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**MARATHON**

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09<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> September 2024



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**CONTENTS OF QUESTION PAPER**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Q. Nos.</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
English Language	1 – 24	03 – 12
Current Affairs and General Knowledge	25 – 52	13 – 20
Legal Reasoning	53 – 84	21 – 41
Logical Reasoning	85 – 108	42 – 51
Quantitative Techniques	109 – 120	52 – 54



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**English Language**

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

- I. **International News:** For a country facing the world's largest displacement crisis in peacetime, grappling with violent crime and inflation, Venezuela is a tinderbox that can explode at any minute. The recently held presidential elections on July 28 add to this uncertainty and have captured global headlines. It is no secret that the electoral process in Venezuela is marred by irregularities, with numerous presidential candidates jailed or disqualified in the run-up to the elections, and opaque reporting of the results by the National Electoral Council. The incumbent government led by Nicolás Maduro claims they have won the elections, obtaining 51% of the vote, with 44% going to opposition candidate Edmundo González. The opposition asserts they received 67% of the vote, more than double the votes for Maduro. In this polarised environment, there are two narratives in response to the Venezuelan elections. The first and more dominant narrative is that Maduro's repressive regime needs to go. Maduro is often referred to as an autocrat, one who has co-opted most of the country's democratic institutions, systematically silenced his critics and secured the support of the armed forces by bestowing them with control over the country's critical resources. Consequently, the response from an overwhelming majority of countries has been to either reject the results announced by Maduro's government or call for a transparent count of votes, tabulated and verified by observers. Several Latin American countries have reacted strongly, cutting off diplomatic ties or recalling their diplomats from Venezuela. Maduro has retaliated in equal measure, recalling diplomats from Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Peru, Panama, and Uruguay. Even the leaders of countries that maintain a cordial relationship with Maduro, like Brazil and Colombia, have questioned the veracity of the poll results. Unfortunately, there remains little hope for a transparent and fair verification of all electoral data. The second narrative is limited mostly to Maduro's own government and his dwindling number of supporters, and a clique of autocratic countries. The list of countries that have recognised Maduro's victory is small, but it includes two major powers that have a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council — China and Russia. India will be watching the events in Venezuela with rapt attention. The reason? Venezuela is home to the world's largest oil reserves. A decade ago, Venezuela was the third-largest supplier of oil to India, behind only Saudi Arabia and Iraq. India stopped importing Venezuelan oil in late 2020 due to US secondary sanctions.
- Source: Extracted with edits and revisions from: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/opinion/in-venezuela-a-long-night-of-dictatorship-decline-101722872065772.html>*

1. What evidence does the passage provide regarding the international response to the Venezuelan election results?
  - (a) Several nations have questioned the legitimacy of the election outcomes, with some even withdrawing their diplomatic staff.
  - (b) Numerous countries have expressed support for the declared results, minimizing calls for further verification.
  - (c) The majority of the international community has accepted the election results, bolstering Venezuela's global relations.
  - (d) Global observers have uniformly accepted the election results as accurate, supporting the official counts provided.
  
2. What conclusion can be drawn about Maduro's governmental approach from the passage?
  - (a) Maduro's government operates with high transparency and seeks international validation for its actions.
  - (b) The administration has secured unwavering support from all sectors within Venezuela, ensuring political stability.
  - (c) The government has been involved in consolidating power by controlling key institutions and limiting opposition.
  - (d) There is a unanimous national consensus in support of the government's policies and election results.
  
3. What inference can be drawn about the role of the armed forces in Venezuela's current political landscape?
  - (a) The armed forces are neutral entities that have stayed out of political matters, including the electoral process.
  - (b) The leadership has strategically engaged the military, ensuring allegiance through the allocation of essential economic sectors.
  - (c) The armed forces have openly opposed the current leadership, aligning themselves with opposition forces to challenge the election results.
  - (d) While the military holds significant power, it has refrained from utilizing this influence to impact the political environment in Venezuela.
  
4. Which of the following is true in the context of the passage regarding the recent presidential elections in Venezuela?
  - (a) Global observers unanimously declared the elections transparent and equitable.
  - (b) The opposition's leading contender reportedly secured 67% of the votes as per opposition claims.
  - (c) Reports abound of widespread electoral misconduct and unfair candidate treatment.
  - (d) Each electoral candidate was provided a fair chance to campaign without facing any legal hurdles.

5. Based on the passage, which idiom best represents the situation in Venezuela following the elections?
- (a) "Back to the drawing board" (b) "Crossing the Rubicon"  
(c) "Smooth sailing" (d) "A ticking time bomb"
6. Which of the following best describes the international recognition of Maduro's election victory?
- (a) It was universally acclaimed, with major global powers endorsing the fairness of the elections.  
(b) A select group of nations, including significant Security Council members, acknowledged his victory.  
(c) The election results were celebrated globally, leading to enhanced international relations.  
(d) All neighbouring countries in South America quickly recognized and supported the election outcome.

