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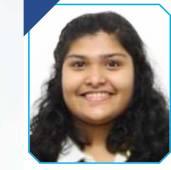
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VMTC-2524

 Duration: 120 Minutes
 25th May 2024

Maximum Marks: 120

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**

Not only are humans changing the surface and temperature of the planet, but also its sounds - and those shifts are detectable even in the open ocean, according to a research. Changes in the ocean soundscape affect wide swaths of marine life, from tiny snapping shrimp to huge right whales, the researchers found. "Sounds travel very far underwater. For fish, sound is probably a better way to sense their environment than light," said Francis Juanes, an ecologist. While light tends to scatter in water, he said, sounds travel much faster through water than through air. Many fish and marine animals use sound to communicate with each other, to locate promising locations to breed or feed, and possibly to detect predators. For example, snapping shrimp make a sound resembling popping corn that stuns their prey. Humpback whale songs can resemble a violinist's melodies. But increased noise from shipping traffic, motorised fishing vessels, underwater oil and gas exploration, offshore construction and other human activity is making it harder for fish to hear each other. The researchers sifted through thousands of data sets and research articles documenting changes in noise volume and frequency to assemble a comprehensive picture of how the ocean soundscape is changing - and how marine life is impacted. Using underwater microphones, scientists can record fish sounds - which tend to hover around the same low frequencies as shipping traffic noise. "For many marine species, their attempts to communicate are being masked by sounds that humans have introduced," said Carlos Duarte, a marine ecologist at the Red Sea Research Center. The Red Sea is one of the world's key shipping corridors, full of large vessels travelling to Asia, Europe and Africa. Some fish and invertebrates now avoid the noisiest areas, as the sound effectively fragments their Red Sea habitat, he said. Meanwhile the overall number of marine animals has declined by about half since 1970. In some parts of the ocean, scientists now record "fewer animals singing and calling than in the past - those voices are gone," said Duarte. Climate change also influences physical processes that shape ocean sounds, such as winds, waves and melting ice, the researchers found. "Imagine having to raise your kids in a place that's noisy all the time. It's no wonder many marine animals are showing elevated and detectable levels of stress due to noise," said Joe Roman, a University of Vermont marine ecologist. "When people think of threats facing the ocean, we often think of climate change, plastics and overfishing. But noise pollution is another essential thing we need to be monitoring," said Neil Hammerschlag, a University of Miami marine ecologist. "If you make something for the ocean, think about how to make it quieter."

[Extracted (with edits and revisions) an excerpt from the article titled "Under the sea, humans have changed ocean sounds" published at 'https://www.hindustantimes.com/']

- Which of the following would be the best title for the given passage?
 - Human intervention in marine life communication is required.
 - The impact of human noise on marine life is being studied.
 - Human noise disrupts marine life communication.
 - Marine animals and human noise.
- Identify the figure of speech used in the following sentence of the passage "Imagine having to raise your kids in a place that's noisy all the time."
 - Metonymy
 - Analogy
 - Metaphor
 - Litotes
- All of the following are correct based on the passage, with the exception of?
 - The sounds produced by people have been found to cause increased levels of stress in marine life.
 - Fish rely on sound to locate their ideal spawning grounds.
 - Sounds may assist fish in detecting predators.
 - Sound travels considerably more quickly through air than it does through water.
- Which of the following conclusions can be drawn from the passage?
 - Noise pollution has long been regarded as a severe hazard to the ocean, on par with climate change, trash, and overfishing.
 - As a hazard to the ocean, noise pollution will never be deemed as serious as climate change, plastics, or overfishing.
 - Noise pollution is still not considered as big a hazard to the ocean as climate change, trash, and overfishing.
 - In the future, noise pollution will be regarded as a greater hazard to the ocean than climate change, plastics, and overfishing.
- Which of the following is an antonym of the word "comprehensive" as it appears in the passage?
 - Inclusive
 - Limited
 - Ambiguous
 - Abstruse

6. Which of the following best captures the meaning of the last sentence of the passage?
- Noise pollution must be looked after as keenly as any other measure.
 - Oceans need a quieter environment for the ecological balance as much as they need cleanliness.
 - The oceans are getting affected by the noise pollution.
 - The marine life is getting severely affected by the climate change and overfishing.

PASSAGE - II

Education Foundation, which has been releasing the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) since 2005. Recipient of the 2012 WISE Prize, considered to be the equivalent of the Nobel Prize in the field of education, Chavan is among the key architects of the ASER insights on foundational learning at the elementary level has been acknowledged for its depth and accuracy based prepared on a field survey that covered seven lakh children, ASER 2022 released last week, capturing the impact of the pandemic on the learning abilities of children. If you see Bihar, there is a very low number of private schools, but very high number of private tutors. So, you don't have to go to school, you can go to a tutor. This has become a tradition. It has to be a social habit to send children to school. 'Curriculum is getting tougher because you want to filter out those who can't negotiate it

Sourav Roy Barman: Before we go into the specifics of the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2022, can you give us a little overview of the kind of questions that you ask when you interact with children during the survey? On what basis do we map this rise and fall of learning abilities?

Since 2005, we have stuck to a very clear form because if you keep changing your surveys, that's not comparable. For example, in the reading test, you start by saying, 'Can you read a simple paragraph of four sentences?' If the children can read that, then you go to the next higher level, which is a story. If you can read that, then you are a story reader. If you're reading the paragraph, you are a standard-paragraph reader.

If you can't read that, or you may read but with a lot of mistakes, then you are asked to read simple words. If you can read the words, four out of five or whatever that number is, then you are a word reader, not a paragraph reader. If you can't read words, you're taken down to simple alphabets. So there is a clear gradation and one result is comparable to the next. It's the same thing with arithmetic. It's a pattern that is how we categorise children. But we are very keenly aware that that is not all that learning is. We're doing this as a dipstick, an indication. If a child cannot read, it doesn't mean the child doesn't have knowledge. Children have a lot of knowledge. Unfortunately, that is not the school knowledge that is expected.

Sourav Roy Barman: Before starting the survey, were you expecting results which are worse than what actually came out?

Luckily, we had done a survey in 2021. It was a phone survey because we could not go into the field and we already knew that there was a dip in the reading ability. But if your question is directed at whether we had a bias going in, I think every surveyor went in without a bias. But the two fears that were expressed during the pandemic — that children are going to drop out of schools, girls' education will suffer — that was based on our experience that whenever there is distress, girls' education suffers, children going to school suffers. So, everybody also expected since schools are closed, children will not learn. I'm jumping the gun, I suppose, but when I saw the results, I was elated. Children who went to first grade, or were supposed to go to first standard, should not have learned a thing in two years, if all the learning is happening because of schools. Then if you say where 30 per cent children were reading, now there are 24 per cent children reading, only 6-7 per cent drop is good, the rest can be covered.

7. What is the primary concern of the author regarding the education of children?
- The changing nature of the education system.
 - The impact of private tutors on traditional schooling.
 - The societal need to send the children to school.
 - The potential dip in learning abilities due to the pandemic.
8. What can be understood by the statement "Curriculum is getting tougher because you want to filter out those who can't negotiate it" with the context of the passage?
- The syllabus is getting complex to make students brighter and more efficient in the education.
 - The syllabus is getting intentionally difficult to exclude certain class of students.
 - The syllabus aims to support students who struggle to negotiate complexity.
 - The education pattern is rigid and prioritizes accommodating students of varying negotiation abilities.

9. Based on the passage, how does Sourav Roy Barman explain the categorizing of children?
- He exhibited that the categories of the students are congruent to their abilities to read.
 - He represented the example of children going to different standards for categorizing them.
 - He demonstrated with different kinds of children by testing their mental and physical abilities.
 - He demonstrated the ability of different students by their way of reading or solving arithmetic problems.
10. What does the senior correspondent Sourav Roy Barman comment about the knowledge that children have?
- It is the ability of children to read and write efficiently.
 - It holds a child's future with the education provided by a good school and education system.
 - It cannot be judged with some random surveys or tests on the children.
 - All of the above
11. What was the reaction of Sourav Roy Barman on the result of the latest survey?
- Barman anticipated worse results than what were revealed.
 - Barman was elated and optimistic about the survey findings.
 - Barman expressed disappointment at the survey result.
 - Barman was indifferent to the survey results as he knew it will fluctuate post pandemic.
12. According to ASER 2022, how did the pandemic impact the education of children?
- It has affected the attendance of the students post pandemic.
 - It has affected the learning capabilities of the growing students by not going to the schools.
 - It has affected the education pattern as the students are learning through other means.
 - It has affected the upcoming generation by giving them shortcuts of studying rather than learning.

PASSAGE - III

Reactions to news of the death, at the age of 100, of Henry Kissinger were predictably sharply polarised. It is difficult to think of any other Western politician in living memory who was as despised as he was fêted. It says much about both Kissinger and his detractors – and perhaps the effects of time passing and the maturation of political judgments – that many of his fiercest former critics were only too glad to be seen at one of his centenary parties earlier this year and were then among the first to lament the passing of a great statesman. To those who reviled him he was a cynical, manipulative, ruthless, unprincipled and, in his own imagination, 'born-again' Metternich, transplanted into the heart of America's East Coast establishment. In September 1973 Newsweek produced a mock-up of Thomas Laurence's portrait of Metternich with Kissinger's bespectacled and owlish head superimposed on the prince's frockcoated torso.

To his admirers, fewer in number certainly, he was a superstar, a virtuoso of diplomacy who brought a much-needed dose of hardnosed realism to US foreign policy at a crucial moment in international superpower relations. Kissinger appeared on the cover of the same magazine in the following year as 'Super K', a cartoon hero. To suggest that historical figures can be both amoral and significant political leaders would be banal. They clearly can be, but Kissinger deserves no banalities. There was little that was banal about his life or his legacy. They reflect the many vicissitudes, but also the many achievements and the essential brittleness of the 'short 20th century' (Kissinger's lifespan, of course, was anything but short).

Kissinger was perhaps the most improbable of America's chief diplomats until then, the first foreign-born and also non-Christian. Born into a Jewish family in Fürth, Bavaria, the heartland of the nascent Nazi movement, the 15-year-old left for America, via London, a few months before Kristallnacht. He spoke virtually no English and, until the end, retained a thick, gravelly Franconian accent. Night school and shifts in a shaving-brush factory were followed by active service as an infantryman in 1944/5, and then as an army intelligence officer in charge of local administration in his now occupied native country.

Kissinger was remarkably free from humanitarian cant, but to see him as an amoral and power-driven cynic would be simplistic. True, his view of international politics was bleak. From his studies of the history of great power relations he had imbibed something of the unforgiving nature of politics, where mistakes can be fatal, literally so. Therein lies the key to understanding Kissinger's overriding concern with maintaining a stable global order and, in more recent years, with engendering a sense of a new but viable international order. In his Harvard viva voce Kissinger is reported to have quoted Goethe's observation that order was preferable to justice. An apocryphal story, perhaps, but enlightening nonetheless. For this was not about abstract ideals but about limits and constraints. The exercise of power implies an obligation to accept the limits of self-restraint. And, to Kissinger, overreach, universal interference, was as dangerous as 'under-reach', isolationism.

