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**Saksham Agrawal**

1 year Vidhigya Offline  
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**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**

A commonly prescribed rheumatoid arthritis drug may suppress the progression of type 1 diabetes, according to a study published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

The researchers at St Vincent's Institute of Medical Research (SVI) in Melbourne found that the drug called baricitinib can safely and effectively preserve the body's own insulin production and suppress the progression of type 1 diabetes in people who initiated treatment within 100 days of diagnosis.

Type 1 diabetes is a chronic condition in which the pancreas produces little or no insulin. It typically appears in adolescence. The disease can also occur in children and adolescents depending on how many B-cells of the pancreas are non-functioning. "When type 1 diabetes is first diagnosed there is a substantial number of insulin-producing cells still present. We wanted to see whether we could protect further destruction of these cells by the immune system," said SVI's Professor Thomas Kay. "We showed that baricitinib is safe and effective at slowing the progression of type 1 diabetes in people who have been recently diagnosed," Kay said. The findings show promise as the first disease-modifying treatment of its kind for type 1 diabetes that can be delivered as a tablet, the researchers said. "It is tremendously exciting for us to be the first group anywhere in the world to test the efficacy of baricitinib as a potential type 1 diabetes treatment," said Kay. "Up until now, people with type 1 diabetes have been reliant on insulin delivered via injection or infusion pump. Our trial showed that, if started early enough after diagnosis, and while the participants remained on the medication, their production of insulin was maintained," the researcher said.

The randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled human trial of the drug baricitinib monitored the blood glucose and insulin production of 91 participants over the course of one year. Of these, 60 were given baricitinib and 31 were given a placebo. All trial participants were aged between 10 years and 30 years and started on the trial within 100 days of having been diagnosed with type 1 diabetes.

The study shows that people with type 1 diabetes in the trial who were given the drug required significantly less insulin for treatment. Management of the lifelong autoimmune disease is incredibly burdensome on those diagnosed and their families, requiring meticulous glucose monitoring and insulin administration day and night to stay alive, the researchers said. "We are very optimistic that this treatment will become clinically available. This would be a huge step-change in how type 1 diabetes is managed and we believe it shows promise as a fundamental improvement in the ability to control type 1 diabetes," said Professor Helen Thomas, preclinical lead on the trial.

**1.** What is the main finding of the study regarding the rheumatoid arthritis drug, baricitinib, and its impact on type 1 diabetes?

- (a) Baricitinib has hardly any effect on the progression of type 1 diabetes.
- (b) The drug Baricitinib can effectively reverse type 1 diabetes in people who have been recently diagnosed.
- (c) Baricitinib can safely preserve insulin production and suppress progression of type 1 diabetes in recently diagnosed individuals.
- (d) The study concluded that Baricitinib is not a suitable treatment for type 1 diabetes.

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

- (a) Baricitinib, may suppress the progression of type 1 diabetes.
- (b) The study conducted by the St Vincent Institute of Medical Research aimed at knowing whether further destruction of cells could be protected.
- (c) Individuals diagnosed with type 1 diabetes who were given Baricitinib required significantly more insulin for treatment.
- (d) Baricitinib could serve as a potential disease-modifying treatment for type 1 diabetes.

**3.** Which of the following statements is best supported by the information in the passage?

- (a) The study of Baricitinib involved teenagers too as participants.
- (b) Baricitinib is the only drug tested for potential type 1 diabetes treatment in the world.
- (c) The St Vincent Institute of Medical Research conducted a trial involving 200 participants.
- (d) The primary management of type 1 diabetes currently relies on oral medications.

**4.** What is the primary objective of the study conducted by the Medical institute as discussed in the passage?

- (a) To investigate the impact of baricitinib rheumatoid arthritis.
- (b) To explore the potential use of baricitinib as a treatment for type 2 diabetes.
- (c) To assess the safety and effectiveness of baricitinib in preserving insulin production and suppressing the progression of type 1 diabetes.
- (d) To compare the glucose and insulin levels in individuals with type 1 diabetes who were given baricitinib and those who received placebo.

5. What can be inferred about the success of the study on baricitinib and type 1 diabetes from the passage?
- The study demonstrated that baricitinib is ineffective in preserving insulin production.
  - The research team observed adverse effects of baricitinib on glucose levels in participants.
  - Baricitinib showed promise as a potential disease-modifying treatment for type-1 diabetes when administered early after diagnosis.
  - The study failed to monitor blood-glucose and insulin production in the participants effectively.
6. Which of the following best expresses the view of Prof. Helen Thomas?
- The treatment will be beneficial to the masses but is a bit delayed.
  - The treatment will not be very effective on type 1 diabetes but the medication will be cost effective.
  - This treatment will be late in the availability but the wait will be worth it.
  - The treatment can be a game-changer in managing and curing type 1 diabetes.

### PASSAGE II

The newspaper did not say much. People all over the country must have glanced at the paragraph with its sensational heading and felt a little spurt of anger mingled with what was almost satisfaction, as if some belief had been confirmed, as if something had happened which could only have been expected. When natives steal, murder, or rape, that is the feeling white people have.

And then they turned the page to something else.

But the people in the 'district' who knew the Turners, either by sight or from gossiping about them for so many years, did not turn the page so quickly. Many must have snipped out the paragraph, put it among old letters or between the pages of a book, keeping it perhaps as an omen or a warning, glancing at the yellowing piece of paper with closed, secretive faces. For they did not discuss the murder; that was the most extraordinary thing about it. It was as if they had a sixth sense which told them everything there was to be known, although the three people in a position to explain the facts said nothing. The murder was simply not discussed. 'A bad business,' someone would remark; and the faces of the people roundabout would put on that reserved and guarded look. 'A very bad business,' came the reply – and that was the end of it. There was, it seemed, a tacit agreement that the Turner case should not be given undue publicity by gossip. Yet it was a farming district, where those isolated white families met only very occasionally, hungry for contact with their own kind, to talk and discuss and pull to pieces, all speaking at once, making the most of an hour or so's companionship before returning to their farms, where they saw only their own faces and the faces of their black servants for weeks on end. Normally that murder would have been discussed for months; people would have been positively grateful for something to talk about.

To an outsider it would seem perhaps as if the energetic Charlie Slatter had travelled from farm to farm over the district telling people to keep quiet; but that was something that would never have occurred to him. The steps he took (and he made not one mistake) were taken apparently instinctively and without conscious planning. The most interesting thing about the whole affair was this silent, unconscious agreement. Every-one behaved like a flock of birds who communicate – or so it seems – by means of a kind of telepathy.

Long before the murder marked them out, people spoke of the Turners in the hard, careless voices reserved for misfits, outlaws, and the self-exiled. The Turners were disliked, though few of their neighbours had ever met them, or even seen them in the distance. Yet what was there to dislike? They simply 'kept themselves to themselves'; that was all. They were never seen at district dances, or fêtes, or gymkhanas. They must have had something to be ashamed of; that was the feeling. It was not right to seclude themselves like that; it was a slap in the face of everyone else; what had they got to be so stuck-up about? What, indeed! Living the way they did! That little box of a house – it was forgivable as a temporary dwelling, but not to live in permanently. Why, some natives (though not many, thank heavens) had houses as good; and it would give them a bad impression to see white people living in such a way.

Source : Excerpt from *The Grass is Singing* by Doris Lessing Copyright © 1950 Doris Lessing

7. As discussed in the passage, why did the people in the district refrain from openly discussing the Turner Murder?
- The energetic Charlie Slatter advised them to keep quiet.
  - There was an unconscious agreement among the community members to avoid gossip.
  - The turners were not well-liked in the community.
  - The people in the district had a sixth sense that made discussing the murder unnecessary.
8. What was the prevailing sentiment towards the Turners in the district before the murder?
- The Turners were highly respected and admired.
  - The community had a strong liking for the Turners.
  - The Turners were disliked, with a sense of mistrust among the community.
  - The community was indifferent towards the Turners.



9. Which of the following is true about the Turners, before the murder, based on the passage?
- (a) The Turners were actively involved in social events and gatherings.  
 (b) The community had a positive impression of the Turners' secluded lifestyle.  
 (c) The Turners were seen as self-exiled and kept to themselves, avoiding community activities.  
 (d) The community admired the Turners for their temporary dwelling choices.
10. Which term best describes the community's reaction to the Turner murder in terms of communication and discussion?
- (a) Volatile. (b) Taciturn. (c) Jubilant. (d) Garrulous.
11. In the passage, what figurative language is used to describe the community's behaviour regarding the Turner murder?
- (a) Simile. (b) Metaphor. (c) Personification. (d) Hyperbole.
12. What does the author consider as the silence being the most interesting part of the affair?
- (a) Turner's silence on the case hearing.  
 (b) Telepathy of the people during the case hearing.  
 (c) Telepathy between people of the city after the murder.  
 (d) People ignoring the case because of Turners.

### PASSAGE III

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is expected to maintain the status quo on policy rates for the fourth consecutive time in its October 4-6 review meeting. The incremental information available since its last meeting in August suggests that growth and inflation prints for the second quarter (Q2) of financial year 2023-24 (FY24) will exceed the committee's projections.

However, the Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation is expected to moderate in the second half (H2) of FY24. Moreover, we are apprehensive that gross domestic product (GDP) growth will undershoot the MPC's forecast for H2FY24 by 100 basis points (bps), and believe that policy tightening is not warranted at the current juncture.

The surge in the headline CPI inflation has expectedly proved to be transient. The print had cooled off to 6.8 per cent in August 2023 from the 15-month high of 7.4 per cent in July. It is expected to dip further to 5.5 per cent in September, once the full impact of the crash in tomato prices is factored in the CPI computation. This implies an average CPI inflation reading of 6.6 per cent for Q2FY24, exceeding the MPC's estimate by an unpalatable 40 bps. However, the overshooting is not expected to spillover to the MPC's CPI inflation projections for Q3 and Q4 FY24, which marginally exceed our own estimates.

Additionally, core inflation has eased over the past seven months, touching a 22-month low of 5.1 per cent in August 2023, offering some comfort to the committee. However, the risks posed by the uneven and sub-par monsoon and the recent spike in crude oil prices would infuse hawkishness in the MPC's commentary.

The GDP growth print for Q1FY24, at 7.8 per cent, only marginally trailed the MPC's estimate of 8 per cent for that quarter. Encouragingly, high frequency indicators suggest that the momentum in economic activity has remained strong during Q2FY24 amid robust construction activity and healthy domestic demand. ICRA projects India's GDP growth at 7.0 per cent in Q2FY24, higher than the MPC's estimate of 6.5 per cent for that quarter.

Thereafter, the pace of GDP growth is expected to dip in H2FY24 vis-à-vis H1. In addition to the dissipation of the favourable base, the impact of below-normal monsoons on agriculture output and the rural economy, lagged effects of monetary tightening, narrowing differentials in commodity prices with year-ago levels, continued weakness in external demand and a potential slowdown in the Government's capital spending ahead of the 2024 General Elections, pose a multitude of headwinds.

The MPC's CPI projection of 5.2 per cent for Q1FY25 implies a forward-looking real policy rate of 1.3 per cent; we believe that a higher real rate is not warranted at the current juncture. Consequently, we expect the MPC to keep policy rates unchanged later this week, while sounding cautious on the inflation front amid the continued focus on achieving the 4 per cent inflation target.

Systemic liquidity tightened significantly in the second half of September 2023, largely driven by advance tax outflows. This situation is unlikely to sustain, particularly with the substantial amount impounded under the I-CRR set to return to the banking system later this week. We expect the MPC to retain the policy stance, given the concerns around excess liquidity highlighted by the Committee members in the August 2023 minutes.