**II. Biodiversity:** Socotra Island, at the crossroads of the Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea, is celebrated for its extraordinary biodiversity, earning it the nickname "Galápagos of the Indian Ocean." Its isolated environment fosters a unique array of endemic species, making it a remarkable showcase of nature's diversity and adaptability.

The vast expanse of land, surrounded by azure waters, lies where the Middle East meets the Indian Ocean at the edge of the African continent. One of the world's largest and most beautiful shore dunes, echoing the mainland deserts, can be seen from above, alongside breathtaking lagoons that wash the coastline.

The magnificent Detwah Lagoon, with its crystal-clear blue waters, unfolds like the gates of the island. Moving over the white sand beaches of Qalansiyah, where pristine stretches of sand meet the turquoise sea, reveals a serene and picturesque landscape that encapsulates the essence of Socotra's untouched beauty.

Continuing along the coastline, the rugged cliffs and rocky outcrops of Homhil Reserve reveal hidden pools and lush greenery, offering a stark contrast to the surrounding arid landscape. Inland, the Hajhir Mountains rise majestically, their peaks often shrouded in mist, creating a mystical atmosphere.

These mountains are home to unique flora and fauna, such as the umbrella-like, fossil-looking dragon blood trees, reminiscent of the prehistoric realms of our planet. Nearby, their miniature bonsai-like counterparts, the desert roses and cucumber trees, adorn the island's surface like obese dwarfs, adding to its unique landscape.

Further exploration reveals the Diksam Plateau's otherworldly panorama, featuring surreal limestone formations and a range of endemic plant species that create an alien-like environment. These distinctive features, found nowhere else on Earth, add to the island's profound allure and mystery for naturalists.

The combination of Socotra's extraordinary natural wonders and the rich cultural heritage of the Soqotri people, who have harmoniously coexisted with the island's ecosystems for centuries, makes Socotra a captivating and unforgettable destination.

When we think of insular island ecosystems, the Galapagos Islands or New Zealand usually come to mind first. However, there are many untouched sites on Earth where amazing lifeforms emerge. One of these hidden gems is Socotra Island, located right where the Gulf of Aden meets the Arabian Sea in the northwest Indian Ocean. [www.lawpreptutorial.com](http://www.lawpreptutorial.com)

Socotra, or Saqatri, is the largest of the four islands in the Socotra Archipelago. Located just 60 miles from the Horn of Africa, it is a sovereign part of the Republic of Yemen. Despite the complex political landscape, with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) engaging both economically and militarily, its most outstanding feature is one of the world's most biodiverse endemic ecosystems, which have earned it the name "Galápagos of the Indian Ocean."

*Source: Extracted with edits and revisions from: <https://earth.org/socotra-island-the-indian-oceans-biodiversity-treasure/>*

7. What is the primary reason Socotra Island is referred to as the "Galápagos of the Indian Ocean" in the passage?
  - (a) Its location where the Middle East meets the Indian Ocean fosters unique flora and fauna.
  - (b) The island's diverse ecosystems resemble those found in the Galápagos Islands.
  - (c) The isolation of the island has resulted in the evolution of unique species found nowhere else.
  - (d) Socotra's pristine beaches and azure waters make it comparable to the Galápagos Islands.
8. Based on the passage, which of the following statements is NOT true about the natural features of Socotra Island?
  - (a) Detwah Lagoon is notable for its exceptionally transparent waters.
  - (b) Frequent mists shroud the Hajhir Mountains, enhancing their mystical appeal.
  - (c) The Diksam Plateau features sparse vegetation across its terrain.
  - (d) Hidden pools and lush vegetation define the Homhil Reserve.
9. Based on the passage, the UAE's involvement in Socotra Island is primarily characterized by:
  - (a) Significant financial input aimed at enhancing the tourism sector of the island.
  - (b) Dual engagement in both defense strategies and financial ventures, notwithstanding complex geopolitical contexts.
  - (c) Efforts centered on safeguarding the ecological systems and endemic species of the island.
  - (d) Negotiations aimed at easing territorial disputes with Yemen.