Order did not mean standstill and merely managing the status quo. History, as Kissinger once suggested, 'is the foe of permanence'. It might have been written with his own career in mind. He had the intuitive grasp of the

circumstances under which he had to operate to see that détente with the Soviet Union was possible and that, given the deepening Sino-Soviet split, an opening to China could be brokered. He negotiated an end to the Vietnam War which had eluded previous administrations. Kissinger's indefatigability gave rise to the concept of 'shuttle diplomacy', by which he brought Egypt to the point of signing an historic peace treaty with Israel and helped to coax Cairo from its long-standing alliance with the Soviets, thereby incidentally also marginalising their role in the Middle East.

- 13.** What key aspect of Kissinger's view of international politics is highlighted in the passage?
- Kissinger's belief in the superiority of abstract ideals over practical considerations.
 - Kissinger's inclination toward humanitarian principles is shaping foreign policy.
 - Kissinger's emphasis on maintaining a stable global order with a focus on limits and constraints.
 - Kissinger's pursuit of universal interference as a means of exercising power.
- 14.** What can be inferred about the reactions to Henry Kissinger's death from the passage?
- Henry Kissinger's death was universally mourned, with no discernible polarisation in opinions.
 - Kissinger's fiercest former critics expressed regrets at his passing, indicating a change in their views over time.
 - The passage suggests that all of Kissinger's admirers attended his centenary parties over time.
 - The polarisation in reactions to Kissinger's death remained consistent over the years.
- 15.** What does the passage suggest about Henry Kissinger's approach to international relations?
- Kissinger's approach was characterized by an unwavering commitment to humanitarian principles.
 - The passage suggest that Kissinger had a cynical and manipulative view of international politics.
 - Kissinger's approach prioritized abstract ideals over the practical considerations of global order.
 - The passage implies that Kissinger advocated for universal interference in foreign affairs.
- 16.** What characteristics are ascribed to Henry Kissinger in the passage?
- Kissinger is portrayed as a visionary leader.
 - The passage implies that Kissinger had a short political career.
 - Traits such as being skilled in diplomacy and achieving diplomatic successes are linked to Kissinger.
 - Kissinger is depicted as favoring abstract ideals in international relations.
- 17.** What does the passage suggest about Kissinger's perspective on history?
- Kissinger believed that history is a permanent and unchanging force.
 - The passage indicates that Kissinger considered history to be irrelevant in shaping political decisions.
 - Kissinger viewed history as a dynamic force, constantly challenging the permanence of political structures.
 - The passage does not provide any information about Kissinger's views on history.
- 18.** Which of the following is not relevant to the discussion about Henry Kissinger in the passage?
- Kissinger's approach characterized by an unwavering commitment to humanitarian principles.
 - The suggestion that Kissinger had a cynical and manipulative view of international politics.
 - The notion that Kissinger advocated for universal interference in foreign affairs.
 - The passage implies that Kissinger prioritized abstract ideals over the practical consideration of global order.

PASSAGE - IV

There can no longer be much doubt about the threat to the position of the West. After 18 months of struggle, Russia looks poised for a historic victory in Ukraine whose quest to join the Western sphere is now seemingly at an end. Not only has Russia practically annexed a fifth of the country's territory, which now lies behind one of the most heavily-fortified frontiers in the world, but the prospect of the rest of Ukraine remaining in a state of permanent instability precludes any chance of its integration with NATO and the EU, at least as matters stand. Meanwhile, the position of Israel is in serious jeopardy as it walks seemingly into a trap laid by Hamas which provoked Jerusalem into a perceived overreaction that draws in Palestine's allies to the east, while alienating Israel's traditional allies to the West and scotching the United States' attempted diplomatic rapprochement between Israel and the Arab world. Having crossed the red line represented by Israel's border with Gaza, Iran has stated its intention to mobilise an 'axis of resistance', backed by Russia and more distantly China, while the Muslim world is in uproar and Israel has been left reliant on a divided West, whose support is irresolute and indecisive. Why this is happening is a topic of much debate but two factors stand out. The first is that revisionist powers in the East have been steadily gaining in strength in practically all domains, and with it their ability to project power internationally. Economically, they command a majority of global GDP, having capitalised on efforts by the West over the last three decades to promote an integrated, globalised economy that has disproportionately benefitted the developing world. They have invested heavily in their capacity for aggression. China can mobilise enormous

military resources including the largest navy in the world and a huge range of capabilities, from aircraft to missile technology. Russia has the world's largest nuclear arsenal and, under conditions of conscription, has raised an army of 1.5 million. And Iran has developed a dormant nuclear capacity and an established a network of heavily-armed proxies across the Middle East. They are internally unified under conditions of autocracy. The position of Xi Jinping and the Chinese Communist Party is unassailable and, in its achievements and ambitions, displays the confidence of a country on the rise, much as the Europeans did in the 19th century. In Russia, polls consistently put support for President Putin at around 80 per cent. In Iran, the Ayatollahs are firmly in charge, despite displays of dissent, and there is no obvious alternative government in sight. The East is also coalescing internationally into an informal alliance. At the core of this is a new 'no limits' partnership between Russia and China, defined by political support for each other's foreign policies, backed by various practical measures – mutual protection at the UN, deepening trade and investment, the use of the yuan to bypass the Western.

Meanwhile, China and Russia have expanded their network of bilateral alliances. The former has co-opted around two-thirds of the world into its Belt and Road Initiative and the latter has been on a diplomatic offensive since its invasion of Ukraine, reviving Cold War-era friendships in places such as Africa, South America and the Middle East. The second reason, by contrast, is the weakening of the West in relative terms and with it the status quo power's ability to preserve the existing international order. Europe in particular has been stagnant for much of the last 15 years, as a consequence of bad luck and bad economic management. It never really recovered from the financial crisis of the late-2000s, which was followed by the pandemic and the breakdown of trade with Russia.

19. What are the two factors mentioned in the passage that contribute to the current geopolitical challenges faced by the West?

- (a) The weakening of revisionist powers in the East and the West's inability to promote a globalized economy.
- (b) The strengthening of the West's position and the East's failure to integrate into a globalized economy.
- (c) The increasing strength of revisionist powers in the East and the West's relative weakening and economic challenges.
- (d) The East's struggle to project power internationally and the West's success in maintaining the existing international order.

20. What can be inferred about the prospects of Ukraine's integration with NATO and the EU based on the passage?

- (a) Ukraine's integration with NATO and the EU is imminent, given its ongoing struggle against Russia.
- (b) The passage suggests that Ukraine's integration with NATO and the EU is unlikely due to Russia's historic victory.
- (c) Despite the challenges, the passage implies that Ukraine's integration with NATO and the EU remains a viable option.
- (d) The passage does not provide any information Ukraine's prospects of integration with NATO and EU.

21. Which of the following can be concluded based on the information provided in the passage?

- (a) The West's military dominance remains unchallenged.
- (b) The East's informal alliance is primarily focused on cultural collaboration.
- (c) The integration of the global economy has weakened revisionist powers.
- (d) The 'no limits' partnership between Russia and China is central to the East's international coalescence.

22. What is the primary theme conveyed by the passage?

- (a) The West increasing dominance in the global arena.
- (b) The East's decline in economic and military power.
- (c) The East's ascendancy and the challenges faced by the West.
- (d) The harmonious collaboration between the East and the West.

23. What is the predominant tone conveyed in the passage?

- (a) Optimistic and celebratory
- (b) Neutral and informative
- (c) Pessimistic and critical
- (d) Humorous and light-hearted

24. What is the primary reason behind the challenges to Ukraine's integration with NATO and the EU as mentioned in the passage?

- (a) Economic stability in Ukraine.
- (b) Russia's historic victory and annexation of the territory.
- (c) Lack of support from the Muslim world.
- (d) United States' interference in diplomatic relations.

Section B-Current Affairs with GK
PASSAGE - V

The Central government of India has recently announced its intention to attract significant private investment, totalling approximately \$26 billion, into the country's nuclear energy sector. This marks a groundbreaking move as it represents the first time that India is actively seeking private capital infusion into its nuclear power industry. Discussions are underway with a minimum of five private firms regarding potential investments. Remarkably, this strategic initiative does not necessitate any amendments to the existing Act. The proposed funding model entails private companies making substantial investments in nuclear power plants, encompassing activities such as land acquisition, water sourcing, and construction, particularly in areas adjacent to the reactor complexes of these plants. This innovative hybrid approach to nuclear power project development represents a pioneering solution aimed at accelerating the expansion of India's nuclear capacity. It's noteworthy that while Indian legislation prohibits private enterprises from directly establishing nuclear power plants, they are permitted to engage in supplying components, equipment, and undertaking construction contracts related to areas outside the reactor zones of these facilities.

25. What is India's target for non-fossil fuels-based electric generation capacity by 2030?
 (a) 30% (b) 40% (c) 50% (d) 60%
26. What is India's target for reducing CO2 emissions by 2030?
 (a) 500 million tons (b) 750 million tons (c) 1 billion tons (d) 1.5 billion tons
27. The Department of Atomic Energy and Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) have held discussions with private companies on the investment plan. In which city is the headquarters of NPCIL located?
 (a) New Delhi (b) Kolkata (c) Mumbai (d) Chennai
28. Which Act governs the subject of 'nuclear energy' in India?
 (a) Nuclear Act 1956 (b) Atomic Energy Act 1962
 (c) Energy Conservation Act 2001 (d) Electricity Act 2003
29. What is the target for adding new nuclear power generation capacity by 2040 according to the government's plan?
 (a) 5,000 MW (b) 8,000 MW (c) 10,000 MW (d) 11,000 MW

PASSAGE - VI

In a significant development highlighting the deepening defense and strategic ties between India and the [1] India has commenced the delivery of supersonic cruise missiles to [1]. This move comes at a time of escalating tensions between the [1] and China, particularly concerning maritime disputes in the South China Sea. Under a substantial deal amounting to \$375 million signed in 2022, the [1] has secured the acquisition of BrahMos missiles from India. This export not only underscores the strengthening bilateral relations but also signifies India's emergence as a key defense partner for the [1]. Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasized this milestone, noting that the first batch of BrahMos missiles is set to reach the [1] today, marking a tangible step in the implementation of the defense agreement between the two nations. While the delivery of BrahMos missiles alone may not be a game-changer, it symbolizes a broader strategic initiative. India, alongside countries such as the United States, is actively engaged in bolstering the defense capabilities of smaller nations like this. This collective effort aims to build a robust coalition that enhances regional security and serves as a counterbalance to growing assertiveness, particularly from China. The deepening defense cooperation between India and the [1] reflects a shared concern over regional stability and maritime security. By exporting advanced defense technology like BrahMos missiles, India not only expands its defense industry footprint but also strengthens its position as a reliable ally in the Indo-Pacific region. This strategic move underscores the evolving dynamics of regional alliances and the concerted efforts of like-minded countries to safeguard the interests of smaller nations and uphold a rules-based order in the face of geopolitical challenges.