13. According to the author what can be inferred from the overall CPI for the Financial Year 24?
- (a) The CPI is going to exceed the committee's projections.  
 (b) The CPI will be perpetual at the end of the FY24.  
 (c) The CPI is expected to be transitory towards the second half of the FY24.  
 (d) The average CPI is expected to exceed MPC's estimates.

14. Which of the following can create hindrance in the estimation of MPC on the CPI?
- The momentum in economic activity.
  - The fluctuations in CPI expectations in second half of the year.
  - Recent rise in crude oil prices.
  - The crash in tomato prices.
15. What was the impact of below-normal monsoons on agriculture output and the rural economy?
- Monetary tightening.
  - Narrowing differentials in commodity Prices with year-ago level.
  - Weakness in external demand
  - Both (a) and (b)
16. Which of the following implies the forward looking policy rate?
- India's GDP growth at 7.0 percent in Q2FY24.
  - MPC's CPI projection of 5.2 percent for Q1FY25.
  - MPC's forecast for H2FY24 by 100 basis points.
  - GDP growth print for Q1FY24 at 7.8 Percent.
17. The passage can be best described as:
- Critical and Optimistic.
  - Argumentative and Informative.
  - Factual and Analytical.
  - Descriptive and Narrative.
18. Which of the following is true about the systemic liquidity tightening according to the passage?
- The tightening of the systemic liquidity is not likely to sustain because of the returning of I-CRR in banking system.
  - The tightening of systemic liquidity will only be sustained when MPC retains the policy stance.
  - The tightening of systemic liquidity will definitely be sustained with the substantial return to the banking system.
  - The tightening of the systemic liquidity must be restrained for the status-quo.

#### PASSAGE IV

The usually divided European Union has agreed to a new migration policy that could fundamentally transform the bloc's approach to asylum-seekers and other irregular migrants. While the policy speaks of the rights of those seeking asylum, its central focus appears to be on reducing the numbers of those who can enter Europe. Similarly, while it speaks of solidarity within the EU, it effectively puts in place a mechanism whereby each member state can follow its own refugee policy. In that, the new policy reflects the further fraying of the post-World War II global consensus on protecting refugees at a time when multiple conflicts, civil wars, economic crises and climate change are combining to force millions of innocent people to flee their homes at record levels. According to the United Nations, the world has 114 million displaced people — an unprecedented figure.

The EU has for years battled internal divisions over how many asylum-seekers each member state should accept. Several eastern European nations, in particular, have traditionally been hesitant to take in people who enter the bloc through southern nations like Italy or Greece. Under the new policy, European Union countries will not be required to take in asylum-seekers who enter another European nation first. They can choose to do so, or can contribute to a fund aimed at supporting countries that receive the highest numbers of asylum-seekers. But the new plan also makes it clear that the funding for countries receiving refugees is not primarily to help desperate people arriving at Europe's shores to potentially build new lives. Instead, it is to help countries in building detention centres and increase capacity for processing asylum applications. The policy also does not replace a series of controversial deals the EU has with other nations and non-State actors — from Turkey to Libyan militias — to outsource Brussels' immigration challenge by getting others to either host asylum-seekers or stop them from reaching European shores. These non-EU nations get cash in exchange.

As human rights groups have pointed out, the new policy could, in fact, increase the hurdles asylum-seekers will need to cross to settle in Europe while contradicting the bloc's fundamental premise of relatively free movement compared to other parts of the world. If each nation can put in place its own sets of rules under the new policy, it could institute a web of regulations for vulnerable migrants that is even more complex than the current system. While each nation is entitled to decide whom to let in, this approach erodes the sanctity of the common, global understanding of the rights of refugees laid down under international law. Those rights are also under attack in major democracies, from the United States of America to India. Such barriers to entry often end up forcing the most desperate people to adopt even more dangerous routes without making any nation safer. Human smugglers, border security firms and cynical politicians are the beneficiaries. Humanity loses.

19. According to the passage, what was the primary purpose of the new migration policy?
- The new policy will help the asylum-seekers and irregular immigrants in getting their rights.
  - The new policy caters to those who need shelter and those who are seeking asylum.
  - The new policy targets on contracting the migration into Europe.
  - The new policy agrees to transform the bloc's approach to asylum-seekers and other migrants.

20. Based on the information given in the passage, how will the new policy plan help the countries receiving the refugees?

- (a) It will provide funds for the refugees to have a peaceful life in Europe.
- (b) It will provide support to the countries to help build asylums for the seekers.
- (c) It will provide funds to the countries for the expansion of asylum application processes.
- (d) It will provide funds to these countries to distribute in the non-EU nations.

21. What can be inferred by the remark passed by the human rights groups towards the new policy?

- (a) They supported the new policy with the view of the rights of refugees.
- (b) They were indifferent to the change in the policy as it would not help the immigrants.
- (c) They criticized the new policy as it would create more confusions in future of the vulnerable immigrants.
- (d) They believed that the new policy is creating conundrum with the bloc's fundamental premise.

22. Which of the following were not certain to enter and seek shelter in the eastern European countries?

- (a) Immigrants from Brussels.
- (b) Immigrants entering through Turkey or Libya.
- (c) Immigrants entering through Greece.
- (d) Asylum-seekers who enters the European shores.

23. What is the role of non-European Union in the immigration process?

- (a) They clear the path of asylum-seekers to settle in European shores.
- (b) They provide transport to the European Union for the illegal crossing of border in exchange of money.
- (c) They deal with European Union to stop the immigrants to step out of the European shores.
- (d) They deal with European Union to prevent the immigrants from settling in the European shores.

24. What among the following best explains the last sentence of the passage?

- (a) Asylum-seekers are seeking shelters but failing to find one because of the national security.
- (b) Security system of the nation should be strong enough to not let asylum-seekers or the migrants let in.
- (c) Giving the shelter to asylum-seekers is a threat to humanity as they can't be trusted with security.
- (d) Not letting migrants in the nation is more dangerous as they may find wrong ways in leading to some illegal routes.

### Section B-Current Affairs with GK

#### PASSAGE V

The latest assessment report from Satark Nagrik Sangathan (SNS) sheds light on the concerning lack of diversity within India's information commissions, as highlighted in the 'Report Card on the Performance of Information Commissions in India, 2022-23'. Against the backdrop of growing apprehensions regarding the autonomy and efficacy of oversight institutions in the nation, these report cards serve as a crucial tool for scrutinizing the operations of information commissions established under the RTI Act. The overarching goal of such assessments is to monitor and enhance the performance of these commissions, ultimately fortifying the implementation of the RTI law. Given the widespread utilization of the RTI mechanism by vulnerable and marginalized communities to access fundamental rights and entitlements, the significance of bolstering its effectiveness cannot be overstated. This ongoing monitoring initiative aims to foster continuous improvement in the functioning of information commissions nationwide, thereby reinforcing the RTI framework and ensuring its responsiveness to the needs of all citizens.

25. Which of the following statements about Satark Nagrik Sangathan (SNS) or Society for Citizens Vigilance Initiatives (SCVI) is true?

- (a) It is affiliated with a political party.
- (b) It was established to support a specific political agenda.
- (c) It aims to empower people to fight corruption and arbitrary exercise of power.
- (d) It primarily focuses on promoting partisan interests.

26. How many information commissions across India were included in the analysis for the report?

- (a) 15
- (b) 20
- (c) 25
- (d) 29

27. What percentage of Information Commissions have been headed by women?

- (a) 5%
- (b) 9%
- (c) 12%
- (d) 41%

28. How many Information Commissioners (IC) can be appointed by the President in the Central Information Commission?

- (a) Up to 5
- (b) Up to 10
- (c) Up to 15
- (d) Up to 20

29. What is the age limit for the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and Information Commissioners (IC) to hold office?

- (a) 60 years
- (b) 65 years
- (c) 70 years
- (d) 75 years

#### PASSAGE VI

The failure of higher-income countries to meet the deadline for nominating their board members for the emerging loss and damage fund has raised concerns regarding potential delays in the fund's efforts to aid communities grappling with the adverse impacts of climate change. The complete operationalization of a sufficiently funded Loss and Damage Fund



is deemed critical, with far-reaching implications for millions of individuals worldwide confronting the dire consequences of global warming, including but not limited to droughts, floods, rising sea levels, ocean acidification, desertification, and the erosion of livelihoods. Ann Harrison, climate justice advisor at Amnesty International, underscored the urgency of this matter, emphasizing its potential to affect the lives of millions in existential ways. Notably, last year, developed nations advocated for the World Bank to host the fund, citing potential advantages in expediting its operationalization. Subsequently, developing nations have acceded to the arrangement but have stipulated a series of conditions that must be met by the World Bank. Compliance with these conditions necessitates rigorous oversight by the board, including periodic assessments. However, any reluctance or failure on the part of the World Bank to adhere to these terms could engender further delays in the fund's establishment. In the event of such contingencies, the board may be compelled to explore alternative avenues, potentially transforming the Loss and Damage Fund into an independent entity. However, this course of action entails its own set of complexities and uncertainties, potentially prolonging the timeline for operationalization and exacerbating concerns regarding the fund's efficacy.

**30.** When was the loss and damage fund first announced?

- (a) COP25 in Madrid, Spain (b) COP26 in Glasgow, United Kingdom  
 (c) COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt (d) COP28 in Paris, France

**31.** The loss and damage fund refer to the compensation that rich nations, whose industrial growth has resulted in global warming and driven the planet into a climate crisis. What percentage of emissions are accounted for by the US, the UK, and the EU?

- (a) 25% (b) 50%  
 (c) 65% (d) 75%

**32.** What is the primary goal of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)?

- (a) To promote sustainable development  
 (b) To reduce atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases  
 (c) To conserve biodiversity  
 (d) To address water pollution

**33.** What is the Conference of the Parties (COP) according to Article 7.2 of the Convention?

- (a) A subsidiary body of the Convention  
 (b) A scientific research institution  
 (c) The highest decision-making authority of the Convention  
 (d) A non-governmental organization

**34.** The UNFCCC entered into force on 21st March 1994. It is parent treaty of-

- (a) Kyoto Protocol (b) Paris Agreement 2015  
 (c) Both a and b (d) Neither a nor b

#### PASSAGE VII

The recent Rajya Sabha elections in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, and Karnataka have reignited discussions surrounding the integrity of the electoral process, particularly due to reported instances of cross-voting by Members of Legislative Assemblies (MLAs). The electoral proceedings, which occurred on February 27, witnessed heightened scrutiny and speculation amidst allegations of cross-voting, casting a shadow over the democratic sanctity of the elections. Across these three states, a total of 15 seats were contested, with Uttar Pradesh accounting for 10 seats, Karnataka for four, and Himachal Pradesh for one. Notably, the candidates for the remaining 41 seats in other states were elected unopposed, underscoring the localized nature of the contested seats and the significance of these particular state elections in shaping the composition of the Rajya Sabha. Of profound concern is the occurrence of cross-voting. This practice raises questions about the transparency and fairness of the electoral process. Such occurrences, especially across multiple states simultaneously, prompt a critical examination of the mechanisms in place to safeguard the democratic essence of elections. Adding complexity to the situation is the political landscape of the states involved. While Uttar Pradesh is currently governed by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh are under the administration of the Congress party. The presence of cross-voting in states governed by different political entities underscores the bipartisan nature of the issue and its potential implications for political alliances and power dynamics at both state and national levels. The reported incidences of cross-voting have sparked widespread apprehension among political parties and leaders, underscoring the need for robust oversight and vigilance to ensure the integrity of the electoral process. Amidst evolving narratives and allegations, the imperative for thorough investigation and accountability mechanisms becomes increasingly apparent, reflecting the imperative to uphold the democratic principles upon which the electoral system is predicated.