10. Which of the following statements would the author most likely disagree with, based on the passage?
- (a) Socotra Island's diverse ecosystems are akin to those of the Galápagos Islands.
  - (b) The Soqotri community has little influence over the island's ecological system.
  - (c) The seclusion of Socotra Island plays a crucial role in its distinctive biological characteristics.
  - (d) The limestone landscapes of the Diksam Plateau create a setting that seems otherworldly.
11. Based on the passage, which of the following best captures the meaning of the phrase "echoing the mainland deserts" as used in the passage?
- (a) The coastal sand formations on Socotra show visual resemblances to continental desert landscapes.
  - (b) Socotra's weather patterns reflect those typical of arid mainland environments.
  - (c) Socotra's variety of life forms matches those typically found in desert areas on the continent.
  - (d) Socotra's rocky terrain bears similarities to desert-like geological structures found on the mainland.
12. Which of the following does not accurately reflect evidence from the passage about Socotra Island's unique landscapes?
- (a) The misty peaks of the Hajhir Mountains add to their mystical ambiance.
  - (b) Socotra's coastal dunes mirror the arid landscapes found on the mainland.
  - (c) The plant life on the Diksam Plateau is described as sparse and limited.
  - (d) The Homhil Reserve is characterized by isolated pools and vibrant greenery contrasting with the arid surroundings.

**III. Artificial Intelligence:** Generative AI has very quickly been adopted across various sectors. However, this has led to increased global electricity consumption that is only predicted to increase further as the technology expands, with many tech companies already at risk of defaulting on their net-zero commitments.

OpenAI's launch of ChatGPT in late 2022 introduced the world to generative artificial intelligence –commonly referred to as "genAI" – allowing users to generate text and answer complex questions in an almost human-like manner and at incredible speed. The new technology took the world by storm, reaching 100 million active users in the first two months and sparking a race among companies to embed the technology across their operations and products.

Beyond ChatGPT, genAI has already begun disrupting large industries, from biopharma, where the technology can generate millions of candidate molecules for certain diseases, to marketing, where it can personalise content and customer experiences. However, there is a dark side to all this.

Besides requiring huge quantities of fresh water to keep data centres cool, when powered by non-renewable energy sources, artificial intelligence also releases significant amounts of carbon emissions. Each individual use of genAI to answer a question or produce an image comes at an incredible cost to the planet; with the technology spreading at unprecedented pace around the world, its environmental footprint is only destined to increase. To put things into perspective, a single ChatGPT query requires 2.9 watt-hours of electricity, compared with 0.3 watt-hours for a Google search, as found in the International Energy Agency's (IEA) Electricity 2024 forecast which was released earlier this year for global energy use over the next two years. For the first time, it included projections for energy consumption by data centres, cryptocurrency, and AI, citing market trends including the fast incorporation of AI across a variety of sectors as reasons for increasing electricity demand.

Large Language Models (LLMs), which sit at the heart of many gen AI systems, are trained on vast stores of information, allowing them to generate a response to virtually any query from scratch. A December 2023 study, which is yet to be peer-reviewed, found that using large generative models to create outputs is far more energy-intensive than using smaller AI models tailored to specific tasks. The reason behind this conclusion is that generative AI models tend to do many things at once, such as generating, classifying, and summarising text; this results in the whole model getting activated in response to a query, which is "wildly inefficient from a computational perspective".

*Source: Extracted with edits and revisions from: <https://earth.org/generative-ai-is-exhausting-the-power-grid/>*

13. Which of the following best describes the author's stance on the rapid adoption of generative AI?
- (a) The author sees generative AI as an unambiguously positive advancement, transforming industries with minimal negative consequences.
  - (b) The author is critically aware of both the potential and the problems of generative AI, particularly its environmental impact.
  - (c) The author is overwhelmingly negative about generative AI, focusing solely on its environmental detriments and operational inefficiencies.
  - (d) The author acknowledges the benefits of generative AI but believes its adoption should be more cautious and regulated.
14. Based on the environmental concerns highlighted in the passage about the adoption of generative AI technologies, which term best describes the rapid growth and consequential environmental impact of such technologies?
- (a) Sustainable
  - (b) Unprecedented
  - (c) Negligible
  - (d) Renewable

15. What would be a suitable title for the passage?
- (a) "The Unstoppable Rise of Generative AI in Global Industries"
  - (b) "Generative AI: The Future of Energy Consumption in Technology"
  - (c) "Exploring the Benefits of Generative AI in Modern Technology"
  - (d) "The Environmental Cost of Generative AI: A Critical Overview"
16. Based on the analysis of the data provided in the passage, what can be inferred about the energy consumption of generative AI compared to traditional internet searches?
- (a) Generative AI applications like ChatGPT have a considerably higher energy demand per interaction than standard web searches.
  - (b) Energy consumption rates between generative AI technologies and traditional search engines are not significantly different.
  - (c) Internet searches consume more energy per operation than generative AI, contradicting common assumptions.
  - (d) The passage does not indicate any measurable difference in energy use between ChatGPT and Google searches.
17. Which of the following is true in the context of the passage about the spread of generative AI?
- (a) Generative AI has been widely adopted across various industries without any significant environmental concerns.
  - (b) The rapid adoption of generative AI has raised concerns about its environmental impact, particularly in terms of electricity consumption.
  - (c) Generative AI is primarily used in the biopharma and marketing sectors with no real impact on other industries.
  - (d) The environmental impact of generative AI is negligible compared to other modern technologies.
18. What conclusion can be drawn from the study mentioned in December 2023 about the use of large generative models?
- (a) Large generative models are optimized for energy efficiency and are particularly effective for targeted applications.
  - (b) Energy consumption is consistent across AI models, irrespective of their scale.
  - (c) More compact AI models require less energy and are better suited for specialized functions compared to their larger counterparts.
  - (d) The study did not determine any definitive differences in energy usage between large and small AI models.