30. Which of the following will replace [1] in the passage?
 (a) Taiwan (b) Indonesia (c) Myanmar (d) Philippines
31. What was the original range of the BrahMos missile?
 (a) 450 km (b) 600 km (c) 290 km (d) 800 km
32. What type of missile is BrahMos?
 (a) Two-Stage Missile (b) Three-Stage Missile
 (c) Single-Stage Missile (d) Multi-Stage Missile

33. Brahmos missile deal is the part of which program of [1]?
 (a) Horizon 1 (b) Horizon 2 (c) Horizon 3 (d) Horizon 4
34. Upon India's entry into the Missile Technology Control Regime in June 2016, the BrahMos missile's range was extended, lifting the initial restrictions imposed by the regime. How many member states are part of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR)?
 (a) 15 member states (b) 25 member states
 (c) 35 member states (d) 45 member states

PASSAGE - VII

In December 2023, a team of four Indian climate scientists arrived in Oslo to prepare for India's inaugural winter expedition in the Arctic. Their journey was marked by uncertainties, as they faced the challenges of acclimating to extreme cold conditions, with temperatures plummeting as low as -15 degrees Celsius. Of particular concern for the Indian researchers was the prolonged polar nights, characterized by weeks of continuous darkness and the need to adjust daily activities accordingly. By March 2024, India's first winter expedition in the Arctic concluded successfully, marking a significant achievement for the team. However, this milestone also prompts reflection on India's historical reluctance to engage in year-round Arctic missions. For more than a decade, the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research in India had not prioritized winter missions in the Arctic. The shift in Indian policy can be attributed to newfound scientific insights indicating rapid warming trends in the Arctic region, surpassing previous estimations. The revelation of scientific data linking the accelerated melting of Arctic Sea ice to potentially catastrophic climatic events in India served as a catalyst for policy change. Decision-makers were compelled to act in response to the emerging facts, highlighting the interconnectedness of global climate phenomena and the imperative for proactive measures to address environmental challenges.

35. Which of the following countries have territory in the Arctic region?
 (a) Australia and New Zealand (b) Brazil, Argentina and Iceland
 (c) Alaska, Canada, Russia, and Norway (d) China and Japan
36. When was the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (AEPS) established as a framework for intergovernmental cooperation on environmental protection in the Arctic region?
 (a) 1980 (b) 1991 (c) 2000 (d) 2010
37. India embarked on its Arctic journey with the signing of the Svalbard Treaty in Paris. Who were the parties involved in the Svalbard Treaty alongside India?
 (a) Norway, Canada, France, Japan
 (b) Norway, the US, Denmark, France, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Great Britain, Ireland, British overseas Dominions, and Sweden
 (c) Norway, Russia, China, Germany
 (d) Norway, Finland, Australia, New Zealand
38. When was India granted 'observer' status by the Arctic Council?
 (a) 2005 (b) 2010 (c) 2013 (d) 2017
39. What is the name of India's first multi-sensor moored observatory deployed in Kongsfjorden?
 (a) IndArc (b) Himadri (c) Bharti (d) Mitra

PASSAGE - VIII

In a recent development, the Centre has intervened in a dispute between two states concerning a hydropower project. The project, referred to as [1], has sparked competing claims from Punjab and [2]. The Supreme Court is scheduled to address this issue on April 8 following an application filed by the Punjab government. The application seeks to prevent [2] from taking control of the hydel project after the expiration of its 99-year lease period on March 2. During the court proceedings, the bench comprising justices AS Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan was informed that the Union government has instructed both states to maintain "status quo" regarding possession of the hydel project. This directive came through a letter dated March 1, as conveyed by Punjab's advocate general Gurminder Singh, who was accompanied by the state's additional advocate general Shadan Farasat. The situation underscores the complexity of managing infrastructure projects with historical significance and the legal intricacies involved when multiple parties lay claim to such assets.

40. Which of the following will replace [1] in the passage?

- (a) Bassi Hydroelectric Project (b) Binwa Hydroelectric Project
 (c) Sainj Hydroelectric Project (d) Shanan Hydroelectric Project

41. Which of the following will replace [2] in the passage?

- (a) Himachal Pradesh (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Rajasthan (d) Haryana

42. Who were the parties involved in formalizing the lease agreement for the Shanan hydropower project?

- (a) Raja Duleep Singh and Col BC Batty (b) Raja Joginder Bahadur and Col BC Batty
 (c) Amarinder Singh and Col BC Batty (d) None of the Above

43. Under which Article of the Constitution has the Punjab government filed an original suit against the state government redacted by [2] in the passage and the Centre?

- (a) Article 124 (b) Article 131 (c) Article 142 (d) Article 156

44. During the British era in 1925, Punjab was granted a lease for the 110-MW hydropower project located on the Uhl River. Uhl is tributary of which river?

- (a) Beas River (b) Ganga River (c) Yamuna River (d) Sutlej River

PASSAGE - IX

The Navratna status is a prestigious recognition bestowed upon select Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) by the Government of India. This special status is granted based on specific criteria set by the government, which includes parameters related to financial performance, operational efficiency, and strategic vision. Companies that achieve Navratna status are considered top-performing entities within the public sector and are granted increased autonomy and financial powers as a result of their exemplary performance. On 18th April 2024, the Department of Public Enterprise (DPE) under the Ministry of Finance announced the grant of Navratna status to [1] a prominent player in the industries. This recognition signifies company's outstanding performance and strategic contributions to the sector. As a Navratna company, it gains greater operational freedom in decision-making processes, including investments, joint ventures, human resource management, and more. The announcement of company receiving Navratna status had a notable impact on the company's stock performance. On the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), the company's share price surged by nearly 6.3 percent, reaching Rs. 103.25 on Monday, compared to its previous closing price of Rs. 97.09. This significant increase in share price reflects the positive market sentiment and investor confidence in company's enhanced status and future prospects.

45. Which of the following will replace [1] in the passage?

- (a) Airports Authority of India (AAI) (b) Antrix Corporation Limited
 (c) Indian Rare Earths Limited (d) National Fertilizers Limited (NFL)

46. The company mentioned in the passage, redacted by [1], was upgraded from Miniratna-I to Navratna status. How many years of continuous profit are required for a company to qualify as a Miniratna-I company?

- (a) One year (b) Two years (c) Three years (d) Four years

47. What is the maximum amount Navratna Companies can invest in a single project without government approval?

- (a) Rs. 500 crores (b) Rs. 750 crores (c) Rs. 1000 crores (d) Rs. 1500 crores

48. Consider the following statements and determine which one is true:

Statement 1: A company must have an annual net worth of Rs. 10,000 crore for three years to qualify for Maharatna status.

Statement 2: A company must possess Navratna status to qualify for Maharatna status.

- (a) Statement 1 is true. (b) Statement 2 is true.
 (c) Both statements are true. (d) Neither statement is true.

PASSAGE - X

Eight years post its enactment, the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, is undergoing scrutiny by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. The Ministry is engaging in a comprehensive review of the Act's performance, including consultations with homebuyers and establishing a data collection unit within the Ministry. Although there are no immediate proposals for amendments, this review sets the stage for potential future modifications. The Act, commonly known as RERA, was enacted by Parliament to regulate and promote transparency in the real estate sector. One of its primary objectives is to protect the interests of homebuyers by ensuring accountability, timely delivery of projects, and effective grievance redressal mechanisms. As of August 2023, RERAs have registered over 1.09 lakh real estate projects and resolved more than 1.11 lakh complaints.

These figures demonstrate the substantial impact of RERA in addressing the challenges faced by homebuyers and promoting a more accountable real estate ecosystem. To assess RERA's effectiveness and gather valuable insights, senior officials from the Ministry have commenced regular meetings with homebuyers. These meetings aim to collect feedback on various aspects such as transparency, accountability, information dissemination, and grievance redressal. The inaugural meeting, chaired by Additional Secretary Satinder Pal Singh on February 29, focused on evaluating RERA's performance across key dimensions. The review of the Real Estate Act, reflects the government's dedication to ensuring a robust regulatory framework in the real estate domain. By soliciting feedback, analyzing performance metrics, and fostering collaboration, policymakers strive to uphold RERA's objectives of protecting consumer rights and promoting a fair and efficient real estate market.

- 49.** When was the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act (RERA) enacted by the Government of India?
 (a) 2012 (b) 2014 (c) 2015 (d) 2016
- 50.** Which of the following projects are required to be mandatorily registered with Regulatory Authorities under RERA?
 (a) Projects with a plot size of 1000 sq. mt those comprising five or more apartments
 (b) Projects with a plot size of 500 sq. mt or those comprising eight or more apartments
 (c) Projects with a plot size of 2000 sq. mt or more
 (d) None of the Above
- 51.** Under which list of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution is RERA enacted, leading to jurisdictional conflicts between states and the Centre?
 (a) Union List (b) Concurrent List
 (c) State List (d) Special List
- 52.** What punishment can developers face for violating orders of Appellate Tribunals and Regulatory Authorities under RERA?
 (a) Imprisonment of up to five years
 (b) Community service
 (c) Imprisonment of up to three years
 (d) Warning notice

Section C-Legal Reasoning

PASSAGE - XI

The Delhi High Court sought a reply from the Bar Council of India, the regulatory body for the country's legal practice, which last year opened up the legal system for a limited entry for overseas lawyers on a reciprocal basis. The Advocates Act, 1961 defines reciprocity as where any country, specified by the Central Government in this behalf by notification in the Official Gazette, prevents citizens of India from practising the profession of law or subjects them to unfair discrimination in that country, no subject of any such country shall be entitled to practise the profession of law in India.

The Bar Council of India Rules for Registration and Regulation of Foreign Lawyers and Foreign Law Firms in India, 2022 open entry for foreign lawyers and law firms in India in the legal practice.

Section 3 of the Rules state that a foreign lawyer or foreign law firm shall not be entitled to practice law in India unless he/it is registered with the Bar Council of India under these Rules: Provided that this prohibition will not apply to law practice by a foreign lawyer or foreign law firm in case such practice is done on a 'fly in and fly out basis' for the purpose of giving legal advice to the client in India regarding foreign law and on diverse international legal issues and provided further that such expertise/advice of such a foreign lawyer or foreign law firm had been procured by the client in a foreign country and foreign lawyer or foreign law firm does not maintain an office in India for the purpose of such practice and lastly such practice in India for one or more periods does not, in aggregate, exceed 60 days in any period of 12 months.

Other conditions pertaining to practice of foreign lawyers or law firms is that they are restricted from appearing before any courts, tribunals or other statutory or regulatory authorities. They shall be allowed to practice on transactional corporate work such as joint ventures, intellectual property matters, mergers and acquisitions, contract drafting, and other related matters on a reciprocal basis. Foreign lawyers and law firms shall be restricted from doing any work pertaining to conveyancing of property, title investigation or other similar works. They shall be entitled to practice law in India in non-litigious matters only (subject to exceptions, conditions and limitations laid down) and he/it shall be deemed to be an 'advocate' in accordance with the Indian law.