35. What does cross-voting in elections refer to?

- (a) Members of a political party voting according to party directives
- (b) Members of a political party voting against party directives or candidate preferences
- (c) Members of different political parties forming coalitions
- (d) Members of a political party abstaining from voting

36. In which year was an amendment made to the Representation of the People Act, 1951 to address cross-voting in Rajya Sabha elections?

- (a) 1951
- (b) 1963
- (c) 2003
- (d) 2013

37. In which schedule of the Constitution is the allocation of seats in the Rajya Sabha to the states and Union Territories addressed?

- (a) Schedule I
- (b) Schedule II
- (c) Schedule III
- (d) Schedule IV

38. Consider the following statements and determine which of the statement/s is/are true-

Statement 1: The provisions of the Tenth Schedule, regarding voting against the instruction of the party, are applicable for Rajya Sabha elections.

Statement 2: Political parties cannot issue any 'whip' to its members for such elections.

Which statement is true?

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

39. How many members of the Rajya Sabha are directly nominated by the President?

- (a) 10
- (b) 11
- (c) 12
- (d) 15

#### PASSAGE VIII

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's participation in the World Government Summit in [1] as a distinguished Guest of Honour underscored his profound insights into the evolving landscape of governance. In his keynote address, Prime Minister Modi elucidated India's progressive reforms, epitomized by the ethos of "Minimum Government, Maximum Governance." He delineated India's pioneering endeavours in leveraging digital technologies to propel societal welfare, foster inclusivity, and bolster sustainability, advocating for a human-centric paradigm in governance. Furthermore, Prime Minister Modi accentuated India's unwavering commitment to fostering a participatory framework, elucidating strategies focused on last-mile delivery and the empowerment of women, essential components for nurturing an inclusive society. Recognizing the interconnectedness of nations, Prime Minister Modi championed the imperative for governments to synergize efforts, exchanging best practices and insights to navigate forthcoming challenges effectively. Drawing from India's pivotal role as the chair of the G-20 in the preceding year, Prime Minister Modi highlighted the nation's leadership in amplifying the voices of the Global South, bringing developmental imperatives to the forefront of global deliberations. This narrative underscored India's dedication to elevating the concerns of developing nations onto the international stage. The World Government Summit, in its multifaceted agenda, explores the nexus between innovation, technology, and governance, charting a trajectory for addressing global challenges and advancing the collective welfare of humanity. Prime Minister Modi's address not only illuminated India's transformative journey but also resonated with the summit's overarching objective of harnessing innovation and technology as catalysts for positive change on a global scale.

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

- (a) Dubai
- (b) Sharjah
- (c) Abu Dhabi
- (d) Ras Al- Khaimah

41. When was the World Government Summit first established?

- (a) 2010
- (b) 2013
- (c) 2015
- (d) 2018

42. Which of the following countries was NOT named as a Guest of Honour at the World Government Summit 2024?

- (a) India
- (b) Denmark
- (c) Türkiye
- (d) Qatar

43. Which project won the 9th GovTech Prize at World Government Summit 2024?

- (a) iRASTE (Intelligent Solutions for Road Safety through Technology and Engineering)
- (b) iRISK (Integrated Road Infrastructure for Safer Knowledge)
- (c) iROADS (Intelligent Road Assessment and Design Safety System)
- (d) iSAFE (Intelligent Solutions for Advanced Road Safety Enhancement)

44. Where was the pilot project of the project that won 9th GovTech Prize at World Government Summit 2024 implemented in 2022?

- (a) New Delhi, India
- (b) Mumbai, Maharashtra
- (c) Nagpur, Maharashtra
- (d) Bangalore, Karnataka

#### PASSAGE IX

On March 4, Prime Minister Narendra Modi presided over the commencement of the core-loading process of the indigenous prototype fast breeder reactor (PFBR). The PFBR project in India has been marred by significant setbacks, including delays, cost escalations, and unfulfilled assurances, prompting widespread criticism. In a 2020 paper, former IGCAR scientist R.D. Kale highlighted various challenges encountered in operationalizing this system. Notably, Kale

pointed out discrepancies between projected and actual performance, such as the prolonged preheating of the reactor vessel, which exceeded initial estimations by over a year. The Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) underscored the criticality of advancing India's nuclear power program to achieve the dual objectives of energy security and sustainable development. Emphasizing India's commitment to the peaceful utilization of nuclear technology, both in power generation and other sectors, the DAE reiterated its dedication to ensuring the safety and security of nuclear and radiological materials.

**45.** What significant event marked India's entry into the nuclear age?

- (a) Commissioning of the Tarapur Atomic Power Station
- (b) Establishment of the Atomic Energy Commission
- (c) Operation of the first Pressurized Heavy Water Reactor
- (d) Signing of the Indo-US Nuclear Deal

**46.** Who developed the Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR)?

- (a) BARC (Bhabha Atomic Research Centre)
- (b) NPCIL (Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited)
- (c) BHAVINI (Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited)
- (d) DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation)

**47.** Which material is the focus of development in Stage 2 of India's nuclear power program?

- (a) Plutonium-239
- (b) Uranium-233
- (c) Thorium
- (d) Deuterium

**48.** What is the common nickname associated with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)?

- (a) "Atoms for Humanity"
- (b) "Peacekeeping Boom"
- (c) "Atoms for Peace and Development"
- (d) "Environmental Stewardship Alliance"

#### PASSAGE X

The recent exoneration of former Delhi University professor G.N. Saibaba and five others from charges of having Maoist links has brought into sharp focus the issue of invoking stringent laws based solely on perceived associations or sympathies with extremist groups. Their acquittal by the Bombay High Court underscores the importance of upholding procedural safeguards against the severity of laws such as the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. This case sheds light on the challenges of denying bail under laws that permit prolonged imprisonment on shaky or insufficient evidence. Five of the accused were detained in 2013 and remained incarcerated, with one tragically passing away during the lengthy legal process. Mr. Saibaba himself was arrested in 2014. The trial court's conviction of the six individuals, with varying sentences including life imprisonment, further underscores the gravity of the situation. Notably, the case took a controversial turn when the Supreme Court swiftly intervened to stay their discharge by the High Court in 2022. The High Court had ruled that the prosecution's sanction under UAPA was invalid, leading to their discharge. However, the Supreme Court's expeditious action, convening on a Saturday morning no less, raised eyebrows. The apex court directed the High Court to revisit the case on its merits, prompting widespread scrutiny of the judicial process. Overall, this case serves as a stark reminder of the importance of upholding legal safeguards and ensuring that justice is served fairly and transparently, particularly in cases where fundamental rights and liberties are at stake.

**49.** When was the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) first enacted?

- (a) 1977
- (b) 1967
- (c) 1987
- (d) 1997

**50.** What is the maximum duration for which suspects can be detained without charge or trial under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA)?

- (a) 90 days
- (b) 120 days
- (c) 180 days
- (d) 365 days

**51.** Before the 2019 amendment in Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), who or what could be designated as 'terrorist organizations' under the UAPA?

- (a) Only individuals
- (b) Only organizations
- (c) Both individuals and organizations
- (d) None of the above

**52.** Before the 2019 amendment, what was the minimum rank required for officers to conduct investigations under the UAPA?

- (a) Superintendent of Police
- (b) Deputy Superintendent or Assistant Commissioner of Police
- (c) Inspector or above
- (d) Sub-Inspector



**Section C-Legal Reasoning**
**PASSAGE XI**

Recently, the Supreme Court observed that mere claim of innocence or undertaking to participate in the trial or contention of absence of specific allegation of any overt act cannot, be assigned as reasons for grant of bail in a case of offence of a serious nature. The Court observed that in such circumstances, impugned order deserves to be set aside and the matter is liable to be remanded to the High Court for fresh consideration in accordance with law.

Section 436 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (CrPC) provides in what cases bail can be taken. As per the Section, when any person other than a person accused of a non-bailable offence is arrested or detained without warrant by an officer-in-charge of a police station, or appears or is brought before a Court, and is prepared at any time while in the custody of such officer or at any stage of the proceeding before such Court to give bail, such person shall be released on bail: Provided that such officer or Court, if he or it thinks fit, may, and shall, if such person is indigent and is unable to furnish surety, instead of taking bail from such person, discharge him on his executing a bond without sureties for his appearance.

Where a person has failed to comply with the conditions of the bail-bond, the Court may refuse to release him on bail, when on a subsequent occasion in the same case he appears before the Court or is brought in custody.

Relevant principles to consider while deciding whether to grant an application for bail are laid down in the case of Prasanta Kumar Sarkar v. Ashis Chatterjee. These are (i) whether there is any prima facie or reasonable ground to believe that the accused had committed the offence; (ii) nature and gravity of the accusation; (iii) severity of the punishment in the event of conviction; (iv) danger of the accused absconding or fleeing, if released on bail; (v) character, behaviour, influential position and standing of the accused; (vi) likelihood of the offence being repeated; (vii) reasonable apprehension of the witnesses being influenced; and (viii) danger, of course, of justice being thwarted by grant of bail.'

In a separate case, the Supreme Court has held that "when a Court concludes that the accused is entitled to be enlarged on bail pending trial, granting bail only for a limited duration is illegal. Such orders violate the right to liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution of India. Moreover, it puts an additional burden on the litigant as he is forced to file a fresh bail application for an extension of the bail granted earlier."

**Source:** Extracted (with edits and revisions) from excerpts from an article titled 'Mere claim of innocence or undertaking to participate in trial not sufficient reasons to grant bail in serious offences: Supreme Court' published in LiveLaw.

**53.** Vidhan, a 30 year old Software Engineer, is living with his wife and a 3 year old daughter in Pune. He lost his job during Covid-19, and exhausted all his savings during lockdown. Unable to maintain his family, he decided to steal money from his neighbour's house. But he was caught in the act by the neighbour. Vidhan, in order to escape with the money, voluntarily hurts his neighbour with a knife that was kept at the table. He was later arrested by police and was charged for robbery, a serious non-bailable offense. He applies for bail in Court claiming that he merely wanted to commit theft and had no intention to hurt the neighbour and is ready to participate in the trial process. In the light of the passage, decide whether Vidhan can be granted bail under Section 436 of CrPC?

- (a) No, as Vidhan will not be able to furnish sureties as he is indigent.
- (b) No, as the nature of the offense makes him ineligible to get bail under this provision.
- (c) Yes, as he had no intention to hurt his neighbour and merely wanted to steal money to sustain his family.
- (d) Yes, as he is ready to participate in the trial process and there is no danger of him absconding or fleeing, if released on bail.

**54.** In the previous question, assume that a fact is substituted. Vidhan goes to his neighbour's house, shows him a gun, and asks him to deliver money. The neighbour, in consequence, surrenders all his money. Later, Vidhan was arrested and charged with the same offense. What effect would this substituted fact have on Vidhan's chances to obtain bail under Section 436 of CrPC?

- (a) The introduction of this additional fact would weaken Vidhan's chances to obtain bail.
- (b) The introduction of this additional fact would weaken Vidhan's chances to obtain bail as it shows that he had the intention to cause robbery.
- (c) The introduction of this additional fact would have no effect on Vidhan's chances to obtain bail.
- (d) The introduction of this additional fact would strengthen Vidhan's chances to obtain bail.

**55.** Vishal was accused of committing a bailable offense of Kidnapping. He applies for a bail. Which of the following facts would be relevant in determining whether he shall be granted bail or not?

- (i) That the footage of CCTV camera shows that Vishal forcibly dragged the victim inside his Omni van.
  - (ii) That the offense of kidnapping is punishable with an imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.
  - (iii) That Vishal was previously granted bail in another case and during the bail period, he absconded.
  - (iv) That Vishal is the sole bread winner of his family, and his family is not able to make the ends meet in his absence.
- (a) (i), (ii) and (iv) only      (b) (i), (ii) and (iii) only      (c) (i), (iii) and (iv) only      (d) (ii), (iii) and (iv) only

56. Vidhi, a 50 year old, was charged for a bailable offense of Mischief, which is punishable with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three months, or with fine, or with both. This was the first time she has committed an offense. She filed a bail application in the Trial Court under Section 436 of CrPC. The Trial Court, after considering all the relevant factors reached to a conclusion that she is entitled to bail and consequently granted her bail for 1 month. Determine whether the act of the Court is in consonance of the legal principles established in the passage?