**IV. Health:** The Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has issued a set of guidelines for the transportation of live human organs. The transport protocols aim to ensure the expeditious movement of life-saving organs from the point of harvest to their destination through effective use of available infrastructure.

The Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994, allows harvesting of organs from living donors or brain-dead patients with the consent of family members. Such organs are transported from one hospital to another, sometimes far away, by air or road depending on the location of eligible recipients registered with their respective transplant authorities.

The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) issued, will serve as a guiding document for healthcare institutions in States/Union Territories to transport organs by various modes of transport, including metro trains and over water. The instructions made it clear that human organs for transplant would be transported only within the territory of India and no organ shall be transported outside the country. Also, no human organ for transplant shall be allowed to be transported from outside the territory of India.

While transporting the organs by air (commercial/non-commercial aircraft/helicopter/ air ambulance etc., except drones), the Health Ministry recommended that the box containing the organ should be screened without opening it but passengers carrying it shall not be exempted from pre-embarkation security checks.

Staff carrying/accompanying the organ box should be given priority in deboarding for which an in-flight announcement could be made by the Pilot-in-Command. Seating in front row seats, priority reservation, and provision for late check-ins for organ transport may be facilitated by the airline concerned. It would be the responsibility of the airport officials to define a green path (free from obstruction) and a trolley for the organ box from the ambulance to the aircraft at the point of origin and from the aircraft to an ambulance at the destination.

The flight captain may request Air Traffic Control to accord priority take-off and landing for the aircraft and also make an in-flight announcement about the carriage of a live human organ onboard. In case the ambulance is allowed until the runway, the airline crew would have to guide and assist the accompanying medical personnel carrying the organ box to disembark from the staircase onto the runway directly and into the waiting ambulance.

When organs are transported by road, a green corridor may be provided on the request of the concerned authorities/agencies. The One Trigger System -- a request from the organ allocation authority (National Organ & Tissue Transplant Organisation NOTTO or the regional/state authorities, ROTTO/SOTTO), as the case may be -- to initiate the process of organ transport by creating a green corridor, may be considered to help minimise the concerns around internal security as the request would be obtained from a credible source.

*Source: Extracted with edits and revisions from: <https://thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/in-a-first-union-health-ministry-issues-guidelines-for-organ-transport-across-the-country/article68491234.ece>*



19. What inference can be drawn about the role of air traffic control in the process of transporting human organs?
- (a) Air traffic control is responsible for organizing the scheduling of flights dedicated to organ transportation.
  - (b) Air traffic control is mainly in charge of overseeing the security protocols associated with flights transporting organs.
  - (c) Air traffic control is permitted to prioritize the ascent and descent sequences for aircraft transporting human organs.
  - (d) Air traffic control engages directly with medical facilities to facilitate the logistics of organ transit.
20. Which of the following is NOT true in the context of the passage regarding the transport of human organs?
- (a) Transplants involving human organs are conducted exclusively within India's geographical limits.
  - (b) It is permissible to bring human organs into India from other countries for transplantation purposes.
  - (c) Multiple transportation methods, including air travel and metro services, are employed for organ transfers.
  - (d) Individuals tasked with transporting organ containers receive priority when disembarking from flights.
21. How does the passage illustrate the priority given to human organ transportation in flight operations?
- (a) Dedicated flights are arranged specifically for organ transport to ensure the highest level of operational prioritization.
  - (b) The captain of the aircraft is permitted to inform passengers about the presence of human organs being transported during the flight.
  - (c) Aircraft transporting human organs are typically allowed to ascend and descend with precedence, yet they operate within the regular flight schedule.
  - (d) Organ transport by air is managed as a conventional operation without the implementation of unique procedural priorities.
22. Which aspect of the transport protocols is critical in maintaining the viability of transported organs according to the passage?
- (a) Ensuring that all organs are transported by air exclusively to speed up the process.
  - (b) Mandating that organ transportation occur strictly within the territorial boundaries of India.
  - (c) Using specific modes of transport, such as road or metro, depending on the urgency.
  - (d) Prioritizing the transport process at airports and on aircraft to minimize delays.