A foreign lawyer or Lawyer associated with foreign Law Firm registered under these rules shall normally be subject to the same ethical and practice standards laid down under the Advocates Act, 1961. Section 45 of the Advocates Act states that any person who practises in any court or before any authority or person, in or before whom he is not entitled to practise under the provisions of this Act, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months.

Source: Extracted (with edits and revisions) from an excerpt from an article titled “Foreign Lawyers’ Entry in India Faces Legal Hurdle in Court” published in the Bloomberg.

53. Vidhan is a famous international law lawyer from London. He has applied for registration in accordance with the recent rules released by the Bar Council of India for foreign lawyers. He meets the requirements as laid down under the rules. Despite meeting the criteria regarding registration, the Bar Council of India is not allowing him to practice in India on the ground that London government does not allow Indian lawyers to practice in London. Based on the principles laid down in the passage, is the Bar Council’s decision correct?

- (a) Yes, as the rules for foreign lawyers allow the Bar council with a discretion to prevent any foreign lawyers from practicing in India.
- (b) No, as once the formalities under the rules are completed, Bar Council does not have the power to prevent a foreign lawyer from practicing in India.
- (c) Yes, if it is proved that the central government has passed an appropriate notification in this regard.
- (d) No, as the rules does not provide any such conditions with regards to practice of foreign lawyers in India.

54. Vidyut is a lawyer registered for practice in United States and has an office in US only. He did a legal course on Indian law in India. Due to this he has detailed knowledge about Indian as well as foreign legal system. Due to his special knowledge, he is preferred by Indian individuals for their disputes pertaining to foreign law. Regarding such disputes after the introduction of the Rules, he comes to India, and then leaves as soon as he has advised his clients. Recently, he heard about the rules released by Bar Council of India. He has applied for registration under the said rules. The registration is pending. In the meantime, he had to come to India to advise an Indian client on a specific issue of foreign law. Based on the principle mentioned in the passage, decide whether giving such advice is in compliance with the BCI rules pertaining to practice by foreign lawyers.

- (a) No, as the rules specifically prohibit the foreign lawyers from practicing in India unless they are registered with the BCI.
- (b) Yes, as the rules does not prohibit practice done on fly in and fly out basis for the purpose of giving legal advice on foreign law in India.
- (c) No, as the rules provide a complete prohibition on foreign lawyers from practicing in India.
- (d) Yes, as he has done a course on Indian law from India, he is allowed to practice without obtaining permission from the Bar Council of India.

55. Assume that in the previous question, an additional fact is added. Besides flying in to give advice, Vidyut also maintains an additional office set up in India for the purpose of giving such advice to Indian clients. What effect would this additional fact have on compliance of such practice with the BCI Rules?

- (a) The introduction of these additional facts weaken the compliance of Vidyut’s practice with such rules.
- (b) The introduction of these additional facts strengthen the compliance of Vidyut’s practice with such rules.
- (c) The introduction of these additional facts will have no effect on the compliance of Vidyut’s practice with such rules.
- (d) The introduction of these additional facts will have no effect on the compliance of Vidyut’s practice with such rules as the rules do not provide anything with regard to office being set up in India.

56. With regards to rules for practice by foreign lawyers, in which of the following cases the practice will not be in compliance with the rules?

- (i) Practice by lawyers from a foreign country not falling under the reciprocity notification issued by the Central Government.
 - (ii) Practice by foreign lawyers on matters related to mergers and acquisitions, contract drafting, and other related matters on a reciprocal basis.
 - (iii) Contract drafting by foreign lawyers on matters pertaining to conveyancing of property.
 - (iv) Practice by foreign lawyers in India in non-litigious matters only.
- (a) Only (i) (b) Only (iii) (c) Both (i) & (ii) (d) Both (i) & (iii)

57. Vidhi is a lawyer from the South Africa. She did a course with special focus on Indian Law. Due to this she has detailed knowledge about Indian as well as foreign legal system. Due to his special knowledge, she is preferred by Indian individuals for their disputes pertaining to foreign law. To tend to such disputes, she comes to India, and

then leaves as soon as she has advised her clients. Recently, she has applied for registration under the BCI rules. The registration is pending. In the meantime, she had to frequently come to India to advise an Indian client. Based on the principle mentioned in the passage, decide which of the following if proved true would render the advice not in compliance with the BCI rules.

- (a) The advice is pertaining to a specific issue of foreign law.
- (b) She does not maintain an office in India for the purpose of giving such advice.
- (c) Such practice in India for one or more periods in aggregate exceed 60 days in any period of 12 months.
- (d) Her registration will be refused by the Bar Council of India in the coming weeks.

PASSAGE - XII

The implementation of a policy to eliminate child labour has a long way to go before achieving its ultimate goal by 2025.

The Child and adolescent labour (prohibition and regulation) Act, 1986 was enacted to prohibit the engagement of children in all occupations and to prohibit the engagement of adolescents in hazardous occupations and processes. The Act defines adolescent as a person who has completed his fourteenth year of age but has not completed his eighteenth year whereas child is defined as person who has not completed his fourteenth year of age.

Section 3(1) of the Act prohibits employment of children in any occupation and process. However, Section 3(2) of the Act states that prohibition under Section 3(1) shall not apply where the child- (a) helps his family or family enterprise, which is other than any hazardous occupations or processes set forth in the Schedule, after his school hours or during vacations; (b) works as an artist in an audio-visual entertainment industry, including advertisement, films, television serials or any such other entertainment or sports activities except the circus, subject to such conditions and safety measures, as may be prescribed by rules from the appropriate government: Provided that no such work under this clause shall effect the school education of the child. Section 3A deals with adolescents and states that no adolescent shall be employed or permitted to work in any of the hazardous occupations or processes.

Section 7 provides the hours and period of work for adolescents. As per the Section, the period of work on each day shall be so fixed that no period shall exceed three hours and that no adolescent shall work for more than three hours before he has had an interval for rest for at least one hour. The period of work of an adolescent shall be so arranged that inclusive of his interval for rest, under sub-section (2), it shall not be spread over more than six hours, including the time spent in waiting for work on any day. No adolescent shall be permitted or required to work between 7 p.m. and 8 a.m. No adolescent shall be required or permitted to work overtime. No adolescent shall be required or permitted to work in any establishment on any day on which he has already been working in another establishment.

Section 14 provides penalties for violation of Section 3 & 3A. As per the provision, whoever employs any child/adolescent or permits any child/adolescent to work in contravention of the provisions of section 3 or 3A shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than six months but which may extend to two years, or with fine which shall not be less than twenty thousand rupees but which may extend to fifty thousand rupees, or with both:

Provided that the parents or guardians of such children/adolescent shall not be punished unless they permit such child to work in contravention of the provisions of section 3 or Section 3A as the case may be.

Source: Extracted (with edits and revisions) from an excerpt from an article titled "Elimination of child labour a distant goal, country needs uniform definition of 'child' first: Parliamentary panel" published at the Indian Express.

58. Vidhan, is a brilliant child. He is very smart for his age. His father is an on field contractor who deals with coal mining. His father also has a business of selling artificial jewelry. Vidhan is currently working for three hours after school hours in this business. However some days he helps in the business even during school hours. But Vidhan is expected to work full time with his father after his 16th birthday in a week. Once he turns 16, Vidhan is expected to look after the Coal mine fields with his father and abstain himself from family business. The coal sector is considered as hazardous occupation under the Child Labour Act of 1986. Based on the principles laid down in the passage, choose the correct statement.

- (a) Vidhan's current employment in his family business violates Section 3 of the 1986 Act as he is working even during school hours.
- (b) Vidhan's current employment in his family business is in complete consonance with Section 3 of the 1986 Act as he is working only after school hours.

(c) Vidhan's employment in a hazardous industry will be in violation of Section 3A as no child is allowed to work in hazardous industries.

(d) Vidhan's employment once he turns 16 will be in violation of Section 3A of the 1986 Act.

59. Assume that in the previous question, certain facts are substituted. Vidhan would continue to help his father in the family business of artificial jewelry even after turning 16 years of age but will have to prioritize the coal field work after 16th birthday. What effect would these substituted facts have on the validity of Vidhan's employment in coal fields with his father as per the Child Labour Act of 1986?

(a) The substitution of facts will strengthen the validity of the employment.

(b) The substitution of facts will weaken the validity of the employment.

(c) The substitution of facts will have no effect on the validity of the employment.

(d) The substitution of facts will strengthen the validity of the employment under Section 3 as now he is working not only in coal fields.

60. Vidhi is a child acting prodigy. From a very young age she has been participating in her school plays. Due to this, she is noticed by various directors who hire child actors for television shows. Recently, Vidur approached Vidhi's parents for a role in a television show. The parents agreed. Vidhi worked with the director after school hours. The show was a success. After that Vidhi started getting more and more offers. Recently, the manager of a local circus approached Vidhi's parents. They agreed on the condition that their child's education does not get affected. Based on the principles laid down in the passage, choose the most appropriate option pertaining to liability under Section 14 of the 1986 Act.

(a) The television show director is liable under Section 14 as Vidhi's employment in television shows in violation of Section 3 of the 1986 Act.

(b) Only the manager of the circus will be liable under Section 14 for employing Vidhi in a circus.

(c) The television show director will not be liable under Section 14 if he cannot prove that Vidhi's education was not affected by the participation in the television show.

(d) Both the manager and Vidhi's parents will be liable under Section 14 due to her employment in the circus.

61. Vidya was trained as a classical singer from a young age. At the age of 10, she even won a gold medal for winning the singing tournament. Immediately after winning such tournament, her parents got her admitted in special classes so that she can get even better. She is going to these classes for the past two years. Along with this, she is also working as an artist in the entertainment industry. Initially she was working after school hours. However, due to her admission and simultaneously performing for the past two years, her school education has started getting affected. She is not able to cope up with the pressure. In light of Section 3, choose the correct statement:

(a) Vidya must take a break and then she can again continue working as an artist.

(b) Vidya's employment as an artist is in violation of Section 3 of the 1986 Act as her school education is getting affected.

(c) Vidya's employment as an artist is in consonance with Section 3 of the 1986 Act as she is working after school hours.

(d) Vidya's employment as an artist is not governed by Section 3 as she is not a child anymore.

62. With regards to the timing and period of work as provided in Section 7, which of the following statement is incorrect?

(a) Total working hours for an adolescent, excluding the time waiting for work, in a day must not exceed six hours.

(b) Period for work on each day shall be so fixed that no adolescent shall work for more than three hours before he has had an interval.

(c) No adolescent shall be permitted or required to work between 7 p.m. and 8 a.m.

(d) No adolescent shall be required or permitted to work overtime.

63. If Parliament makes rules allowing children to work in circus as per the prescribed conditions and safety measures, then which of the following is correct?

(a) Such rules are valid under the 1986 Act and will allow the children to work in circus.

(b) Such rules are invalid under the 1986 Act as working in such circus will affect the school education of the child.

(c) Such rules are invalid under the 1986 Act as the Parliament does not have the power to prescribe such conditions and safety measures.