- (a) Yes, as the Court has granted her bail for 1 month considering all the relevant factors.
- (b) Yes, as the Court has granted her bail as there is no prima facie evidence against her.
- (c) No, as a limited duration bail is illegal and violates right to liberty.
- (d) No, since she is a first time offender and is 50 years old, she must be acquitted.

57. Vidhyut, a habitual offender from Indore, has been arrested for voluntarily causing hurt to a person, a bailable offense under section 323 of IPC. He was subsequently granted bail by the Court under Section 436 of CrPC. One of the conditions of his bail-bond was that he should not leave Indore, without the permission of the magistrate. While on bail, he received the news that her mother, who resides in Bhopal, is severely ill. He immediately rushed to Bhopal to see her mother. He also asked his friend to take permission from Magistrate on his behalf. When he returned after a month and appeared in Court, the Court refused to release him on bail. In the light of the passage, decide whether the Court can refuse to release him on bail?

- (a) No, as he left Indore in case of emergency.
- (b) No, as he asked his friend to request permission from Magistrate on his behalf.
- (c) Yes, as he is a habitual offender and there is a possibility that he will repeat the offense if released on bail.
- (d) Yes, as he failed to comply with the conditions of the bail-bond.

### PASSAGE XII

During the hearing of the case concerning the minority status of the Aligarh Muslim University, the Supreme Court asked if the 'minority tag' was important for the University, since it has been existing as an institute of national importance for over a hundred years. A seven judge bench was dealing with a challenge to a 2006 decision of the Allahabad High Court which held that though AMU was established by a minority community, it was never administered or claimed to be administered by the minority community and thus cannot be considered as a minority institution.

Article 29(1) of the Constitution safeguards the rights of minority communities and states that "any section of the citizens residing in the territory of India or any part thereof having a distinct language, script or culture of its own" has the right to conserve it. It gives the right to every Indian citizen to maintain their culture and its related avenues. Article 30 discusses the right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions. This right is given to minorities to form and govern their own educational institutions. As per Article 30(1) of the Constitution: all minorities, whether religious or linguistic have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice. Article 30(2) of the Constitution states that "the State shall not, when granting aid to educational institutions, discriminate against any educational institution on the ground that it is under the management of a minority, whether based on religion or language." The rights under Article 30 are only available to Indian Citizens, irrespective of their residential status.

Minorities' educational institutions in India are of the following kinds:

Educational institutions that seek approval, recognition, and aid from the state government where they have established their institution; Educational institutions that seek only approval and recognition from the state government; and Educational institutions that seek neither recognition nor aid from the state government.

The administration of these institutions is also done in a varied manner. The educational institutions that seek recognition, aid, or both from the state government are subject to minimal state interference. These institutions have to follow the directions the state government gives in this regard on matters like manner and standard of academics, syllabus, and employment of teachers in these institutions, sanitation standards to be maintained, and other rules and regulations.

On the contrary, the educational institutions that do not seek recognition or aid from the state government are free to make their own rules, regulations, and standards of administration without any government interference. They are, however, subject to the reasonable standards and restrictions put in place by the states.

The religious minorities of India for the purpose of Central Legislation comprise Muslims, Christians, Buddhists, Jains, Sikhs, and others. Linguistic minorities are those people who speak and whose mother tongue is different from those of the majority group of that state. In *T.M.A. Pai Foundation and Ors. v. State of Karnataka and Ors. (2002)*, the Supreme Court recited guidelines on Article 29 and Article 30 of the Constitution. The Court clarified that the determination of religious minorities and linguistic minorities for the purpose of State is to be done state-wise, not nationally.

**Source:** Extracted (with edits and revisions) from an article titled "AMU Continued as Institution of National Importance, Why Minority Status Important? Supreme Court Asks" published at LiveLaw.

**58.** Vidhan was an excellent academician and administrator in Indore, Madhya Pradesh. During his academic career, he faced constant threats from the members of his religion for his unique academic practices. Fed up of such threats from a religious majority, he gave it all up for a life of meditation and moved to Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. There he established Vidhigyaland educational society to propagate and practice his ideals, beliefs and education. It attracted members from various regions speaking multiple languages. These languages are spoken widely within the State. When he passed away, many problems such as mismanagement of the project and misuse of the funds cropped up which made it impossible for the society's functioning and growth. Due to this, the government of Madhya Pradesh took management of educational society in their own hands through an Executive Order. The members of the society challenged the constitutional validity of the Order and seek protection under Article 30. In the light of the passage, decide whether followers of Vidhigyaland educational society can seek protection under Article 30?

- (a) No, as the order in no way curtailed their right or prevented any of them from conserving its own language, script or culture.
- (b) No, as members of Vidhigyaland society are not eligible to seek protection under Article 30.
- (c) Yes, as the order discriminates against the Vidhigyaland society when granting aid.
- (d) Yes, as the order prevents Vidhigyaland Society from preserving their distinct language and culture.

**59.** In the previous question, assume that an additional fact is provided. Vidhigyaland Educational Society neither had recognition from the government, nor received any aid from them. What will be the impact of additional fact on protection on members of Vidhigyaland Educational Society under Article 30?

- (a) The additional fact would enable members to seek protection under Article 30 as minority educational institutes not recognized by government are free to make their own rules, regulations, and standards of administration.
- (b) The additional fact would restrict members from seeking protection under Article 30 as the Vidhigyaland Educational Society is not recognised by the government.
- (c) The additional fact would enable members to seek protection under Article 30 as their right to establish educational institution of their choice has been curtailed.
- (d) The additional fact will have no impact on members seeking protection under Article 30 as they are not eligible to seek protection under it.

**60.** The Hindu citizens of Pakistan, who formed the minority, were facing persecution at the hands of majority community. They started migrating to India to seek refuge. Looking at their plight, Indian government permitted them to reside in India. They spoke a distinct language and had their own traditions and culture. Holi, a distinct festival which involved use of water and colours, was a part of their culture. Recently, the government placed restriction on celebratory festival of Holi by the community, citing water shortage. Vanika, a member of the community challenged the government's decision in the Supreme Court, citing that it violates Article 29. In light of the passage, determine whether the restriction placed by government on celebration of Holi violates Article 29 of the Constitution?

- (a) No, as there is reasonable ground to impose such restriction in the interest of public.
- (b) Yes, as celebrating Holi is a part of culture of the community which resides India.
- (c) Yes, as article 29 provides the right to protect distinct culture and language to communities.
- (d) No, as the community is not eligible to seek right under Article 29 of the Constitution.

**61.** In the previous question, assume that an additional fact is provided. The community wants to establish an educational institution. They claim that they have the right to establish minority educational institution of their choice, provided to them under Article 30 of the Constitution. In the light of the passage, is the claim of the community valid?

- (a) Yes, as they have a distinct culture and language, they can establish and administer educational institution of their choice under Article 30.
- (b) No, as they are not eligible to claim the rights under Article 30 of the Constitution.
- (c) Yes, as a linguistic minority they can establish and administer educational institution of their choice under Article 30.
- (d) No, as they have migrated from Pakistan, they shall not be given extraordinary rights.

**62.** Which of the following statement(s) cannot be derived from the passage?

- (i) The educational institutions that seek recognition or aid from the state government are free to make their own rules on all subjects.
  - (ii) The educational institutions that do not seek recognition or aid, from the state government are subject to high degree of state interference.
  - (iii) State government cannot impose reasonable standards and restrictions on educational institutes not seeking recognition or aid.
- (a) (i) and (ii) only
  - (b) (ii) and (iii) only
  - (c) (i) and (iii) only
  - (d) (i), (ii) and (iii)



63. If the State makes regulation to provide reasonable standards of education for the minority educational institutions in India, then which of the following is correct:

- (a) Only the state aided and recognised minority educational institutions have to comply with such regulations.
- (b) Such a regulation will have to be followed by all the minority educational institutions in India.
- (c) Such a regulation is against the freedom provided to minority educational institutions in India under article 30.
- (d) Such a regulation will be declared unconstitutional to the extent it deals with minority educational institution not seeking aid or recognition.

### PASSAGE XIII

The Supreme Court upheld an application under Section 319 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973 filed against the police officials accused of corruption. This Section talks about the power to proceed against other persons appearing guilty of such an offence for which the accused is prosecuted. It deals with additional prosecution. As per this section, if during the trial it appears to the court that a person who has not been joined as accused in the case, has committed the offence, then such a person can be tried together with the accused. Section 319 CrPC cannot be exercised in a casual and cavalier manner. It should be exercised only when strong and cogent evidence occurs against a person. The Section emphasizes the principle of double jeopardy which has been enshrined in Article 20(2) the Constitution. The Supreme Court reiterated in *Manjeet Singh v. State of Haryana, 2021* that once the accused has been acquitted by the court, he cannot be summoned as an additional accused.

Even if the complaint has been dismissed under Section 203 CrPC after the inquiry is completed, it does not bar the court from initiating the proceedings under Section 319. The power under Section 319 of CrPC is an extraordinary power that is conferred on the court, and it is exercised at the discretion of the judge. It can be exercised either *suo moto* or upon application by any person including the accused.

S.319 (1) lays down essentials that need to be satisfied to attract this section –

(1) There must be a trial or inquiry of an offence. Section 319(1) makes it mandatory for the courts to exercise their power only during the trial or inquiry of an offence. Section 319(1) gives the court the power to proceed against such a person not being the accused, whom it thinks, from the evidence gathered during the course of inquiry or trial, to have committed the offence.

(2) Court must be satisfied by the evidence presented that any person other than the accused has committed such an offence. In a recent Supreme Court case of *Sugreev Kumar v. State of Punjab & Ors (2019)*, a judgment authored by Justice Dinesh Maheshwari for himself and Justice Abhay Manohar Sapre, unequivocally reiterated that to add a person as additional accused under Section 319 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, stronger evidence is required than mere probability of complicity of that person.

(3) Such a person has to be tried together with the accused. He must be tried with the accused simultaneously but according to Section 319 (4)(a), the proceedings against him have to be started *de novo* (from the beginning) and the witnesses have to be examined again.

Only after satisfying the above three conditions, a new accused can be added to the trial.

**Source:** Extracted (with edits and revisions) from an article titled “S.319 CrPC | Supreme Court Affirms Summon Orders against Police Officials Accused of Corruption; Finds Prima Facie Case.” published at LiveLaw.

64. Vishal and Vikas made a plan to rob the bank. It was decided that Vishal will stay outside while Vikas will go inside the bank and execute the robbery. While Vikas was collecting money, the guard nabbed him and handed him over to the police. However, Vishal managed to escape unnoticed. Subsequently, police arrested Vikas and charged him for the offense of Robbery. During the trial of Vikas, the video footage of the evidence emerged which showed that both Vishal and Vikas came to bank from the same vehicle and Vishal was seen keeping an eye outside the bank when Vikas was inside. The Court decided to prosecute Vishal along with Vikas, though he was not made the accused in the case initially. In the light of the passage, choose the most appropriate option.

- (a) Vishal can be tried along with Vikas because he was part of the plan.
- (b) Vishal cannot be tried along with Vikas as no such application has been filed by any person or the accused.
- (c) Vishal can be tried along with Vikas under section 319 as there is strong and cogent evidence against him.
- (d) Vishal cannot be tried along with Vikas. A fresh trial must be initiated against him and all witnesses must be re-examined.