23. What does the introduction of a green corridor imply for organ transportation by road according to the passage?
- (a) It suggests an environmental initiative to make organ transport more sustainable.
  - (b) It indicates a direct route with no stops, specifically reserved for organ transportation.
  - (c) It symbolizes a dedicated lane that is always free from traffic. [www.lawpreptutorial.com](http://www.lawpreptutorial.com)
  - (d) It implies a prioritized pathway facilitated upon request to ensure swift transportation.
24. Based on the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), which statement best reflects the security protocols for transporting organs by air?
- (a) The container holding the organ is required to be unlocked and thoroughly searched during security procedures before boarding.
  - (b) Containers used for organ transport bypass all security screenings to streamline the process.
  - (c) Screening of organ containers is conducted without opening them, while individuals responsible for their transport undergo standard security procedures.
  - (d) The security measures applied to organ transport are more lenient compared to those for regular air travellers to avoid transport delays.

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**Current Affairs and General Knowledge**

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

- V. An Ayodhya priest on Monday accused “some people” of spreading “misleading” information about the pran pratishtha (consecration ceremony) at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya on January 22, ANI reported. The opposition parties have been targeting the BJP over reports of respective Shankaracharyas of Shri Shringeri Sharda Peeth Karnataka, Dwarka Sharda Peeth in Gujarat, Jyotir Peeth in Uttarakhand and Govardhan Peeth in Odisha deciding not to attend the consecration ceremony. “Some people are spreading very misleading things about the 'Pran Pratishtha' ceremony... I want to tell you that at the time the 'Pran Pratishtha' of the Somnath temple took place, the 'sanctum sanctorum' and 'Shikhar' of the temple were not completed,” he said, according to ANI.

Maharaj further said that today' God's 'sanctum sanctorum' and 'Shikhar' are ready in the Ram Temple of Ayodhya. "... So if PM Modi had not been there, this temple would not have been built today..." The grand consecration ceremony of Ram temple will be held on January 22. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will preside over the consecration ceremony of Ram Lalla on January 22. Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat will also share the dais with several other dignitaries.

More than 7,000 people have been invited to the ceremony by the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra trust.

Source: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/on-incomplete-ram-mandir-jibe-ayodhya-priest-invokes-somnath-temples-pran-pratishtha-101705327377233.html>

25. The final judgement in the Ayodhya dispute was declared by the Supreme Court of India on 9 November 2019. How many acres of land which was disputed was to be handed over to a trust (to be created by the government of India) to build the Ram Janmabhoomi (revered as the birthplace of Hindu deity, Rama) temple?
- (a) 3.56 acres (b) 4.65 acres  
(c) 2.77 acres (d) 2.84 acres
26. What was the full case name of the Ayodhya verdict gave by the Supreme Court on 9 November 2019?
- (a) Mahant Moti Das vs S. P. Sahi  
(b) Pritam Dass Mahant vs Shiromani Gurudwara Prabandhak  
(c) Mahant Harnam Singh vs Gurdial Singh  
(d) M Siddiq (D) Thr Lrs vs Mahant Suresh Das

27. Which commission was a long-running inquiry commissioned by the Government of India to investigate the destruction of the disputed structure Babri Masjid in Ayodhya in 1992?
- (a) Nanavati Commission (b) Kalelkar Commission  
(c) Sarkaria Commission (d) Liberhan Commission
28. Which of the following is the style of architecture used for designing Ram Temple?
- (a) Nagara (b) Dravida  
(c) Vesara (d) Kalinga
29. The idol of five-year-old Ram Lalla, was crafted by which sculptor?
- (a) Satyanarayan Pandey (b) Ganesh Bhatt  
(c) Arun Yogiraj (d) Anish Kapoor
- VI.** The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on Saturday issued a notification for recruiting 45 joint secretaries, directors and deputy secretaries through lateral entry -- referred to as the appointment of specialists (including those from the private sector) in government departments. The decision ignited criticism from opposition parties, which claimed it undermined the reservation rights of OBCs, SCs and STs. The government has historically inducted outside talent into its higher tiers, typically in advisory roles but occasionally even in key administrative assignments, they said. For instance, the chief economic advisor is traditionally a lateral entrant who, according to the rules, must be below 45 years of age and is invariably an eminent economist, they said.
- The lateral entry scheme was formally introduced during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's tenure, driven by the recognition of the need for domain experts to enhance the efficiency and responsiveness of India's administrative machinery, they said.
- In 2018, the government took a significant step by announcing vacancies for senior positions such as joint secretaries and directors, marking the first time that professionals from both the private and public sectors were invited to apply for these high-level roles, the sources further said. The recruitment of joint secretaries in 2018 effectively operationalised the ARC's vision, demonstrating a commitment to integrating specialised skills from outside the traditional civil service framework. These reforms have continued to influence ongoing discussions about how best to modernise India's public administration, ensuring it meets the evolving demands of governance in the 21st century, the sources added.
- Source: [https://www.business-standard.com/pti-stories/national/concept-of-lateral-entry-first-introduced-under-congress-led-upa-regime-govt-sources-124081800667\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/pti-stories/national/concept-of-lateral-entry-first-introduced-under-congress-led-upa-regime-govt-sources-124081800667_1.html)
30. The lateral entrants are appointed on contract for a period of how many years?
- (a) 2 (b) 3  
(c) 4 (d) 5