(d) Such rules are valid under the 1986 Act only if it is proved that the Parliament falls under the definition of the appropriate government.

PASSAGE - XIII

In the complex market structures that exist today it is important to create a different identity of your own. Companies need to create a separate identity in order to induce customer loyalty, goodwill in the market and establish themselves as recognizable brands. Intellectual Property Law (IPR) provides a safe ground to the companies to realize the same. Various companies go for trademarks registration in order to protect their brand identity.

A trademark includes a name, word, or sign that differentiates goods of a particular brand from the goods of other enterprises. It is a distinctive sign or indicator of some kind which is used by an individual, business organization or other legal entity to identify uniquely the source of its products and/or services to consumers, and to distinguish its products or services from those of other entities. A trademark is a type of intellectual property, and typically a name, word, phrase, logo, symbol, design, image, or a combination of these elements.

Trademarks are protected under The Trademark Act, 1999 in India. They may either be registered or unregistered. In case of a registered trademark, one can sue for infringement. However, when the trademark is unregistered, one cannot sue for infringement but certain remedies might be available if the logo, symbol etc. enjoys considerable repute. The owner of a trademark can also prevent the use of his mark or sign by another competitor.

An infringement may occur when one party, the "infringer", uses a trademark which is identical or deceptively similar to a trademark owned by another party, in relation to products or services which are identical or similar to the products or services which the registration covers. Under the existing law, when an unauthorized person uses a trademark that is 'identical' or 'deceptively similar' to a registered trademark, it is known as infringement.

Trademarks have been used very commonly by the most reputed brands in the world. But numerous instances exist where other competitors have tried to dupe customers by using similar logos etc. and thus various disputes have turned up in this area of law as well.

Source: Extracted (with edits and revisions) an excerpt from article titled "Difference between Unregistered and Registered Trademark", published at 'Mondaq'.

64. Mr. Vidhan is the CEO of "Kettol," a 65-year-old company, having worldwide repute for selling best quality medical soaps, sanitizers, and other hygiene goods. They have a registered trademark under current law and have a good reputation in the industry. Another company, "Kitoll," emerges and begins to sell exclusively hand sanitizers in the market. Mr. Vidhan is seeking your advice. Will this be enough to prove trademark infringement?

- (a) No, because Kitoll only sells sanitizers, and so the product market is distinct.
- (b) No, because Kitoll is a new brand, it can't possibly compete with a company like Kettol, thus labelling this case as a trademark infringement would be unfair.
- (c) Yes, because this could cause confusion in the mind of an average Indian consumer.
- (d) Yes, because a trademark that is deceptively similar to Kettol is being used.

65. In India, a search engine called 'Uhao' is quite popular. For basic searches, many customers rely on the same. It is a global search engine based in the United States that operates in India through its subsidiary Uhao India. 'Uhao.in' is a registered trademark of 'Uhao.in.' Another website, 'UhaoIndia.in,' appears after a long time, but it is an online gaming platform. This is a firm with its headquarters in India. Uhao the search engine has brought a suit for infringement against the gaming platform. Decide the maintainability of suit for infringement.

- (a) Because the markets are different, this is not a case of infringement.
- (b) If Uhao India causes a monetary loss to Uhao, this will be considered an infringement.
- (c) Despite the fact that the names are similar, the second company is incorporated in India and so has permission to use the name.
- (d) This is a case of infringement because 'UhaoIndia.in' has the potential to cause confusion among customers and is confusingly similar to 'Uhao.in.'

66. 'Gilton' is a manufacturer of plastic items such as water bottles and tiffins. However, another company, 'Hilton,' has been in the same industry for the same amount of time. For quite some time, 'Hilton' has not been doing so well. It releases a new product called 'Hilton's Game Changer,' with the goal of bringing down 'Gilton.' In reaction to this, Gilton releases a product known as 'Gilton's Game Changer.' Hilton, which had been doing well with this new product at first, now notices a drop in sales and sues for trademark infringement. It claims that the two companies' names are strikingly similar, and that this is affecting its sales. Based on the passage, decide whether the suit for trademark infringement will succeed?

- (a) There can't possibly be any infringement.
- (b) As Hilton's argument is valid, there could be a case of infringement.

- (c) Can't be adequately determined.
 (d) Although there is no clear case for infringement, 'Hilton' may be able to pursue other options.
- 67.** Mr. Vidhaan wants to launch a new mobile services company. He considers the name 'Dirgin,' registers the company under such name. A 'cellular tower being raised by four guys' is also used as the company's logo in blue and yellow colour. Dirgin's popularity skyrockets as a result of the company's low-cost programmes. It became famous worldwide. A competitor, 'Fio,' sees this and, under its new 'Fio Connections' programme, offers plans at competitive costs. Its logo depicts a "cellular tower being raised by four ladies", that too in blue and yellow colour. Dirgin is attempting to sue Fio, claiming that the logo is fundamental to the company's identity. Decide:
- (a) The logo is an integral component of Dirgin's identity, and customers recognise the company by its logo, hence this is a case of infringement.
 (b) The trademark was for the company's name, not its logo, thus there can't be any infringement here.
 (c) This could be an instance where an unregistered trademark has been tampered with, necessitating the use of alternative legal remedies.
 (d) This cannot be considered an infringement case because they are standard market practises that are not punishable.
- 68.** In the toothpaste market, Goalgate and Kepsopaste are two competing brands. Both of them compete by releasing counter-products and attempting to stay one step ahead of the other. Goalgate has been losing money for the past few years. To increase sales, it introduced a new product the packaging, colour theme, name, looks, feels, and even functions are closely similar to Kepsopaste's core product. Decide:
- (a) Because the design is identical to Kepsopaste's, there is a case of trademark infringement.
 (b) Because the design is identical to Kepsopaste's, this could be a case of trademark infringement or violation, depending on the registration of the trademark
 (c) Imitating designs is not a type of trademark infringement, hence it will not be considered one.
 (d) This will not be a trademark infringement case.

PASSAGE - XIV

The Supreme Court observed that merely advising a partner to marry as per the advice of parents would not attract the penal provisions of abetment to suicide under Section 306 of the Indian Penal. In this case, the girl died by suicide after her boyfriend advised her to marry as per her parent's choice. The deceased girl became upset after the boy's family started looking for a bride. Following her death, the police registered an FIR for abetment to suicide under Section 306 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

"Broken relationships and heartbreaks are part of everyday life. It could not be said that the appellant by breaking up the relationship and by advising her to marry in accordance with the advice of her parents, as he himself was doing, had intended to abet the suicide. Hence the offence under Section 306 is not made out", the Bench observed. At the outset, the Supreme Court after perusing the allegations levied in the FIR and the law laid down by itself, observed that the appellant cannot be held guilty for committing an offence of abetment to suicide of the deceased girl as there was no active role being played by the appellant either by an act of instigation or by doing a certain act to facilitate the commission of suicide.

"There must be direct or indirect acts of incitement to the commission of suicide. The accused must be shown to have played an active role by an act of instigation or by doing certain acts to facilitate the commission of suicide." "It could not be said that the actions of the accused instigated Kousalya to take her life or that he conspired with others to ensure that the person committed suicide or any act of the appellant or omission instigated the deceased resulting in the suicide." the court observed while relying on its recent decision passed in *Kamalakar vs. State of Karnataka*.

In the *Kamalakar* case, the Supreme Court explained that to charge someone for the offence of abetment to suicide, the prosecution must prove that the accused played a role in the suicide. Specifically, the accused's actions must align with one of the three criteria detailed in Section 107 IPC. This means the accused either instigated i.e. encouraged the individual to take their life; or conspired and acted as per the conspiracy with others to ensure the person committed suicide; or acted or omitted action in a way that directly aided or facilitated the person's suicide.

According to the court, the instigation to commit suicide must be continued and created circumstances for committing suicide. "In order to constitute 'instigation', it must be shown that the accused had, by his acts or omission or by a continued course of conduct, created such circumstances that the deceased was left with no other option except to commit suicide."

Source: Extracted (with edits and revisions) from an article titled “Heartbreaks Part of Everyday Life; Breaking up & advising partner to marry someone else won't amount to abetment to Suicide: Supreme Court” published in the LiveLaw.

69. Vidhi and Vidhan have been in a relationship for the past decade. However, their parents are not in agreement of the relationship as they belong to different religions. Recently, Vidhan tried to talk to his father. However, he refused outrightly and advised Vidhan to marry someone from his religion. The same advice was given to Vidhi by her parents. After such discussion Vidhi and Vidhan have decided to meet. During their meeting, Vidhan suggested that they should breakup and marry according to their parents' choice. Heartbroken by such a news Vidhi committed suicide. Based on principles laid down in the passage, decide if Vidhan is liable for abetment of suicide?

- (a) No, as by merely suggesting her to marry according to parents' advice does not show intention to abet suicide.
- (b) Yes, as through his words he has directly instigated Vidhi to commit suicide.
- (c) No, as he never asked Vidhi to commit suicide.
- (d) Yes, as his words left Vidhi with no option other than committing suicide.

70. Vidur and Vidyut are business partners. Their business was flourishing. However, recently their business suffered a major loss. Vidur thinks Vidyut is the reason they have suffered the loss but that was not the case in actuality. Accordingly, he thought of teaching Vidyut a lesson. At first he fired Vidyut from the company. He then conspired with his police friend to harass Vidyut. He continued with these acts for months. All this had taken a serious toll on Vidyut's mental health by then as he felt humiliated in the society. Eventually, Vidyut committed suicide. Based on the principle laid down in the passage, decide whether Vidur is liable for abetment of suicide by instigation ?

- (a) No, as he never asked Vidyut to commit suicide.
- (b) Yes, as he created such a situation in which Vidyut was left with no other option but to commit suicide.
- (c) No, as he has not directly abetted the Vidyut's suicide.
- (d) Yes, only if it is proved that the police officer harassed Vidyut solely at Vidur's instigation.

71. Vidhi was in urgent need of money. So she took loan from a loan app. After downloading the app, the app demanded access to camera, gallery and contacts in Vidhi's phone. After such access, she was granted loan. The loan was to be repaid in 12 monthly instalments. Vidhi paid the initial two instalments. She then defaulted in next two instalments. The people in charge of the app then started harassing Vidhi. They even went to the extent of taking private photo from Vidhi's phone and shared those with her family and friends. She requested them to stop as this is destroying her life. If this continues, she would not be able to live. The people in charge responded that either she pay back the money or else they'll release more private photos. Affected by this, Vidhi tried committing suicide but could not succeed. Based on the passage, decide whether the people in charge of the loan app can be held liable for abetment of suicide?

- (a) Yes, as they created such a situation in which Vidhi was left with no other option but to commit suicide.
- (b) No, as they never specifically asked Vidhi to commit suicide.
- (c) Yes, their continuous conduct show that they had the intention to instigate the abetment of suicide.
- (d) None of the above.