65. In the previous question, assume that an additional fact is introduced. Police, during its investigation found links which pointed towards Vishal being involved in the case. But due to lack of evidence, they did not make him the co-accused in the chargesheet. The video evidence appeared later during the trial. What will be the impact of additional fact on Court's decision to prosecute Vishal along with Vikas?

- (a) The introduction of this additional fact would now enable the Court to prosecute Vishal along with Vikas.
- (b) The introduction of this additional fact would prevent the Court from prosecuting Vishal along with Vikas.
- (c) The introduction of this additional fact would have no impact on Courts' decision to prosecute Vishal along with Vikas.
- (d) The introduction of this additional fact would prevent the Court from prosecuting Vishal along with Vikas as he has been acquitted by the police.

66. Vidhi was charged with an offense of murder. She was subsequently tried in Trial Court and the Court found her guilty of the offense and she was awarded death sentence. After her conviction, Vidhi's sister presented a new evidence to the police, which strongly suggests that that Vidhya might also have been involved in the murder. She also approached the Court praying that Vidhya shall be tried under Section 319 of the CrPC. In the light of the passage, decide whether the Court can try Vidhya under Section 319 of CrPC?

- (a) Yes, as Section 319 provides power to Court to proceed against other persons appearing guilty of such an offence for which the accused is prosecuted.
- (b) Yes, a strong evidence emerged which strongly suggests that that Vidhya might have been involved in the murder.
- (c) No, as section 319 is not applicable in this scenario.
- (d) No, as it would violate the principle of double jeopardy as Vidhi has already been punished for it.

67. Vinita, who is an accused in case of theft, makes an application in Court that her friend Vanika shall also be tried along with her as she was also a part of the plan. She also provides certain evidences to strengthen her argument. The Court, after considering her application and evidence, rejects Vinita's application and decides not to prosecute Vanika along with Vinita. In the light of the passage, decide whether the Court can reject Vinita's application?

- (a) No, as Vinita provided a strong evidence which suggest that Vanika shall be tried together with Vinita.
- (b) Yes, as Vinita's evidence was not strong enough to suggest that Vanika shall be tried together with Vinita.
- (c) No, as Section 319 imposes a duty on Court to try any person along with the accused if any evidence appears in the court suggesting that the person is guilty of the committing the offense.
- (d) Yes, as the power under Section 319 of CrPC is exercised at the discretion of the judge.

68. Based on the passage, decide:

Assertion (A): The Courts can prosecute any person other than the accused if any evidence appears which suggests that there is a mere probability that such person is complicit.

Reason (R): Section 319 of CrPC gives the power to Courts to proceed against other persons appearing guilty of such an offence for which the accused is prosecuted.

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

#### PASSAGE XIV

*Leges posteriores priores contrarias abrogant*, is a legal maxim which means that the statute which has been enacted at a later stage shall have prevalence over the earlier one. This maxim is applicable in case of conflict between two legislations. However, in recent times a new approach has been adopted which suggests that attempts shall be made towards harmonising the functioning of both the legislations in conflict.

However, this new approach holds importance only for the present discussion as the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 (PWDV Act) seems to be overpowering the Senior Citizens Act, 2007 (Act of 2007).

Section 3 of the Act of 2007 states that the provisions contained within the said Act shall have effect regardless of any conflict found in any other legislation. Under Section 2(h) of the Act of 2007, a senior citizen means any person being a citizen of India, who has attained the age of sixty years or above.

Section 4 of the Act of 2007 provides for Maintenance of parents and senior citizens. The Section reads as-

- (1) A senior citizen including parent who is unable to maintain himself from his own earning or out of the property owned by him, shall be entitled to make an application under section 5 in case of
  - (i) Parent or grand-parent, against one or more of his children not being a minor;
  - (ii) A childless senior citizen, against such of his relative referred to in clause (g) of section 2.
- (2) The obligation of such children or relative, is to maintain a senior citizen in such a manner that such citizen may lead a normal life.

Section 7 of the Act of 2007 provides for creation of tribunals for or adjudicating claims arising within the Act. It is important to highlight that such tribunals can pass orders for eviction of children or relatives to implement the provisions of the Senior Citizen Act.

Section 19 of the PWDV Act provides the power to magistrate to pass residence orders. The section reads as—  
While disposing of an application filed for obtaining relief under section 12(1), the Magistrate may, on being satisfied that domestic violence has taken place, pass a residence order—

(a) Restraining the respondent from dispossessing or in any other manner disturbing the possession of the aggrieved woman from the shared household, whether or not the respondent has a legal or equitable interest in the shared household;

(b) Directing the respondent to remove himself from the shared household;

From the above provision, it is clear that there is a conflict between provisions of the Act of 2007 and PWDV Act. This conflict is with regards to eviction order passed under both these Act.

In **Smt. S. Vanitha v. The Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru Urban District & Ors.**, the Supreme court observed that the conflict between the two laws has to be untangled by way of a harmonious construction in such a sense that the competing claims are given due consideration. Additionally, the Court observed that it has to be duly ensured that all the competing and overlapping claims with respect to the remedy of eviction are duly adverted to. Also, the overriding effect of the Act of 2007 cannot be taken as to intentionally depriving an aggrieved woman from her shared household, as has been stipulated under the PWDV Act.

**Source:** Extracted (with edits and revision) from an article titled “Navigating the intersection of Senior Citizens Act 2007 and Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005” published in Bar and Bench.

**69.** The Parliament in 2022 passed a new law to protect children from fraudulent maintenance proceedings initiated under the Senior Citizens Act, 2007. The law was enacted to prevent misuse of the maintenance provisions given under the Act of 2007. The new law helps in effective implementation of the Act of 2007. A group of senior citizens filed a petition claiming that the new law is in conflict with the Act of 2007 as it prevents them from claiming maintenance. Accordingly, they claim that the Act of 2007 will have precedence over the said law in light of Section 3 of the Act of 2007. In the light of the passage, choose the most appropriate option.

(a) The claim by Senior Citizens is invalid as new law would prevail over the Act of 2007 due to it being passed at a later date.

(b) The claim by Senior Citizens is invalid as Section 3 is not applicable in the instant case.

(c) The claim by Senior Citizens is valid as it is the moral duty of children to maintain their parents.

(d) The claim by Senior Citizens is valid and the Act of 2007 will have precedence over the new law due to apparent conflict between the two laws.

**70.** Vidhan, files an application against Vidhika, her married daughter under Section 5 of Senior Citizen Act. He alleged that he is unable to maintain himself as he neither has any source of income, nor does he has any property. Further, he alleged that his only daughter, Vidhika does not provide any money to him so that he can sustain his life. In the light of the passage, decide whether Vidhan’s application would be accepted or rejected?

(a) Vidhan’s application would be rejected as application under Section 5 is not maintainable against married children.

(b) Vidhan’s application would be rejected as application under Section 5 is not maintainable against daughter.

(c) Vidhan’s application would be accepted as he is unable to maintain himself from his own earning or out of the property.

(d) Cannot be adequately determined.

**71.** Assuming the facts in the previous question, which of the following facts, if true, would strengthen Vidhan’s application.

(a) That Vidhan rented his house and receives a rent of Rs 5000 every month.

(b) That Vidhan’s medical expenses are Rs 3000 per month.

(c) That Vidhan’s age is 68 years and doctor has advised him not to work.

(d) That her daughter works in an MNC and earns a substantial salary.

**72.** Vanita filed an application under Section 12 of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 to obtain relief. Before the magistrate, she alleged that domestic violence has been committed on her by her in-laws and her husband. Further, she alleges that she was thrown out of the shared household where they resided. The allegation of domestic violence was proved by the presence of wounds on her body. The husband alleged that he threw her out of the house as she was not taking care of his parents. In the light of the passage, decide whether the Magistrate can pass the order of residence.

(a) No, as the provisions of Senior Citizens Act would prevail over Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act.

(b) Yes, as Section 19 of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 provides the power to magistrate to pass residence orders.



(c) No, as Vanita failed to take care of her in-laws and she has no moral right to stay in their home.

(d) Yes, as in case of allegations of domestic violence the Magistrate is bound to pass such order.

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

(i) The statute which has been enacted at a later stage must prevail over the earlier one in all cases.

(ii) The children or relatives have an obligation to maintain a senior citizen in such a manner that such citizen may lead a normal life.

(iii) Minor children do not have a legal obligation to maintain their parents.

(iv) Section 7 of the Senior citizens Act provides for creation of tribunals for or adjudicating claims arising within the PWDV Act.

(a) (ii), (iii) and (iv) only

(b) (i), (iii) and (iv) only

(c) (ii) and (iii) only

(d) All of the above.

#### PASSAGE XV

The Supreme Court has held that the hiring of motor vehicles/cranes from a contractor is a service and would not attract Sales Tax or Value Added Tax (VAT) assuming the transaction pertains to sale of goods. The Court clarified that transfer of right to use the goods not only includes possession but also control over goods by the user. If the control over the goods remains with the contractor during the hire period, then it cannot be termed as sale of goods and in such a case only service tax can be levied.

The State legislature is empowered to levy sales tax on the sale of goods if there was a sale within meaning of the Sale of Goods Act.

“A necessary ingredient of the sale of goods is the transfer of property in the goods-which are subject matter of sale—from the seller to the buyer. The essential ingredient of such a sale is handing over possession of the goods and transferring the property in the goods to the buyer”, the Bench opined.

The Supreme Court in *Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited & Anr. v. Union of India & Ors.*, has held that a transaction must have following features to constitute a transaction for transfer of right to use the goods: Goods available for delivery; Consensus ad idem (meeting of minds) as to the identity of the goods; Transferee to have legal right to use the goods and legal consequences of such use including permissions or licences; For the period during which the buyer has such legal right, it has to be to the exclusion of the seller; and after transferring right to use the goods, the owner cannot again transfer the same rights to others during the concerned period.

As per Section 2(1) of the Sale of Goods Act, 1930, the term ‘buyer’ is defined to include both a person who actually purchases the goods and a person who is almost willing to do so. Clause 2 defines the term ‘delivery’ to involve a transaction of a transfer of possession which is done voluntarily. Delivery can be actual or constructive.

Section 4(3) defines the sale and the agreement to sell. The contract of sale is known as a sale when the property in the products is transferred from the seller to the buyer under it, thereby transferring ownership from the seller to the buyer. A sale can also be called an executed contract of sale. However, a contract is referred to as an agreement to sell when the transfer of property in the goods is supposed to happen at a future date or is dependent on the fulfilment of a subsequent condition. An agreement to sell may also be called an executory contract of sale.

After a sale, if the purchaser does not pay for the items, the seller may file a lawsuit under Section 55 (suit for price) to recover the purchase price. When there is just an agreement to sell anything and the buyer refuses to take delivery of the goods and pay for them, the seller may only bring a claim for damages under Section 56 (damages for non-acceptance).

**Source:** Extracted (with edits and revisions) from an article titled “Hiring Of Motor Vehicle Or Cranes Is Not 'Sale Of Goods' If Control Over Equipment Is Retained By Contractor, VAT Can't Be Levied: Supreme Court” published in Live Law.

**74.** Vidhan Builders Pvt Ltd. hires truck-mounted hydraulic cranes and other vehicles to be used in construction process for 2 years from JCB Pvt Ltd. An appropriate contract was also drafted for such duration. It was agreed that JCB Pvt. Ltd. would provide crew members to operate the vehicles and the services and repair of the vehicle would be done as per the guidelines provided by them. The vehicles were duly delivered by JCB Pvt Ltd. and were used as per the conditions agreed. In the light of the passage, decide whether State legislature can impose sales tax on this transaction?

(a) Yes, as the transaction involved the transfer of the right to use vehicle.

(b) Yes, as the vehicles were used for 2 years as per the conditions agreed.

(c) No, as there was no transfer of possession of vehicles to Vidhan Builders Pvt Ltd.