31. Lateral entries have been excluded from the reservation system because of which policy?  
(a) 10 point roster policy (b) 12 point roster policy  
(c) 13 point roster policy (d) 14 point roster policy
32. The First Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) (1966) was established under the chairmanship of?  
(a) Morarji Desai (b) Jawaharlal Nehru  
(c) Manmohan Singh (d) SK Patil
33. The Second Administrative Reforms Commission was established in which year?  
(a) 1998 (b) 2000  
(c) 2005 (d) 2003
34. Who has been recently appointed as the new Chairperson of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), set to take office on August 1, 2024?  
(a) Lt. Gen. Raj Shukla (b) Preeti Sudan  
(c) Sheel Vardhan Singh (d) Manoj Soni

**VII.** On Saturday (August 17, 2024), India will host the 3rd Voice of Global South Summit, an event that has garnered significant attention as a powerful platform for nations in the Global South to voice their concerns, share their experiences, and propose collective solutions to the world's most pressing challenges. This summit, set to be held virtually, builds upon the momentum created by its previous editions. The Voice of Global South Summit is an extension of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas aur Sabka Prayas" (Together with All, Development for All, Trust of All, and Efforts by All). It is deeply rooted in the ancient Indian philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, which translates to "The World is One Family." This philosophy underpins India's approach to international relations, emphasizing inclusivity, mutual respect, and cooperation on a global scale.

Since its inception, the summit has aimed to bring together countries from the Global South—a term that refers to developing nations in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean—to share their perspectives and priorities on various global issues. The goal is to create a unified voice that can influence global decision-making processes and ensure that the concerns of the Global South are adequately addressed on international platforms such as the G20.

The inaugural Voice of Global South Summit was held virtually on January 12-13, 2023, and saw the participation of over 100 countries from across the Global South. The summit was a significant milestone in international diplomacy, providing a much-needed platform for developing nations to articulate their concerns and collaborate on solutions. The discussions and inputs from this summit played a crucial role in shaping the agenda of the G20 Summit held under India's presidency later that year. Building on the success of the first summit, the 2nd Voice of Global South Summit was held on November 17, 2023. This summit expanded

the dialogue to include even more countries, further solidifying the Global South's collective voice on the global stage. The feedback and suggestions from these summits were instrumental in the formulation of the G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration, which highlighted the importance of addressing the unique challenges faced by developing nations.

*Source: INDIA NEWS NETWORK, 16th August 2024.*

35. How many countries participated in the 3rd Voice of the Global South?  
(a) 105 (b) 134  
(c) 123 (d) 154
36. In the summit, the Prime Minister of India put forward a proposal for a comprehensive four-fold Global Development Compact (GDC) comprising four elements, Which of the following is not one of the elements so proposed?  
(a) Trade for development  
(b) Capacity building for sustainable growth  
(c) Technology sharing  
(d) Collaboration for fighting against use of spyware and global viruses
37. Which of the following regions would NOT be counted as Global South?  
(a) Latin America (b) Asia  
(c) Africa (d) Europe
38. Which of the following was the theme of the 3rd Voice of Global South?  
(a) An Empowered Global South for a Sustainable Future  
(b) Together, For Everyone's Growth, With Everyone's Trust  
(c) Unity of Voice and Unity of Purpose  
(d) Peace Together, Peace Forward
39. Which line is a visual representation of the world's economic divide between the rich north and the poor south, based on GDP per capita?  
(a) Radcliffe Line (b) Hindenburg Line  
(c) Durand Line (d) Brandt Line

**VIII.** The 2024 World Economic Forum meeting in Davos welcomed close to 3,000 leaders from government, business and civil society from more than 125 countries. With 350 heads of state and government, ministers, heads of international organisations, central banks, business leaders, universities and young leaders, participants came together to foster dialogue and partnership.

More than 50 high-impact initiatives emerged or progressed during the forum's sessions and workshops with the stated aims of increasing resilience and security, reviving economic growth, and protecting the climate and nature.