72. Vidya is a student of National Law University, Bangalore. She was a resident of Bangalore. Therefore, she did not live in the college hostel. She used to go to college daily and come back to home after the college hours. Recently, some of the local goons started harassing Vidya on her way back to home. Affected by this, she complained to the local police officer. The police officer refused to register the complaint by claiming that this is a one off incident. However, such incidents continued. Once it even happened in front of the concerned police officer yet the police officer refused to take any action. When she questioned the police officer about his inaction, he gave her a bottle of poison to ingest if she cannot tolerate the goon's action. Eventually, it was too much for Vidya to handle. Due to no help from the police officer, she committed suicide by taking the poison. In light of the passage, choose the most appropriate statement pertaining to the liability of the police officer for abetment of suicide?

- (a) Yes, as through his acts, the police officer created such a situation in which Vidya was left with other options but to commit suicide.
- (b) No, as he never intended Vidya to commit suicide.
- (c) Yes, as his omission and act to give poison directly aided Vidya's suicide.
- (d) No, as he was not the one harassing Vidya.

73. Based on the passage, decide:

Assertion (A): In order for a person to be liable for abetment of suicide, it is important that accused played an active role behind such suicide.

Reason (R): As per the Supreme Court, the prosecution need not prove that the accused played an active role in suicide. It is sufficient if the accused through his words instigated someone to commit suicide.

- (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 false but R is true.
- (d) A is true and R is false.

PASSAGE - XV

Under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), offences related to causing damage to public property now carry a graded fine, which means the fine corresponding to the amount of damage caused.

Promise to marry: The BNS introduces Clause 69 that seems to ostensibly tackle the "love jihad" narrative by criminalising "deceitful" promise to marry. The phrase "sexual intercourse not amounting to the offence of rape" essentially criminalises consensual sexual activity too. "Whoever, by deceitful means or by making promise to marry to a woman without any intention of fulfilling the same, has sexual intercourse with her, such sexual intercourse not amounting to the offence of rape, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years and shall also be liable to fine," the provision reads adding that "deceitful means" shall include the false promise of employment or promotion, inducement, or marrying after suppressing identity.

Mob lynching: The BNS provisions codify offences linked to mob lynching and hate-crime murders, for cases when a mob of five or more individuals commits murder based on factors such as race, caste, community, or personal belief. The provision has punishment that extends from life imprisonment to death.

Organised crime: For the first time, tackling organised crime is brought under the realm of ordinary criminal law. There are several special state legislations for prevention and control of criminal activity by organised crime syndicates or gangs, the most popular being the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act, 1999.

Interestingly, in the new legislation, the punishment for attempt to commit organised crime and for committing organised crime is the same, but a distinction is drawn based on whether a death is caused or not by the alleged offence.

A separate category of "petty organised crime" has also been brought in, which criminalises "theft, snatching, cheating, unauthorised selling of tickets, unauthorised betting or gambling, selling of public examination question papers."

Terrorism: Importing large parts of the language in defining "terror activities" from the stringent Unlawful Atrocities Prevention Act, the BNS brings terrorism under the ambit of ordinary criminal law. The definition of "terrorist" borrows from the Philippines Anti-Terrorism Act, 2020. Crucially, the offence involving terror financing is broader in the BNS than in UAPA. It is unclear how both the UAPA and the BNS will operate concurrently, especially when procedurally the UAPA is more stringent and the cases are heard in special courts.

Attempt to suicide: The BNS introduces a new provision that criminalises "whoever attempts to commit suicide with the intent to compel or restrain any public servant from discharging his official duty", and prescribes a jail term which may extend to one year with community service. This provision could be invoked to prevent self-immolations and hunger strikes during protests.

Source: Extracted (with edits and revisions) from an article titled "Indian Penal Code to Nyaya Sanhita: What's new, what is out, what changes," The Indian Express, December 22, 2023.

74. During student protests in Delhi against the new admission policy of the government, significant damage was caused to public property, including the destruction of a government buses and bus stops. Varun, a 17 year old university student was identified through proved evidences as a person solely responsible for setting a government bus on fire. He was charged with the relevant provisions under the BNS. The prosecution argued that he should be punished with corresponding to the total cost of the bus destroyed by Varun. Varun however argues that his role in the protest and damage to the overall public property was minimal and therefore he shall be granted with minimum fine. In the light of the passage, what would be the likely decision of the court?

- (a) The Court will impose a fine corresponding to the damage caused by Varun, as he was solely responsible for the damage caused to the bus.
- (b) The Court will apply a reduced fine, considering Varun's minimal direct involvement in the destruction of overall public property.
- (c) The Court will acquit Varun as he is a minor university student.
- (d) The Court will impose a fine equivalent to the damage caused by Varun as the duty of the student is to study and not to protest.

75. In Bhopal, Ms. Vaishali, a young woman, files a police complaint against Mr. Vikrant, alleging that he deceived her into a physical relationship with the promise of marriage, which he never intended to keep. They were in a live-in relationship for past 6 months and had sexual intercourse multiple times. Mr. Vikrant argues that their relationship was consensual and he never had the intention to marry her but admits that he had made a promise to marry her. In the light of the passage, what would be the likely decision of the court?

- (a) The Court will charge Mr. Vikrant under Clause 69 of the BNS on the ground of deceitful promise to marry.
- (b) The Court will dismiss the charges against Mr. Vikrant as the physical relationship was consensual.
- (c) The Court will charge Mr. Vikrant for committing rape on the false promise of marriage.
- (d) The Court will consider the case as a civil matter of breach of promise, rather than a criminal case under Clause 69 of the BNS.

76. A heinous incident took place in a village near Delhi, where a group of 50 individuals belonging to upper caste, brutally assaulted and murdered a man from a lower caste community for riding a horse and keeping a moustache, as in their community the people belonging to lower caste never kept a moustache and rode horse. Such type of incident never happened in the history of the region and the communities have always lived peacefully. In the light of the passage, decide whether the individuals responsible for the act can be charged under the provisions of BNS?

- (a) No, as this was an isolated incident of violence, not premeditated or based on caste.
- (b) No, as the person belonging to the lower caste does not have the right to keep moustache and ride a horse.
- (c) Yes, as the victim was assaulted by a group of 5- individuals or more on the basis of caste.
- (d) Yes, as everyone has the right to keep moustache and ride horse under Article 14 of the Constitution of India which provides the right to equality.

77. In Chandigarh, the police dismantled a network involved in selling stolen examination question papers, a crime categorized under "petty organized crime" in the BNS. Mr. Vishesh, a college student, is apprehended for his minor role in the distribution of these papers. The prosecution seeks to impose a severe penalty under the BNS, citing the seriousness of undermining the educational system. Mr. Vishesh's defense argues that his involvement was limited and that he was not aware of the full extent of the criminal network, suggesting a lesser charge outside the realm of organized crime. Considering the BNS's provisions for petty organized crime, how should the court adjudicate this case with respect to degree of punishment to be imposed against Mr. Vishesh?

- (a) Impose a harsh penalty under the BNS for petty organized crime, emphasizing the importance of deterring such activities that compromise the educational system.
- (b) Apply a lesser charge to Mr. Vishesh, recognizing his limited involvement and lack of awareness about the larger criminal operation.
- (c) Conduct a detailed investigation into Mr. Vishesh's role in the network to determine the appropriate level of penalty under the BNS.
- (d) Cannot be adequately determined.

78. Based on the passage about the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNS), which of the following statements can be concluded?

- (a) The BNS introduces a graded fine system for offences related to causing damage to public property, aligning the fine with the extent of the damage caused.
- (b) Under the BNS, the punishment for committing organized crime in every situation is identical, regardless of the outcome of the crime.
- (c) The BNS has removed the provision for mob lynching and hate-crime murders from its scope.
- (d) The BNS's definition of "terrorist" is exclusively based on the Indian Unlawful Atrocities Prevention Act, without any influence from international laws.

79. Based on the passage about the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), which of the following cannot be concluded?

- (a) The BNS criminalizes deceitful promises to marry under the guise of "love jihad" and includes consensual sexual activity in its scope.
- (b) The BNS has introduced a new provision specifically targeting organized crime.
- (c) Under the BNS, the act of attempting to commit suicide to compel or restrain a public servant from discharging official duties is punishable with imprisonment and community service.
- (d) The BNS completely decriminalizes the act of attempting to commit suicide in all circumstances.

PASSAGE - XVI

The Union government has recently proposed amendments to the Indian Administrative Service (Cadre) Rules, 1954. Succinctly, the amendments enable the Union government to forcefully borrow an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer who is serving a state government. The probable impact will be doubly offensive to two

constitutional ideas underlying Indian federalism. Firstly, there is a breach of 'centripetal federalism' which is specific to the constitutional provisions on civil services. Secondly, there is an assault on the principles of quasi-federalism as found in the remaining constitutional text.

The All-India Services (AIS) Act, 1951 compels direct recruitment of freshly minted IAS officers to state governments. This recruitment is made in the President's name, with the Department of Personnel and Training as its controlling authority. The Department of Personnel and Training is under the control of Central Government.

It is seen that the Union government has greater say till the stage of allocation of state government, and then directly in ending the careers of IAS officers. However, the Union government faces one significant handicap. The number of officers drawn by way of the present version of rule 6 was low in quanta. Therefore, it introduced the Central Staffing Scheme (CSS).

Under this scheme, the Union government may choose to declare certain officers as fit to work directly under its administration. This process was referred to as 'empanelment', and earmarks possible candidates for future/immediate deputation. Regardless of the intent behind CSS, it serves favourably for the states. The state officers eluding empanelment are given the more strategic posts, minimising the possibility of disruption in functioning.

Simultaneously, the Union government continues to face a handicap. Migration of empanelled officers is still contingent on the satisfaction of rule 6(1) of the 1954 Rules. By virtue of this, the centre cannot forcibly borrow a recruited state officer, regardless of empanelment.

This proposed amendment is to negate the current rule 6(1) and forcibly recruit empanelled/non-empanelled IAS officers in states. This is ensured through two key changes. Firstly, the pre-requisite of the states' consent is sought to be done away with. Secondly, the Union government will have complete discretion to determine the number of such officers it may so wrest away. Thus, this amendment effectively entitles the Union government to expropriate members of the state administration.

Given that IAS recruitment happens largely for the states, the Union government's role of a manager seems incongruous. This feature, however, is laden with constitutional purpose.

Alongside other articles pertaining to civil services, Article 311 of the Constitution of India was formulated by Sardar Patel. Essentially, it compels pause and deliberation in the removal of Indian bureaucrats. Its clause 1 ensures that IAS officers are removed only by the Centre. Article 310(1) of the Constitution of India congruously espouses that the Union government has strong reasons before affecting such removals. Simultaneously, Article 311(2) of the Constitution of India mandates that it follow a proper inquiry procedure before initiating a request for removal.

Source: Extracted (with edits and revisions) an excerpt from article titled *Why New IAS Rules About Compulsory 'Borrowing' Are Constitutionally Offensive*, authored by Yash Sinha, published at 'The Wire'.

80. In 2022, Mr. Vidhan, an IAS officer who was fulfilling his tenure in Odisha was found to be inefficient after an inquiry which was launched against him by the Government of Odisha. Pursuant to the investigation, Mr. Vidhan was removed from his post by the Odisha Government. Is his removal valid in law?