(d) No, as there was no transfer of control over vehicles to Vidhan Builders Pvt Ltd.

75. Assuming the facts in the previous question, certain additional information is provided. The contract for hire between Vidhan Builders Pvt Ltd. and JCB Pvt Ltd provided that after the completion of 2 years contract, Vidhan Builders would be responsible for hiring crew workers and would have to incur expenses pertaining to service and repair of the vehicle. In light of the additional information, decide whether the State legislature can impose service tax on this transaction?

- (a) No, as there was no transfer of control over vehicles to Vidhan Builders Pvt Ltd.
- (b) Yes, as the transaction deals with transfer of possession to Vidhan Builders Pvt Ltd.
- (c) No, as the transaction did not involve transfer of possession to Vidhan Builders Pvt Ltd.
- (d) Yes, as there was transfer of control over vehicles to Vidhan Builders Pvt Ltd during the hire period.

76. Vidhi, a regular customer, visits a nearby shop owned by Vidhyut. She wanted to buy 100 bags of rice for organising a feast on her birthday. Due to unavailability of rice in such large quantity, Vidhyut agreed to sell her the desired product for Rs. 6000 after getting the stock. In the light of the passage, choose the most appropriate option.

- (a) There was a contract of sale as the goods will be transferred to Vidhi once the stock arrives.
- (b) There was a contract of sale as there is a certainty that the subsequent condition will be fulfilled.
- (c) There was no contract of sale as it involves a large quantity.
- (d) There was no contract of sale because there was no transfer of ownership of goods to Vidhi.

77. Assuming that in the previous question, an additional fact is added. Vidhi was not sure about whether Vidhyut will be able to deliver the goods on time. Therefore, she approached the wholesaler and purchased the goods. Surprisingly, Vidhyut arranged the stock and tried to deliver it to Vidhi. She refused to take the delivery as she has already purchased the goods. In the light of the passage, decide what is the best course of action Vidhyut can take against Vidhi?

- (a) Vidhyut can file a lawsuit to recover the purchase price from Vidhi.
- (b) Vidhyut can file a police complaint against Vidhi for breach of contract.
- (c) Vidhyut can request her to take the delivery and pay for it in instalments.
- (d) Vidhyut can file a lawsuit to claim damages from Vidhi.

78. Vidhika posts an advertisement in a newspaper for giving her car on hire basis. Viraj, who was looking to hire a second hand car, saw the advertisement, and went to Vidhika's home to see the car. She was not present at the house at that time, but she told Viraj to have a look at the car which is parked in her garage. Viraj saw that 2 cars were parked in the garage- a Mercedes and an Alto. Viraj liked the Mercedes and called Vidhika that he is ready to hire the car and readily paid the price. After few days, when Viraj received the delivery of car, he was shocked to see that instead of Mercedes, he has been delivered Alto. He called Vidhika, who informed him that the advertisement was for alto, and not for Mercedes. In the light of the passage, choose the most appropriate option.

- (a) There was a transfer of rights to use the goods as the car was delivered to him and the price has been paid.
- (b) There was a transfer of rights to use the goods as Viraj has the legal right to use the car.
- (c) There was no transfer of rights to use the goods as Viraj does not have exclusive rights to use the car.
- (d) There was no transfer of rights to use the goods as there was no Consensus ad idem.

#### PASSAGE XVI

Recently, the Supreme Court, came down heavily on the Gujarat government's additional chief secretary (home), police officials, and an additional chief magistrate over sending a businessman to police custody despite the apex court granting him anticipatory bail.

"This is a gross contempt of the court's order on the face of the record. How could he have been taken into custody? How could the investigating officer (IO) dare to seek the remand?" asked Justice Sandeep Mehta.

Businessman Tusharbhaj Rajnikantbhai Shah, a resident of Surat, has been accused in a cheating case. He was granted an interim anticipatory bail. According to Shah, he appeared before the police to support the investigation but was arrested. The police then moved a remand application before a local court resulting in his police custody for four days.

Justice Mehta was livid, noting that "the very filing of the (remand) application was contempt on the face of it" and called it "blatant illegal custody for four days!" Justice Gavai then added, "Let the Magistrate and the IO be inside for four days."

The Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 deals with the powers and the limitation of certain courts in punishing contempt of courts. The Act deals with Civil and Criminal contempt. "Civil contempt" means wilful disobedience to any judgment, decree, direction, order, writ or other process of a court or wilful breach of an undertaking given to a court. "Criminal contempt" means the publication (whether by words, spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representations, or otherwise) of any matter or the doing of any other act whatsoever which— (i) scandalises or tends to scandalise, or lowers or tends to lower the authority of, any court; or (ii) prejudices, or interferes or tends to interfere with, the due course of any judicial proceeding; or (iii) interferes or tends to interfere with, or obstructs or tends to obstruct, the administration of justice in any other manner.

Section 12 of the Act deals with punishment for contempt. The section reads- save as otherwise expressly provided in this Act or in any other law, a contempt of court may be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may

extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to two thousand rupees, or with both: Provided that the accused may be discharged or the punishment awarded may be remitted on apology being made to the satisfaction of the Court. An apology shall not be rejected merely on the ground that it is qualified or conditional if the accused makes it bona fide. In *Balwantbhai Somabhai v. Hiralal*, the Supreme Court held that “Bona fide” is an expression which has to be examined in the context of a given case. Factors such as behaviour of the contemnor and the remorse or regret on his part are relevant considerations which would weigh with the Court in deciding such an issue.

**Source:** Extracted (with edits and revisions) from excerpt from an article titled “SC Issues Contempt Notices to Gujarat Officials Over Police Custody of a Businessman” published at The Wire.

**79.** Vidhan is an owner of a school for special kids. Recently, one of the parents of the kids in his school complained that his child has been subject to bullying. Vidhan wants to take strict action against the kids indulging in such bullying. He found the kids guilty of bullying and imposed harsh punishment. The parents of these kids brought an action against Vidhan. Vidhan approached the Supreme Court and obtained anticipatory bail. While he was on bail, the Police authorities asked him to come to the police station for official formalities. The police asked Vidhan to stay in the police station even after the formalities were completed. Vidhan refused citing that he was already on bail. The police authorities filed for remand. Based on the passage, which of the following is correct?

- (a) The action of the police authorities is justified as Vidhan is refusing to cooperate.
- (b) The action of the police authorities is justified only if it's proved that their act does not scandalise or lower the court's authority.
- (c) The action of the police authorities is not justified as the act of filing remand amounts to contempt.
- (d) The action of the police authorities is not justified as the formalities have already been completed.

**80.** Due to increasing cases of road accidents in Delhi, the Supreme Court of India through its legal service committee started an awareness programme for the victims of the road accidents. During the programme, the victims were informed about the legal remedies they have. The Supreme Court itself was responsible for the entire process. The committee to implement such mandates of Supreme Court directed all the hospital to establish a legal aid cell, so that the victims can get immediate medical as well as legal relief. Recently, the committee noticed that some of the hospitals are deliberately not complying with the directions. This was brought to the Supreme Courts' notice. The Court initiated civil contempt proceedings against the hospital. Decide whether the action of the Court is correct?

- (a) The action is correct as legal service committee stands on an equal footing of the Supreme Court and therefore non-compliance with its directions amount to contempt.
- (b) The action is incorrect as violation of the directions of the legal service committee does not fall within Civil contempt.
- (c) The action is correct as the hospital are showing wilful disobedience to the process of the court.
- (d) The action is incorrect as non-compliance with awareness program is not covered under Civil Contempt.

**81.** The Supreme Court of India was hearing a matter between Vidhi and Vidhan. The matter was pertaining to grant of maintenance. The Court directed Vidhan to pay monthly maintenance of Rs.25k to Vidhi. Vidhan complied with the direction initially. However, he fell seriously ill and was in coma for around 4 months. Accordingly, he could not provide such maintenance to Vidhi for this period. Vidhi approached the court. The Court after being aware of such disregard of the directions and its reason, concluded that Vidhan has committed civil contempt. The Court is now determining the appropriate sentence. In light of the facts mentioned, which of the following is correct:

- (a) The Court shall impose simple imprisonment for a term of six months.
- (b) The Court shall impose fine of Rs. 2000.
- (c) The Court shall release Vidhan subject to apology being made to the satisfaction of the Court.
- (d) None of the above.

**82.** Vidyut is a popular businessman from Indore. He runs a news agency. Recently, his news agency decided to publish a series of articles targeting sitting judges of the Supreme Court. After the first few articles, contempt proceedings were started against Vidyut as according to the Court, these articles were scandalizing the Court. In the very first proceeding, Vidyut apologised before the Court. He stated that he only wanted to inform people about the judges of the Supreme Court. He had no intention to scandalise the Court. He also stated that in future he will try his best to ensure that his articles are in consonance with the law. The Court however rejected his apology as it was qualified in nature. The Court then sentenced Vidyut to six months simple imprisonment. Decide whether the decision of the Court is in compliance with the law?

- (a) Yes, scandalising the court amounts to contempt and then the individual has to be punished for six months imprisonment.
- (b) No, since the Court should not have rejected the apology given by Vidyut.
- (c) Yes, since imposition of six month imprisonment is valid under Section 12 of the Contempt of the Courts Act.
- (d) No, as depending on the circumstances six months imprisonment should not have been imposed.



**83.** In which of the following cases can the Court punish an individual for contempt?

- I. Person does a deliberate act in violation of undertaking given by him to the Court.
  - II. A publication made by an individual in defiance of the Courts' authority.
  - III. Speech made by an individual which tends to interfere with the due course of any judicial proceeding.
  - IV. An act by an individual which tends to interfere with the due administration of justice.
- (a) Only III                      (b) Only I                      (c) Both I & II                      (d) I, II, III & IV

**84.** If Parliament enacts a law to increase the punishment for contempt of court, then which of the following is correct:

- (a) Punishment for contempt under new law will be subject to punishment provided under Section 12 of the Contempt of Courts Act.
- (b) An individual guilty of contempt will be liable to such increased punishment provided under the new law.
- (c) Punishment under the new law cannot exceed simple imprisonment for Six months.
- (d) Punishment under the new law cannot exceed fine of two thousand rupees.

### Section D-Logical Reasoning

#### PASSAGE XVII

The Maharashtra Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar's ruling on the disqualification petitions filed by rival factions of the Shiv Sena demonstrates why the adjudicatory function under the anti-defection law should not be in the hands of Presiding Officers in the legislature. In a matter that many thought would decide the survival of the Eknath Shinde regime, the Speaker has ruled that there was no case to disqualify members of the Eknath Shinde faction, or 14 members in the Uddhav B. Thackeray (UBT) group. The ruling is based mainly on the finding that loyalists of Eknath Shinde, the Chief Minister now, constituted the 'real political party' when rival Shiv Sena factions emerged on June 21, 2022. Mr. Narwekar's verdict conveniently draws upon some aspects of the Supreme Court's final verdict of May 11, 2023, in which a Constitution Bench ruled that the Governor was wrong in asking the then Chief Minister, Uddhav Thackeray, to undergo a floor test and that the Speaker was wrong in recognising the Shinde faction's appointee as the party's whip. In contrast to the Court ruling, the Speaker has declared that Sunil Prabhu, an appointee of the UBT faction, 'ceased to be the duly authorised whip' from June 21, 2022, and that Bharat Gogawale of the Shinde group was "validly appointed" as the whip. As a result, Mr. Narwekar found no reason to sustain the charge that the Shinde loyalists violated any whip. He also ruled that there was no proof that the UBT group violated the other side's whip as no such whip was served on them.

