of women in workforce increase.
- (b) Collaboration with training institutes and civil society organisations is a goal of the RE sector.
- (c) Jobs in the non-renewable energy business can help people get out of poverty.
- (d) Jobs in the RE industry that need a lot of labour have a reversion potential.

### PASSAGE XXI

Some call them vloggers, some call them creators, some call them YouTubers. Regardless of what you choose to call them, there's no denying that YouTube stars are on the rise. This year especially, YouTubers have gone from being teen time-passers, to interviewing the political leaders, actors and celebrities from other fields and scoring major advertising deals. However, with the increased emphasis on young, energetic web presences, one must wonder if the profession--and yes, some YouTubers can afford to make videos full-time—is one that poses a threat to TV journalism. “I think it's fair to say that there's a blurring of lines and that those spaces in between what we think of as a TV journalist, and of an independent person publishing stuff on YouTube will get a bit vaguer,” says Rajat Sharma, a media house owner. He adds that its undeniable the definition of journalism has changed in the past decade. Rather, he believes that the Youtubers' interviews with political figures is indicative of a new style of 'infotainment' that is emerging, which he claims, is a way for important issues to be shared with young people in a manner they understand and can appreciate. “If you went to talk to any of them, they wouldn't consider themselves journalists either,” Sharma continues. “They consider themselves personalities not journalists.” “For young people

aged 12-18, infotainment is always going to be the most influential and that would've been true when I was that age as well," he says. "As you get older, you tend to choose things more seriously." There was a time when radio threatened print journalism. Eventually, the two co-existed. Then, television emerged and that was considered a threat. Even that, eventually carved out its niche in journalism and found balance. Most recently, journalists have felt threatened by the rise of bloggers – people who could go online and write news, without a formal news outlet. Now, it's clear that the value in blogging has been found by traditional media. Sharma says that the key for journalists to deal with emerging technologies is learning how to chance with them. "I'd love to wring my hands and say journalism is dead and we don't need journalists because we're just putting stuff on Twitter and Youtube, but I think that we can have both," he says. So while Youtube may be masked as a threat to journalists, it can act as another tool to which the media will eventually adapt. Only time will tell how journalism will change because of Youtube. It seems however, that the profession has not been killed by the platform. Rather, it has simply evolved another step.

**105.** Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?

- (a) YouTube is a platform which poses a threat to the journalists who share their ideas there.
- (b) TV channels can compete with YouTubers for the advertisement tie-ups.
- (c) YouTube can be another platform for news and entertainment.
- (d) Only TV news channels can provide reliable news.

**106.** Consider the statement: "I think it's fair to say that there's a blurring of lines and that those spaces in between what we think of as a traditional journalist, and of an independent person publishing stuff on YouTube will get a bit vaguer." Which of the following does not strengthen the above argument?

- (a) These days news channels are showing paid news and the YouTube channels are showing authentic news.
- (b) People are considering the YouTube channels rather than conventional news sources.
- (c) Independent YouTubers research on grounds before publishing any video on YouTube.
- (d) Only a learned journalist must be trusted for authentic news than any YouTube channel owner.

**107.** Which of the following is likely to strengthen the argument of the author?

- (a) YouTube channels are sent show cause notice by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for publishing news videos on their channels.
- (b) You Tube channels are appreciated by the President of India for creating an aware young generation.
- (c) Media houses filing PIL against the so called YouTube news channels.
- (d) Both (a) and (c)

**108.** Which of the following is true as per the passage?

- (a) There hasn't been much change in the journalism in last one decade.
- (b) YouTube is an open platform that helps journalists learn and grow.
- (c) For young people aged 12-18 news channels on TV or newspaper is the major source of information.
- (d) None of the above.

### Section E-Quantitative Techniques

#### PASSAGE XXII

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

There are five people working on a project: Vidhi, Vidhan, Vidyut, Vidya, and Vidushi. Vidhi can complete 40% of the work in 6 days, while Vidhan can complete 60% of the work in 12 days. Vidhi and Vidhan start working together, but after 2 days they are replaced by Vidyut and Vidya. Vidyut and Vidya work on the project for the next 4 days and are able to complete  $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of the work. Finally, Vidushi replaces Vidyut and Vidya and completes the remaining work in the next 13 days.

**109.** If Vidya and Vidyut work together on this project, how long will it take them to finish?

- (a) 10 days
- (b) 12 days
- (c) 6 days
- (d) 15 days

**110.** Among the following pair, which has the highest efficiency?

- (a) Vidyut and Vidya
- (b) Vidhi and Vidhan
- (c) Vidhi and Vidushi
- (d) Vidhan and Vidushi

**111.** If all four persons Vidhi, Vidhan, Vidyut and Vidya work together, then in how much time will they finish the project?

- (a) 15 days
- (b) 6 days
- (c) 5 days
- (d) 10 days

112. Find that Vidhan is how much percent more efficient than Vidushi?

- (a) 50% (b) 100% (c) 150% (d) 25%

### PASSAGE XXIII

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

In an IT company, there are four employees named A, B, C, and D who work there. Here is some information about their income, expenditure, and savings. The ratio of monthly salaries between A and B is 6:7, and the ratio of their monthly expenditures is 3:4. They both save Rs. 12000 per month. Similarly, the ratio of monthly salaries between C and D is 5:9, and the ratio of their monthly expenditures is 3:7. They both save Rs. 5000 per month.

113. Find difference between monthly expenditure of A and B?

- (a) Rs.2500 (b) Rs.10000 (c) Rs.3000 (d) Rs.4000

114. The monthly expenditure of D is how much percent more or less than the monthly income of C?

- (a) 40% (b) 25% (c) 28.57% (d) 50%

115. What is the respective ratio between the monthly income of D and the monthly income of B?

- (a) 54:65 (b) 56:45 (c) 45:56 (d) 65:54

116. Find the average of monthly savings of all four persons together?

- (a) Rs.4250 (b) Rs.8500 (c) Rs.7500 (d) Rs.3500

### PASSAGE XXIV

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

In a family, there are five members Vidhi, Vidhan, Vidyut, Vidya and Vidushi are living together. Here is some information about their ages. The ratio of the present ages of Vidhi and Vidhan is 12: 5 respectively. Four years hence from now, the age of Vidhi will be twice the age of Vidhan. Vidyut is 7 years older than Vidhan and average of present ages of Vidyut and Vidya is 20 years. Additionally, two years ago, the ratio of Vidya's and Vidushi's ages was 7:6.

117. Find the average of present ages of Vidhi, Vidhan and Vidyut together?

- (a) 17 years (b) 19 years (c) 15 years (d) 16 years

118. What is the difference between the age of Vidya after 3 years and the age of Vidyut 4 years ago?

- (a) 12 years (b) 11 years (c) 13 years (d) 9 years

119. Find the respective ratio between the present age of Vidushi and the present age of Vidhi?

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

120. What is sum of ages of all five members after 5 years?

- (a) 99 years (b) 119 years (c) 110 years (d) can't be determined

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