- (a) Yes, because he was fired pursuant to the investigation done by the Government of Odisha.
- (b) Yes, because he was found to be inefficient and he deserves to be removed.
- (c) No, because an IAS Officer can only be removed by the Centre.
- (d) Both (a) and (b)

81. In the above-mentioned question would the removal of Mr. Vidhaan be held valid if the Government of Odisha had made a request to the Central Government to remove Mr. Vidhaan pursuant to which the state government would have removed him?

- (a) No, because in the instant case the decision is not taken by a legally competent authority.
- (b) No, because the report of the inquiry of the government of Odisha should also be presented before the Central Government.
- (c) Yes, because the prescribed procedure is being followed in this scenario.
- (d) Yes, because Central Government only can make a request for removal of Mr Vidhaan.

82. In May 2022, Mr. Vidur a highly renowned IAS officer was accused by Ms. Vidhi, a You Tuber of taking bribe amounting to Rs. 50 Crore. The claim was based on no evidence and Mr. Vidur filed a case for defamation against Ms. Vidhi for the same. Pursuant to the Youtube video, the Central Government removed Vidur without conducting an inquiry and without giving any reasons for his removal stating it to be an issue of integrity with which no compromise is possible. Mr. Vidur challenged the same before the court. Will Mr. Vidur succeed?

- (a) No, because the Central Government has strong reasons to remove Mr. Vidur.
 (b) Yes, because the manner in which Mr. Vidur was removed is unconstitutional.
 (c) Yes, because no one takes YouTubers seriously.
 (d) No, because the accusation made by the YouTube was serious and the government had to act swiftly to save the reputation of IAS Officers.

83. Mr Vidhata is an IAS officer who has been serving in the state of Madhya Pradesh. He is being sought to be empanelled by the Central Government under the AIS Act, 1951. However, the State of Madhya Pradesh has refused to give consent for the said empanelment. If the proposed amendment is brought into force, which of the following would be the correct position?

- (a) Central government will be required to issue a request for initiating empanelment under Section 311(2).
 (b) Central government will be required to fulfil the requirements of rule 6(1) of the 1954 Rules.
 (c) Central government can undertake the empanelment without the approval of the state government.
 (d) Central government can undertake the empanelment after issue of notice to the state government.

84. Which of the following can be inferred from the above-mentioned passage?

- (a) Centripetal Federalism is a constitutional principle relevant to the appointment of government officers.
 (b) Department of Personnel and Training is an institution which comes under the control of Central Government.
 (c) Power to remove Civil servants is prescribed in the Constitution of India.
 (d) All of the above.

Section D-Logical Reasoning

PASSAGE - XVII

Admirers of the Bihar chief minister argue that Nitish Kumar has set the cat among the pigeons with his decision to publish the findings of a caste survey in his state. The overwhelming motive, as has been discussed widely, is political. Mr Kumar is part of an Opposition alliance that believes that deeper inroads into the rainbow constituency of the other backward classes would be possible by staying on the path of a national caste census. The Bharatiya Janata Party, too, senses the danger. Its electoral pyramid, based on fusing diverse caste identities into the overarching Hindutva fold, could tumble in the face of the publication of inconvenient truths about caste and welfarism. But does this 'national' demand of a caste census have equal purchase in all states? Bengal, in this instance, provides an interesting case study. The principal political contenders in the state have remained remarkably muted when it comes to pressing for a similar exercise in Bengal. The Trinamul Congress appears to be non-committal on the issue: a caste census has the potential of introducing social realignments that may not necessarily translate into political dividends. The BJP, understandably, is opposed to a caste census, fearing that it would alienate its traditional upper caste support base. Bengal's Left parties, a diminished political force, remain disproportionately obsessed with class.

There is, of course, an enduring assumption that unlike in India's heartland, caste politics would not fetch dividends in Bengal. This is a faulty presumption, given the changing ground realities in the state. The rise of identitarian movements, the waning of the Left as a political force and inequitable development have led to the resurrection of a caste-based political consciousness. The evidence lies in spirited demands, be it in Darjeeling or in the stretches of Jungle Mahal that seek development and deprivation through the prism of identity. It appears that Bengal's political parties are yet to find a way of combating these emerging fault lines. The space ceded by mainstream political outfits has, at the moment, been occupied by social organisations. Recently, at a meeting of such outfits — it had a dab of political representation — it was decided to press for the cause of a caste census given the evidence of deprivation among those on the margins. It would be interesting to see how Bengal's major political parties respond to the demand if it manages to gather steam.

Source: See no evil, The Telegraph Online, October 18, 2023

85. Which of the following is the author most likely to agree with?

- (a) The BJP is in favor of a caste census as it would strengthen its electoral pyramid.
 (b) Bengal's Left parties are primarily focused on caste-based politics.
 (c) A caste census in Bihar is primarily motivated by political considerations.
 (d) The Trinamul Congress is actively pushing for a caste census in Bengal.

86. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the author's arguments?

- (a) The Trinamul Congress has recently started a campaign advocating for a caste census.
 (b) The BJP has publicly announced its support for a caste census.
 (c) Bengal's Left parties have shifted their focus to caste-based politics.
 (d) Social organizations have no influence on the political landscape in Bengal.

87. Why would the author have remarked that Bengal provides an interesting case study?
- Because Bengal's political parties are vocally advocating for a caste census.
 - Because the principal political contenders in Bengal have been tight-lipped on the issue of a caste census.
 - Because Bengal has already successfully implemented a caste census.
 - Because the Trinamul Congress is leading a campaign against a caste census.
88. Which of the following would support the author's conclusion that a caste-based political consciousness is resurging in Bengal?
- The Trinamul Congress has started focusing on class-based politics.
 - The BJP has decided to abandon its Hindutva fold strategy in Bengal.
 - Spirited demands in regions like Darjeeling and Jungle Mahal seek development and deprivation through the prism of identity.
 - Social organizations have decided to focus on economic issues rather than caste-based issues.
89. How does the author suggest mainstream political outfits in Bengal are responding to emerging fault lines in the state?
- By actively pushing for a caste census to address social realignments.
 - By ceding space to social organizations that are pressing for a caste census.
 - By focusing on economic development rather than identity-based politics.
 - By forming alliances with social organizations to strengthen their political base.
90. Which of the following can be an implicit assumption in the passage?
- Caste politics will not affect the election outcomes.
 - All the states are equally affected by caste politics.
 - Increased caste based consciousness will have an effect on the election results.
 - None of the above

PASSAGE - XVIII

The Supreme Court's recent ruling against same-sex marriage has stunned many, given its seemingly progressive stance. Historically, the court has often been conservative, lagging behind societal shifts. However, its ability to self-correct offers hope for the LGBTQ community. The possibility of a future bench revisiting this decision has been hinted at by the court's recent handling of an arbitration law case, *N.N. Global Mercantile (P) Ltd. vs Indo Unique Flame Ltd and Ors.* This case, concerning the necessity of stamping an arbitration agreement, saw a three-judge bench's decision overturned by a five-judge bench. The rapid escalation of this case to a seven-judge bench, bypassing the traditional review process, was unprecedented. Especially when compared to other significant cases awaiting a seven-judge bench's attention, some pending for decades. This suggests that the final word on marriage equality might still be pending.

The court's deviation from standard procedure in the *NN Global* case could set a precedent for intra-court appeals, allowing cases to be revisited by differently-composed benches. This challenges the court's image of finality and authority. Historically, the Indian judicial system has been criticized for its prolonged processes, allowing litigants multiple opportunities for appeal. This recent decision might add another layer to the process, further delaying final judgments. For marriage equality advocates, this could be a silver lining. The Supreme Court's decisions can be unpredictable, influenced by more than just legal arguments. While hope remains, the unpredictability of the court's decisions underscores the importance of not solely relying on having a strong legal case.

Source: Silver lining, The Telegraph Online, October 18, 2023

91. Which of the following would support the author's conclusion that the final word on marriage equality might still be pending?
- The Supreme Court has a history of never revisiting its decisions.
 - The *NN Global* case was handled in a traditional manner without any unprecedented actions.
 - The *NN Global* case saw a rapid escalation to a seven-judge bench, bypassing the traditional review process.
 - The Indian judicial system is known for its swift and final judgments.
92. Based on the author's arguments, which of the following must necessarily be true?
- The Supreme Court's decisions are solely based on legal arguments.
 - The *NN Global* case will have no impact on future intra-court appeals.
 - The unpredictability of the court's decisions highlights the need for not solely relying on a strong legal case.
 - The Indian judicial system is efficient and quick in delivering final judgments.

93. How does the author suggest the recent decision in the NN Global case might impact the Indian judicial system?
- It could make the judicial system more efficient by reducing the number of appeals.
 - It could add another layer to the process, further delaying final judgments.
 - It reinforces the court's image of finality and authority.
 - It will make the court's decisions more predictable in the future.
94. Which of the following is a correct expression of the author's opinion, as stated in the passage?
- The Supreme Court's conservative history makes it unlikely to revisit the decision on same-sex marriage.
 - The NN Global case has no relevance to the issue of marriage equality.
 - The Supreme Court's ability to self-correct offers hope for the LGBTQ community.
 - The Indian judicial system is efficient in delivering judgments, making it unlikely for the same-sex marriage decision to be revisited.
95. Why would the author have remarked that the court's deviation from standard procedure in the NN Global case could be a silver lining for marriage equality advocates?
- Because it shows the court is willing to revisit its own decisions.
 - Because it proves that the court's decisions are solely based on legal arguments.
 - Because it indicates that the Indian judicial system is becoming more efficient.
 - Because it reinforces the court's image of finality and authority.
96. Which of the following can be an assumption of the author in his argument regarding the decision in the LGBTQ case of same sex marriage. ?
- The court relies only on the strength of the legal case.
 - The same sex marriage case will take more time than required.
 - The SC's first decision taken is taken as the final one that leaves no room for reconsideration.
 - The self-corrective stance of the Supreme Court indicates a possibility of the LGBTQ decision being escalated to a seven-judge bench.