The Uddhav Thackeray group may approach the Supreme Court again, possibly on the ground that the Speaker's ruling contradicts key conclusions of the Bench. While acknowledging the split in the Shiv Sena Legislature Party, the Court had said: "... no faction or group can argue that they constitute the original political party as a defence against disqualification on the ground of defection". The Speaker has also referred to the Shinde faction's "overwhelming majority" (37 out of 55 MLAs of the original party). On the other hand, the Court had observed that the percentage of members in each faction is irrelevant to the determination whether a defence to disqualification is made out. However, the Court had conceded that the Speaker may have to decide on which faction is the real party when adjudicating a question of defection. It favoured reliance on a version of the party constitution and leadership structure submitted to the Election Commission before rival groups emerged. It is these observations that the Speaker has utilised to determine which group is the real party. As long as defection disputes are in the hands of Speakers, and not any independent authority, political considerations will undoubtedly cast a shadow on such rulings.

**85.** What underlying assumption must be accepted for the Speaker's ruling to be consistent with the Supreme Court's May 11, 2023, verdict, particularly regarding the recognition of the party whip in the Shiv Sena factions?

- (a) The Supreme Court's verdict implicitly supports the Speaker's authority to determine party whip legitimacy.
- (b) The Speaker's interpretation of 'real political party' aligns with the Court's criteria for faction legitimacy.
- (c) The Speaker's decision on the whip status is independent of the Court's views on party factional disputes.
- (d) The Court's verdict allows for the Speaker's discretion in cases of internal party leadership conflicts.

**86.** Which among the following best represents a potential logical flaw in the Speaker's rationale for determining the 'real political party' among the Shiv Sena factions, given the Supreme Court's statement about the irrelevance of faction sizes in such determinations?

- (a) Equating the majority faction with the legitimacy of the party's identity.
- (b) Disregarding the historical leadership structure of the Shiv Sena party.
- (c) Ignoring the legal precedents set by previous defection cases in India.
- (d) Overlooking the internal democratic processes within the Shiv Sena party.

- 87.** What can be inferred about the potential impact of the Speaker's ruling on the legitimacy of defection claims within political parties, considering the Supreme Court's views on factional majorities?
- It could encourage party members to defect by prioritizing faction sizes.
  - It might diminish the importance of ideological alignment in defection cases.
  - It could lead to more stringent criteria for recognizing legitimate defections.
  - It might validate defections based on leadership disputes within parties.
- 88.** Given that the Supreme Court conceded the Speaker's role in determining the real party in defection cases, yet also stated that no faction can claim to be the original party as a defense against disqualification, how can this apparent contradiction in the Court's position be resolved?
- By interpreting the Speaker's authority as limited to procedural, not substantive, party matters.
  - Through the Speaker deferring to the Election Commission's view on the party's official status.
  - By understanding the Supreme Court's statement as a guideline, not a binding rule for the Speaker.
  - Considering the Supreme Court's recognition of faction sizes as a secondary factor in such decisions.
- 89.** How might the Uddhav Thackeray group's potential appeal to the Supreme Court weaken the Speaker's ruling on the disqualification petitions, especially in light of the Court's previous observations on the role of factional percentages in determining party legitimacy?
- By highlighting the Speaker's overemphasis on factional majority contrary to the Court's views.
  - Through presenting new evidence on the internal democratic processes within the Shiv Sena party.
  - By arguing the Speaker's lack of neutrality in the decision-making process.
  - By emphasizing the historical leadership structure of the Shiv Sena over factional size.
- 90.** What conclusion can be drawn about the role of the Speaker in defection disputes based on the final paragraph of the passage?
- The Speaker's role is crucial in ensuring impartial decisions in defection disputes.
  - The Speaker's decisions are often influenced by political considerations.
  - The Speaker's authority should be replaced with an independent body for defection cases.
  - The Speaker's decisions may be subject to appeal to the Election Commission.

### PASSAGE XVIII

France has a new political star. He is young, telegenic and quick-witted. He favours slim-cut navy suits. His name is not Emmanuel Macron, but Gabriel Attal — the 34-year-old education minister whom the French president has named prime minister as part of a reboot in response to political troubles and a resurgent far right. Appointing a popular politician rather than a technocrat to lead a revamped government is a bold departure from the president's "Jupiterian" approach. But it has risks — and will not in itself overcome the real weakness of Macron's position: the lack of a parliamentary majority, against the backdrop of social discontent reflected in violent protests last year. Facing economic headwinds, voter antipathy and disgruntlement over issues such as immigration and crime that play to the strengths of rightwing populists, the president and his centrist alliance are in trouble. The far-right Rassemblement National is poised to top the polls in June's European parliament election, by a hefty margin. With barely three years of his second term left, despite an impressive reform record to date, Macron is anxious for political successes to prevent the RN's Marine Le Pen from sweeping to power in 2027. But the loss of his alliance's majority in the French assembly in 2022 has made it much harder to push through further difficult reforms. By repeatedly using emergency powers to impose legislation, the outgoing government of Élisabeth Borne has dented its legitimacy. How tricky it is to govern without using this override mechanism, however, was highlighted last month when concessions granted to the right to salvage a key immigration reform split Macron's coalition. Elevating France's most popular minister to be its youngest-ever premier could bolster Macron's fortunes. Attal's youth puts him in a similar bracket to the RN's 28-year-old nominal leader, Jordan Bardella. He has shown he can court right-leaning voters — for example, by planning an experiment as education minister to bring back school uniforms — without pandering to extremists.

But the president must now show he can share the limelight and initiative with a "mini-Macron" who has obvious ambitions to emerge as his successor, and whose interests may start to diverge. Attal's very similarity to Macron might alienate voters who are drawn to the more down-to-earth Le Pen. Meanwhile, Attal will be as hamstrung as Borne by the difficulty of cobbling together legislative majorities.

It is important, despite the difficulties that Macron sticks with efforts to deliver pro-business policies and reforms to make the state more efficient. Voters' dissatisfaction is rooted in a sense that the state is not effective enough in protecting citizens and providing services, despite an ever increasing tax burden, in the way that used to be the cornerstone of its legitimacy in the Fifth Republic. One route to progress might be to seek a more stable accommodation with moderate rightwing rivals, though there is little sign the centre-right is ready to co-operate.

Attal has pledged further education reforms, which may be less contentious to enact, as part of what Macron calls a civic and economic “rearmament” of France. But it would be regrettable if his government started aping far-right policies on immigration or cultural issues.

The rise of France’s far right is part of a broader European phenomenon. The risk, though, is more serious in France than in parliamentary systems such as the Netherlands, Sweden, or even Germany, because of its powerful, directly elected president. As the French leader reshuffles his team to try to revive his fortunes, liberal democracy in Europe has a great deal invested in his success.

**91.** Considering the challenges faced by Macron’s centrist alliance, what does the passage imply about the strategic considerations in dealing with moderate right-wing rivals?

- (a) Forming coalitions with them might be necessary to secure a legislative majority.
- (b) Avoiding policy alignment to maintain a distinct centrist political identity.
- (c) Emphasizing education reforms to attract moderate right-wing support.
- (d) Implementing pro-business policies to bridge gaps with right-wing ideologies.

**92.** What assumption underlies Macron’s decision to appoint Gabriel Attal as prime minister in the context of the current political challenges in France?

- (a) Attal’s popularity and youth will inherently strengthen Macron’s political position.
- (b) A popular minister like Attal can effectively mitigate the rise of far-right politics.
- (c) Attal’s similarities to Macron will ensure a seamless continuation of current policies.
- (d) Appointing a young, dynamic leader could revitalize the public’s perception of the government.

**93.** Based on the passage, which factor most directly contributes to the discontent among French voters, influencing the political landscape?

- (a) Macron’s “Jupiterian” approach and reluctance to share political limelight.
- (b) The lack of effectiveness in state protection and service provision despite high taxes.
- (c) The ongoing economic challenges and increasing unemployment rates in France.
- (d) The frequent use of emergency powers to impose legislation by the government.

**94.** In the context of Macron’s government losing its majority and facing protests, what can be inferred about the use of emergency powers to pass legislation?

- (a) It reflects a strategic approach to overcome legislative deadlock in the assembly.
- (b) It is a necessary response to the urgent demands of the French electorate.
- (c) It indicates a weakening of democratic processes in the face of political challenges.
- (d) It shows the government’s commitment to maintaining law and order during protests.

**95.** Given the discussion of Macron’s and Attal’s political positioning, what might be a potential risk in pursuing education reforms as part of France’s “civic and economic rearmament”?

- (a) Such reforms might further alienate the centrist and left-leaning segments of the electorate.
- (b) It could lead to increased support for far-right parties among younger voters.
- (c) The reforms might be perceived as pandering to right-leaning voters, causing a coalition split.
- (d) Implementing reforms could overextend the government’s resources, impacting other initiatives.

**96.** How does the passage suggest that Macron’s appointment of Attal as prime minister differs from his previous “Jupiterian” approach to governance?

- (a) It indicates a shift from a technocratic to a more politically popular leadership style.
- (b) It represents a move towards a more youth-oriented approach in government.
- (c) It signifies Macron’s intention to take a more collaborative approach in governance.
- (d) It demonstrates a strategic pivot to address the rise of far-right political forces.

### PASSAGE XIX

On paper, it is one of the world’s great opportunities. Wary of China, the US is hunting for reliable alternatives nearer home to locate low-cost factories. Across the border lies Mexico, a land of low-cost labour and abundant possibility, with preferential trade access and tax breaks under the Biden administration’s green energy programme. Is this a match made in heaven?

Recent headlines might encourage that impression. In July, Mexico passed China as the biggest source of imports into the US. Foreign direct investment into Mexico hit a record \$32.9bn in the first nine months of this year. Industrial parks near the American border are filling up. Tesla has announced plans for a \$5bn “gigafactory” in Mexico.

Moving US manufacturing to Mexico is nothing new. The process began with the North American Free Trade Agreement in 1994, which spurred a wave of investment into assembling cars, trucks and televisions. Mexico’s exports to the US were above those of China in the 1990s, but lost the crown as Chinese imports rocketed. This year’s change owes more to sharply declining Chinese imports than to booming Mexican exports.



Foreign investment into Mexico has grown, particularly this year. But last year Brazil performed far more strongly, attracting 41 per cent of all FDI into Latin America and the Caribbean against Mexico's 17 per cent. (Brazil's economy is about a third bigger than Mexico's).

Industrial parks near the US border are filling up, though this partly reflects a lack of suitable land rather than a widespread boom. Tesla has delayed construction of its Mexican factory, which in any case would not strictly meet the definition of nearshoring as it would complement, rather than substitute, its giant plant in China.

In July, the peso hit its highest level against the dollar since 2015 but analysts credit this to tempting opportunities in Mexico's money markets, rather than to racy fundamentals: Mexican interest rates are more than double those of the US. The IMF forecasts Mexican economic growth this year of 3.2 per cent — healthy but hardly the tempo of a booming economy.

Businesses operating in Mexico say some nearshoring is happening, but only a fraction of what could occur with the right government policies. Here the figure of Andrés Manuel López Obrador, the quixotic leftwing president, looms large. López Obrador is a nationalist with an instinctive suspicion of business and a nostalgia for the state-directed economy of his youth.

One of his first acts was to scrap Mexico's investment promotion agency, arguing that it was unnecessary. As he poured billions of dollars into a new oil refinery, the president attacked foreign companies investing in renewable energy and promoted state-generated electricity instead, which comes mainly from fossil fuels. The result is a shortage of the green electricity vital to attract new factories.

Water shortages are another constraint. López Obrador cancelled a mostly built \$1.4bn US brewery project in the arid north on these grounds; his penchant for decision-making on the hoof also led him to send in troops to seize a privatised railway line, which he needed for a pet infrastructure project.

Security, or the lack of it, also worries business. US officials have said swaths of Mexican territory are controlled by drug cartels, rather than the government.