Founder Klaus Schwab emphasised the forum's purpose of finding common ground to generate positive impact. President of the European Commission Ursula Von der Leyen highlighted the risks of disinformation and polarisation and called on audiences to deepen global collaboration – between public and private sector players – more than ever before. The recent WEF Global Risks Report highlights the potential risks over the coming decade – climate change, conflict, economic uncertainty, technological advancements.

In this uncertain economic environment, participants at the Davos forum called for a new growth model to address these challenges. The need to balance the drivers of growth and productivity with the complexity of innovation, inclusion, sustainability and resilience was considered a priority. This will mean matching investments in the economy, technology and the environment with investment in people – jobs, skills and health – and equitable opportunities.

Source: <https://cib.bnpparibas/2024-world-economic-forum-in-davos-key-takeaways/>

40. Which of the following reports is NOT published by the World Economic Forum?  
(a) Energy Transition Index (b) Global Competitiveness Report  
(c) Global Travel and Tourism Report (d) Global Financial Stability Report
41. What was the theme of the 2024 World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting in Davos, Switzerland?  
(a) Deepening Global Collaboration (b) Cooperation in a Fractured World  
(c) Rebuilding Trust (d) Partnership through Unions
42. When was World Economic Forum formed?  
(a) 1970 (b) 1971  
(c) 1972 (d) 1973
43. When did India become a member of WEF?  
(a) 1984 (b) 1985  
(c) 1986 (d) 1987

IX. Recently, the Supreme Court of India denied a petition from an elderly couple seeking "passive euthanasia" for their comatose (deeply unconscious) son, who has been bedridden for 11 years following a fall. The debate over euthanasia continues to be a grey area in the fields of law and human rights while considering it from a moral standpoint. Concerns of a moral and legal nature have been raised in relation to the practice of physician-assisted suicide (PAS). The right to die with dignity is regarded as a fundamental component of the right to life in India, as stated in Article a)\_\_\_\_\_ of the Constitution of India. On the other hand, terminal illness not only causes excruciating physical pain but also emotional suffering and psychological anguish in both the patient and the care giver. Should terminally ill patients be allowed to select the manner in which they wish to die? The primary question that arises is whether a person who has a terminal illness ought to be given assistance in passing away or whether they ought to be permitted to suffer in pain until they meet their death naturally. The question that needs to be asked is whether or not a person's wish to die is more significant than the laws of a state that prohibit him/ her from doing so. However, it is tempting to dismiss predictions about the likely consequences of legalizing voluntary euthanasia because these predictions are based on speculation.

In its own unique way, today's modern society both accepts and rejects the practice of euthanasia. There is some scepticism regarding the ethical execution of euthanasia as well as the malpractices that may be carried out in the guise of euthanasia that could have disastrous consequences. While the majority of people are sympathetic to the idea of ending someone's life to relieve them of a long-standing and redundant state of pain and misery through voluntary or passive means, there is some speculative notion regarding the ethical execution of euthanasia.

The ethical question of euthanasia is a minefield that can never be satisfactorily answered. This discussion covers a wide range of intricate and ever-changing facets of civilized society, including legal, moral, ethical, human rights, health, religious, economic, spiritual, social, and cultural issues. Some people believe that euthanasia is the equivalent to murder and find the practice to be morally unacceptable and reprehensible. One section is of the opinion that euthanasia demeans the sanctity of life to have the option of deciding one's own death. On the other side of the argument are those who support the "right-to-die" movement, who believe that people who are suffering from diseases that are terminal, incurable, disabling, degenerative, or otherwise debilitating should have the right to die with dignity

Source: <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?q=247c8c66-b3ed-4179-bfe1-7df289a0cde5>

44. Which country became the first country to legalize Euthanasia on April 10, 2001?
- |             |                 |
|-------------|-----------------|
| (a) Sweden  | (b) Norway      |
| (c) Finland | (d) Netherlands |



45. Which landmark case recognised passive euthanasia in India?  
(a) P Rathinam v. Union of India (b) Gian Kaur v. Union of India  
(c) Common Cause v. Union of India (d) Aruna Shanbaug v. Union of India
46. In the primary board to examine patient's condition to determine to give euthanasia or not there would be three doctors including a physician and the other 2 doctors with how many years of experience?  
(a) 4 years (b) 5 years  
(c) 6 years (d) 8 years
47. The Supreme Court of India in which landmark judgment recognised a person's right to die with dignity, saying that a terminally ill person can opt for passive euthanasia and execute a living will to refuse medical treatment?  
(a) P Rathinam v. Union of India (b) Gian Kaur v. Union of India  
(c) Common Cause v. Union of India (d) Aruna Shanbaug v. Union of India
48. Which of the following will come in place of a)\_\_\_\_\_in the passage?  
(a) Article 14 (b) Article 21  
(c) Article 19 (d) Article 25
- X.** The Indian government's ambitious Bharatmala Pariyojana programme, a flagship initiative aimed at transforming the country's road network, has encountered setbacks. According to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) annual report, the project's completion timeline has been extended to 2027-28, reflecting delays and budgetary constraints. The Bharatmala Pariyojana programme relies on a diversified funding model. Sources include the Central Road and Infrastructure Fund cess collected from fuel, remittances, budgetary support from the government, monetisation of existing national highways, and private sector investments. Upon completion, Bharatmala Pariyojana Phase-I is projected to generate significant revenue for the government. The MoRTH anticipates collecting Rs 1.25 lakh crore through user fees and highway monetisation by 2028-29, a threefold increase compared to 2022-23. While concerns regarding cost overruns and project delays persist, the Bharatmala Pariyojana programme holds the potential to transform India's infrastructure, resulting in economic growth and improved connectivity across the nation.  
*Source: <https://timesproperty.com/news/post/your-commute-time-to-office-just-got-shorter-blid7486?offset=1>*