PASSAGE - XIX

There is a hue and cry in India that the Muslim population in India may outnumber the current Hindu majority before long. The fanatic Hindus point out that Islam, unlike the Hinduism, allows polygamy. As such, a Muslim household is likely to have more siblings than a Hindu. The BJP wants to enforce a uniform Civil Code that outlaws polygamy. Not all the projections about the phenomenal growth of the Muslim population may be correct. Above all, the Muslim population in India has always been under-represented in the Lok Sabha. Few Research Center estimated that there were 195 million Muslims in 2015. By 2060, few estimate, there will be more Muslims in India than anywhere else in the world (outnumbering even Indonesia), and they will constitute 19% of Indians. Riaz Hassan, in his study Indian Muslim: Sociology of a religious Minority infers: The largest and most consequential change [in population] however will be in India. Its Hindu population will increase by 35 percent from 1.03 billion in 2010 to 1.38 billion in 2050, but Indian Muslim population will increase by 76 percent from 176 million to 310 million in the same period. This means that the largest increase in the Muslim population of South Asia will occur in India. India will acquire a new global status in terms of the religious composition of its population. Not only will it be the largest Hindu nation but also with a population of 310 million Muslims, India will become the largest Muslim nation in the world. While Hindus will remain the majority population at 77 percent, the proportion of Muslims will increase from 14 percent of the population in 2011 to 18 percent in 2050. This means that nearly one out of every five Indians will be a Muslim. Unlike the Christians who have their chief minister in Christian majority Indian state, The Indian Muslims have no chief minister. Even the Indian held Kashmir state has been illegally converted into a centrally controlled Union territory. Indian Muslims live in all parts of the country, but more than half of them live in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, west Bengal, and Kashmir. Indian Constitution and successive governments failed to ensure physical security to the Muslim minority (as also other minorities). Since Partition, over 40,000 Muslim have been killed or injured in anti-Muslim riots. In recent Delhi riots, Muslim houses and shops were bulldozed despite a Supreme Court stay order. The helpless Muslim was later compelled to participate in a joint Hindu-Muslim Tiranga (Indian flag) march to show it was all hunky-dory with the law-and-order situation.

97. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage EXCEPT?

I. Muslim population will outgrow Hindu population in the world.

II. India will be more secular by 2050.

III. Uniform civil code prohibits a man from marrying more than one women at the same time.

(a) Only II (b) Both I and II (c) Only III (d) Both I and III

98. Which of the following would weaken the idea of the author?

(a) Muslim communities have faced discrimination in employment and education and have encountered barriers to achieving wealth and political power.

(b) Muslims were supported by BJP in a lot of instances and there is no problem among BJP leaders regarding the population of Muslims.

(c) India is a secular country and all have a right to practise their religions safely.

(d) All of the above

99. Consider the statement of the author in the passage "BJP wants to enforce a uniform Civil Code that outlaws polygamy." Which of the following can be the implied assumption of the author for the above mentioned statement in the context of the passage?

(a) Polygamy is an illegal activity.

(b) Polygamy is a weapon which could be a possible threat to Hindu in the country.

(c) No one before BJP has introduced UCC.

(d) Both (a) and (b).

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

(a) There is no Muslim presentation in the Lok Sabha.

(b) Majority of Muslims based people handles government organs.

(c) Population of Hindus in India in 2050 will be less as compared to Muslims in India.

(d) Population of Muslims in India will be maximum compared to other countries.

101. Which of the following strengthens the idea of the author?

(a) Polygamy practise will not help Muslims to outnumber Hindu population.

(b) Hindu and Muslim are the reason of most communal violence in India.

(c) Since Hindu majority party holds the government, they can put, further limits on Muslim rights.

(d) None of the above.

102. Which of the following is true as per the passage?

(a) It is rightly feared that the Muslim population in India may outnumber the current Hindu majority.

(b) Indian held Kashmir state has been legally been converted into a centrally controlled Union territory.

(c) Indian government has ensured physical security to the Muslim minority

(d) None of the above

PASSAGE - XX

The power of language in shaping social discourse is often underestimated. Take the realm of gender politics, for example, where the invention of new terms has had a transformative impact. In the 1990s, the term "grooming" replaced "seduction" in legal parlance, altering the way society viewed the exploitation of minors. Similarly, the term "revenge porn" coined in 2007, gave a name to a form of abuse that had long been dismissed or trivialized. These neologisms, often dismissed as trendy buzzwords, actually serve a critical function, especially when linked to activist movements. Consider "mansplaining," a term that emerged around 2008. The phenomenon it describes—women being condescendingly explained things by men—had existed for centuries. Yet, it was only after the term was coined that it gained traction as a feminist issue. The term shifted the debate, making it harder for detractors to dismiss the issue outright. Instead, they found themselves arguing about the scope of the term, tacitly acknowledging its existence.

Another example is the introduction of terms like "mental load" and "weaponized incompetence" into feminist discourse. These phrases have rekindled debates about the unequal distribution of household labor, even finding their way into legal discussions during divorce proceedings. The new terminology has the effect of making long-standing issues seem fresh and urgent, thereby attracting public attention and debate. But there's another, perhaps more subtle, impact of naming social phenomena. It provides victims with a form of dignity, empowering them to speak out. When an experience is named, it shifts from being an individual problem to a societal one. This structural framing encourages collective action, as was the case when the term "discrimination" began to be applied to the treatment of women in the late 1960s.

The women's movement itself offers a case study in the power of terminology. Initially, the term "male chauvinism" was used to describe gender-based oppression but was quickly caricatured by the media. The movement then adopted the term "sexism" in 1968, drawing a parallel with the already recognized evil of "racism." This choice of terminology lent the feminist cause a level of seriousness and dignity that it had previously lacked, propelling it into mainstream discourse.

Source: Body-shaming, revenge porn, sexism: The Guardian, October 29, 2023

103. How does the author suggest that new terminology impacts societal issues?

- (a) New terms make issues appear trendy but ultimately trivialize them.
- (b) New terminology shifts individual problems to societal ones, encouraging collective action.
- (c) New terms are coined by the media to caricature social movements.
- (d) New terminology makes long-standing issues appear outdated and irrelevant.

104. Which of the following would support the author's conclusion that new terms can empower victims to speak out?

- (a) The invention of the term "cyberbullying" led to a decrease in online harassment cases.
- (b) The term "mansplaining" gained traction as a feminist issue after it was coined.
- (c) The term "weaponized incompetence" has been criticized for being too vague.
- (d) The phrase "mental load" has been largely ignored in legal discussions during divorce proceedings.

105. Which of the following is the author most likely to agree with regarding the role of terminology in activist movements?

- (a) Terminology is primarily a tool for media manipulation.
- (b) The invention of new terms often serves as a distraction from the real issues.
- (c) New terms can lend a level of seriousness and dignity to social causes.
- (d) Activist movements should avoid coining new terms to maintain their credibility.

106. Based on the author's arguments, which of the following must necessarily be true?

- (a) All new terms coined by activist movements are immediately accepted by society.
- (b) The media always caricatures terms related to social issues.
- (c) The introduction of new terms can rekindle debates about long-standing issues.
- (d) The coining of new terms has no impact on legal discussions.

107. As per the passage, which one of the following is a direct consequence of naming a social phenomenon?

- (a) It becomes easier for detractors to dismiss the issue.
- (b) It shifts the issue from being an individual problem to a societal one.
- (c) It leads to immediate legal reforms.
- (d) It makes the issue less urgent in the public eye.

108. Which of the following aligns to the author's opinion?

- (a) The invention of new terms is just a way of attracting attention of the evil already existing in society.
- (b) The old social phenomena lacked attention so the new words made them stronger.
- (c) The renaming of the existing social phenomena regarding the gender biasness provided a breath of fresh air and dignity to the victims, thus inviting renewed interest.
- (d) All of the above

Section E-Quantitative Techniques

PASSAGE - XXI

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

Three friends - Vidhi, Vidhan, and Vidyut - share an apartment and split the rent equally. Their income, expenditure, and savings are as follows:

- Vidhi, Vidhan, and Vidyut's monthly income ratio is 6:7:4, respectively.
- Vidyut's monthly income is Rs.8000 less than Vidhi's monthly income.
- Vidhan's monthly food expenditure is Rs.1000 more than Vidhi's monthly food expenditure and Rs.1000 less than Vidyut's monthly food expenditure.
- The total monthly expenditure on food by all three friends is Rs.7000 less than Vidyut's monthly income.
- The total rent for the apartment is five times Vidhan's expenditure on food.
- After spending on food and rent, they save the remaining income.

- 109.** The monthly expenditure of Vidhan on food and rent together is what percent of his monthly income?
 (a) 14.28% (b) 42.85% (c) 28.57% (d) 57.14%
- 110.** What is the approximate average of monthly savings of all three friends together?(in Rs)
 (a) 15666.66 (b) 14666.66 (c) 16666.66 (d) 17666.66
- 111.** Find the respective ratio of monthly food expenditure of Vidhi and monthly food expenditure of Vidhan?
 (a) 2:3 (b) 3:2 (c) 1:4 (d) 4:1
- 112.** If the monthly income of Vidyut is increased by 25% and his expenditure on food and rent also increased by 20%, then find the percent changes in his savings?
 (a) 45.45% (b) 16.66% (c) 22.22% (d) 31.42%

PASSAGE - XXII

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

There are four boats, A, B, C, and D, which travel in different rivers P, Q, R and S respectively. Each boat has different speeds, also the speed of the stream in different rivers is different. Here are the details of the boats:

- Boat A can travel 210 km downstream in 10 hours and 108 km upstream in 12 hours.
- Boat B can travel 180 km downstream in 9 hours and 70 km upstream in 7 hours.
- Boat C can travel 112 km downstream in 8 hours and 128 km upstream in 16 hours.
- Boat D can travel 85 km downstream in 5 hours and 78 km upstream in 6 hours.

- 113.** What is the sum of the speed of all boats in still water together?
 (a) 56 km/hr (b) 65 km/hr (c) 54 km/hr (d) 58 km/hr
- 114.** The speed of boat B and C in upstream together is approximately how much percent more or less than the speed of boat A and D in downstream?
 (a) 40% (b) 12.5% (c) 50% (d) 25%
- 115.** Find the average of speed of streams of all rivers?
 (a) 6 km/hr (b) 2 km/hr (c) 3 km/hr (d) 4 km/hr
- 116.** What is the respective ratio of speed of boat B in downstream and speed of boat C in upstream?
 (a) 2:5 (b) 5:2 (c) 1:6 (d) 6:1

PASSAGE - XXIII

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

In a colony, there are four popular types of cold drinks: Coca-Cola, Thumbs-up, Sprite, and Pepsi. Out of 1200 people who like Coca-Cola, 20% of them are females and rest are males. The number of people who like Thumbs-up is 25% more than those who like Coca-Cola. For Thumbs-up, the ratio of males to females is 3:2. The number of people who like Sprite is 25% less than those who like Coca-Cola. For Sprite, one-third of them are male and remaining are females. The number of people who like Pepsi is the average of the number of people who like Coca-Cola and Thumbs-up. In Pepsi, the number of males is 50% of females.

Note: Each person likes only one drink.

- 117.** What is the average number of females who like cold drinks?
 (a) 858 (b) 585 (c) 558 (d) 885
- 118.** The number of males who like Sprite and Pepsi together is how much percent more or less than the number of males who like Thumbs-up?
 (a) 33.33% (b) 20% (c) 66.66% (d) 16.66%
- 119.** Find the respective ratio of the number of females who like Coca-Cola and Sprite together and the number of females who like Thumbs-up and Pepsi together?
 (a) 14:25 (b) 25:14 (c) 15:26 (d) 26:15
- 120.** What is the difference between the number of persons who like Coca-Cola and the number of male who like Pepsi?
 (a) 550 (b) 650 (c) 750 (d) 850

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The concepts discussed in class as well as mocks, really helped with strengthening my fundamentals. I was in constant touch with my mentors, who helped me a lot with my strategy & gave mocks earnestly.

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