Mexico should make the most of a historic chance to win nearshoring business. For that, it needs a government that understands what policies are needed. López Obrador has largely been squandering the opportunity.

**97.** What can be inferred about the primary cause for the recent shift in the US's largest source of imports from China to Mexico?

- (a) Increased foreign direct investment in Mexico, surpassing Brazil's performance.
- (b) Mexico's advantageous trade and tax policies under the Biden administration.
- (c) A decline in Chinese imports to the US, more than a surge in Mexican exports.
- (d) The establishment of new industrial parks near the US-Mexico border.

**98.** Based on the passage, how does the economic relationship between Mexico and the US in the 1990s compare to the present relationship?

- (a) More US imports from Mexico in the 1990s due to NAFTA, unlike today.
- (b) Mexico's exports to the US were higher in the 1990s than China's, similar to today.
- (c) Higher Mexican interest rates in the 1990s attracted more US investments.
- (d) Mexico primarily focused on oil and fossil fuels in the 1990s, unlike today.

**99.** Considering the information about Tesla's planned factory in Mexico, what conclusion can be drawn regarding the concept of nearshoring in the context of US manufacturing strategies?

- (a) Nearshoring is the primary strategy for US companies to reduce reliance on Chinese manufacturing.
- (b) Tesla's factory in Mexico exemplifies a shift to nearshoring as a substitute for Chinese factories.
- (c) Nearshoring is increasingly popular, but not always a substitute for Asian manufacturing hubs.
- (d) Tesla's decision indicates a general trend of US companies moving all manufacturing to Mexico.

**100.** How does the passage suggest that Mexico's monetary policies impact foreign investment, particularly in comparison to the US?

- (a) Mexico's high interest rates have led to a significant increase in US investments.
- (b) The peso's strong performance against the dollar attracts more US investors.
- (c) Mexico's monetary policies are less attractive to investors than those of the US.
- (d) Higher Mexican interest rates offer more appealing opportunities than in the US.

**101.** What role does President López Obrador's approach to business and foreign investment play in shaping Mexico's economic opportunities and challenges?

- (a) It prioritizes renewable energy over fossil fuels, attracting green investments.
- (b) His nationalistic policies hinder the potential growth of foreign direct investment.
- (c) The focus on state-directed economy boosts confidence in Mexico's stability.
- (d) Scrapping the investment promotion agency has streamlined foreign investment.

**102.** Based on the passage, what is a significant hurdle for businesses operating in Mexico, other than government policies and investment strategies?

- (a) Limited availability of suitable land for industrial development near the US border.
- (b) The competition with Brazil for attracting foreign direct investment.
- (c) High levels of interest rates making borrowing for expansion more expensive.
- (d) The dominance of the green energy sector over traditional manufacturing industries.

#### PASSAGE XX

Inflation measured by the Consumer Price Index expectedly quickened to a four-month high in December, with the measure of gains in food prices accelerating at a relatively faster pace as inflation in cereals and pulses stayed stubbornly sticky. While headline retail inflation ticked up by 14 basis points from November's level to 5.69%, price gains measured by the Consumer Food Price Index accelerated by 83 basis points from the preceding month's reading to 9.53% in December. The upsurge in food prices was largely driven by cereals — the biggest constituent of the 'food and beverages' group — that logged 9.93% inflation. Though that pace was marginally slower than the 10.3% posted in November, the key sub-group that includes the staples of rice, wheat and coarser cereals continued to register a month-on-month rate of inflation that offered little comfort to households. Disconcertingly, sequential price gains accelerated the most in the case of jowar and bajra — by 63 and 106 basis points, respectively, from November's month-on-month inflation rates. These two coarse cereals are consumed more widely in the rural hinterland, particularly by those already facing varying degrees of precarity. Price gains in pulses, a key protein source in vegetarian households, also accelerated to a 43-month high of 20.7%. With the current rabi season's sowing of pulses as on January 12, almost 8% lower than in the corresponding period of 2023, the outlook for their prices in the coming months is far from reassuring.

Year-on-year inflation in vegetable prices also registered a dizzying almost 10 percentage points upsurge from November's level, accelerating to a five-month high pace of 27.6%. Tomatoes and onions again led the charge, with their prices rising by over 33% and 74% from December 2022's levels, respectively. However, reflecting the seasonal volatility that vegetable prices are prone to, prices of both the kitchen staples, as well as the broader sub-group, witnessed sequential deflation. While the month-on-month deflation in overall vegetable prices was 5.3%, the prices of potatoes, onions and tomatoes contracted from November by 5.9%, 16% and 9.4%, respectively. Still, the average retail price of a majority of the 23 food items monitored on a daily basis by the Department of Consumer Affairs continues to remain higher as on January 14 than the year-earlier level, reflecting the challenge policymakers face in containing food-price inflation. With households likely to spend larger shares of their incomes on food as these costs continue to rise, there is a real risk that the knock-on impact on already weak consumption can derail the broader growth momentum in the economy. And with the spiralling crisis in West Asia infusing a new level of uncertainty over global trade and energy costs, policymakers have their task cut out.

**103.** What can be inferred about the relationship between the sowing of pulses in the current rabi season and the future price trends of pulses?

- (a) Higher sowing rates this season suggest a future decrease in pulse prices.
- (b) Increased sowing might cause an oversupply, potentially stabilizing future prices.
- (c) Sowing rates are unrelated to future prices, which are determined by external factors.
- (d) Lower sowing rates may lead to reduced pulse availability, driving prices up.

**104.** How does the passage support the notion that the inflation in cereals, especially in rice, wheat, and coarser cereals, is a significant contributor to overall food price inflation?

- (a) Cereals showed a consistently high inflation rate, impacting the broader food price index.
- (b) The inflation in cereals is solely due to their high demand compared to other foods.
- (c) Cereal prices remained stable, indicating that other factors contribute more to inflation.
- (d) Rice and wheat had lower inflation rates, reducing their impact on overall inflation.

**105.** Analyze the impact of the rise in the prices of jowar and bajra on the economic condition of households in the rural hinterland. What reasoning does the passage provide for this impact?

- (a) The rise in prices leads to increased financial stress due to their staple food status.
- (b) Price hikes in jowar and bajra indirectly benefit households by boosting local economies.
- (c) Increased prices have no significant impact as these grains are not primary food sources.
- (d) Households are unaffected as they switch to cheaper alternatives to jowar and bajra.

**106.** What is the role of seasonal volatility in the pricing of vegetables like tomatoes and onions, as discussed in the passage, and how does it affect the overall inflation rate?

- (a) It leads to stable vegetable prices, thus mitigating the impact on overall inflation.
- (b) Seasonal volatility causes significant fluctuations, contributing to higher overall inflation.
- (c) Such volatility has minimal impact on inflation as it's offset by other food prices.
- (d) Seasonal changes lead to decreased vegetable prices, lowering the overall inflation rate.

**107.** From the passage, assess the potential implications of continued high inflation in food prices on the broader economic growth and consumer spending trends. Which of the following best represents the above situation?

- (a) High inflation boosts consumer spending, indirectly fostering economic growth.  
 (b) It leads to increased savings as consumers anticipate further price rises.  
 (c) Reduced consumer spending on other goods, potentially slowing economic growth.  
 (d) High inflation has no significant impact on consumer spending or economic growth.

**108.** Given the current geopolitical situation in West Asia, as mentioned in the passage, how might global trade and energy costs influence future policy decisions regarding inflation control?

- (a) Increased energy costs will likely prompt a reduction in global trade to control inflation.  
 (b) Policy decisions will focus on boosting energy imports to stabilize inflation rates.  
 (c) Policymakers might prioritize energy independence, impacting inflation control strategies.  
 (d) The geopolitical situation will have no effect on policy decisions related to inflation.

### Section E-Quantitative Techniques

#### PASSAGE XXI

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

In an exam of two different subjects, Mathematics and English, a certain number of students appeared. In this exam, some students passed and some failed. The total number of students who appeared in Mathematics was 450, while the total number of students who appeared in English was 600. In Mathematics, 60% of appeared students failed, and the rest passed. Additionally, in passed students 40% were girls and the rest were boys and in failed students 50% were boys and the rest were girls. Similarly, in English, 30% of appeared students failed, and the rest passed. Additionally, in passed students 25% were girls and the rest were boys and in failed students, 60% were boys and the rest were girls.

**109.** Find the difference between boys and girls who appeared in Mathematics?

- (a) 32 (b) 36  
 (c) 24 (d) 26

**110.** The number of boys who failed in Mathematics is how much percent more or less than the number of girls who passed in Mathematics?

- (a) 12.5% (b) 37.5%  
 (c) 47.5% (d) 87.5%

**111.** What is respective ratio between the total number of students who passed in Mathematics and the total number of students who passed in English?

- (a) 6:9 (b) 4:5  
 (c) 3:7 (d) 2:3

**112.** Find average of number of girls who appeared in Mathematics and English together?

- (a) 192 (b) 129  
 (c) 162 (d) 189

#### PASSAGE XXII

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

Vidyut is a shopkeeper who deals in two types of items, namely Pen, and Pencil. He bought these items from a wholesaler at different prices. He purchased 100 Pens at Rs.10 per pen and 200 Pencils at Rs.6 per pencil. To make a profit, Vidyut marked up the cost of each item. He marked up the cost of Pens by 60% and Pencils by 50%. For Pens, Vidyut sold 30% of them at a 30% profit, 40% of them at the marked price, and the remaining Pens at a 25% discount. Similarly, for Pencils, he sold 25% of them at a 25% profit, 45% of them at the marked price, and the remaining Pencils at a 15% discount.

**113.** Find the total profit percentage earned by shopkeeper Vidyut, by selling all the pens?

- (a) 19% (b) 29% (c) 39% (d) 49%

**114.** What is difference between the selling price of all the pencils and the selling price of all the pens?

- (a) Rs. 524 (b) Rs. 542 (c) Rs. 245 (d) Rs. 254

**115.** The total cost price of all pens together is how much percent more or less than the total cost price of all pencils together?

- (a) 66.66% (b) 33.33% (c) 25% (d) 16.66%

**116.** Find the total profit percentage earned by shopkeeper Vidyut, by selling all the pencils?

- (a) 27% (b) 37% (c) 17% (d) 47%



**PASSAGE XXIII**

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

On Republic Day, Vidhigya Institute organized a marathon, and a certain number of people participated in it. Three individuals, Vidhi, Vidhan, and Vidyut, were part of this marathon. The total distance of the marathon was 20km. Vidhi covered 40% of the marathon at a speed of 8 km/hr. For the remaining distance, she covered 50% at a speed of 6 km/hr and the rest at 3 km/hr. Similarly, Vidhan covered 30% of the marathon at a speed of 6 km/hr. For the remaining distance, he covered 50% at a speed of 3.5 km/hr and the rest at 2 km/hr. Vidyut covered 20% of the marathon at a speed of 8 km/hr. For the remaining distance, he covered 50% at a speed of 8 km/hr and the rest at 4 km/hr.

**117.** Find the difference between the time taken by Vidhi and Vidhan to complete the marathon?

- (a) 2.5 hrs                      (b) 1.5 hrs                      (c) 2 hrs                      (d) 3 hrs

**118.** What is the average speed of Vidhi to complete the marathon?

- (a) 5.6 km/hr                      (b) 5.5 km/hr                      (c) 5 km/hr                      (d) 5.2 km/hr

**119.** The time taken by Vidhan to complete the marathon is how much percent more or less than the time taken by Vidyut to complete the marathon.

- (a) 66.66%                      (b) 85.71%                      (c) 33.33%                      (d) 25%

**120.** Among the three persons Vidhi, Vidhan and Vidyut, who finished the marathon on 2<sup>nd</sup> position?

- (a) Vidhi                      (b) Vidhan                      (c) Vidyut                      (d) can't be determined

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