49. The BharatMala Pariyojana aims to develop how many kms of economic corridors, along with the Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) and North-South and East-West (NS-EW) Corridors, to carry the majority of the freight traffic on roads?
- (a) 19000 kms (b) 23000 kms  
(c) 26000 kms (d) 29000 kms
50. Which of the following is NOT the specific component of BharatMala Pariyojana?
- (a) Construction of Rural & Urban Roads  
(b) National Corridor Efficiency Improvements  
(c) Border & International Connectivity Roads  
(d) Expressways Construction
51. Which of the following city is NOT a part of Golden Quadrilateral Project?
- (a) Delhi (b) Chennai  
(c) Bangalore (d) Mumbai
52. The Sagarmala Programme was approved by the Union Cabinet in which year?
- (a) 2019 (b) 2020  
(c) 2015 (d) 2017

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**Legal Reasoning**

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

- XI. Criminal Law:** Section 405 of the Indian Penal Code states: "Whoever, being in any manner entrusted with property, or with any dominion over property, dishonestly misappropriated or converts to his own use that property, or dishonestly uses or disposes of that property in violation of any direction of law prescribing the mode in which such trust is to be discharged, or of any legal contract, express or implied, which he has made touching the discharge of such trust, or wilfully suffers any other person so to do, commits criminal breach of trust."

A criminal breach of trust occurs when someone entrusted with another person's property dishonestly misuses or takes advantage of it for their own benefit. The term "property" includes both movable and immovable assets. The concept of "entrustment" is crucial, referring to handing over property for specific purposes without granting full ownership rights. The entrusted person may misuse, convert, use, or dispose of the property dishonestly.

Section 405 IPC addresses the offence of criminal breach of trust in relation to property, whether movable or immovable. The offence occurs when the person dishonestly uses the property for their own purposes, misappropriates it, or disposes of it in violation of any legal obligations or contracts related to the discharge of such entrusted property. If the person allows another individual to commit such acts, they also commit the offence of criminal breach of trust.

To prove a criminal breach of trust, certain elements must be established:

- Entrustment of property to the accused.
- Dishonest misappropriation or conversion of property.
- Violation of law, contract, or trust governing the relationship between the parties.

The punishment for criminal breach of trust under Section 405 IPC is imprisonment for up to 3 years, a fine, or both. It is a non-bailable, cognizable offence, meaning the police can arrest the accused without a warrant, and a first-class Magistrate conducts the trial. Section 407 IPC deals with criminal breach of trust by carriers, wharfingers, or warehouse-keepers, with punishment extending to 7 years imprisonment and a fine. Section 408 IPC covers clerks, servants, or employees who commit a breach of trust, with similar penalties of up to 7 years imprisonment and a fine. Section 409 IPC addresses breaches by public servants or those in fiduciary roles like bankers, merchants, or agents, with severe penalties, including life imprisonment or up to 10 years imprisonment, along with a fine.

*Source: Extracted with edits and revisions from <https://lawbhoomi.com/criminal-breach-of-trust-ipc/>*

53. Ms. Verma, a senior bank manager at a reputable national bank, oversees a trust account handling large sums for community welfare projects. Mr. Shah, a trusted estate agent and long-standing bank client, approaches Ms. Verma with a proposal. He claims to be starting a new community project and requests a transfer of Rs. 10 crore from the trust account, promising substantial returns on investment. Relying on his reputed integrity and their past dealings, Ms. Verma agrees and facilitates the transfer without the usual oversight or permission from the board of trustees. Two months later, it becomes evident that Mr. Shah diverted the funds to his personal accounts abroad, and there is no evidence of any community project. The board is outraged and decides to press charges against both Ms. Verma and Mr. Shah for breach of trust. Given the circumstances, is Ms. Verma likely to be found guilty of criminal breach of trust under Section 409 IPC?
- (a) Yes, because she facilitated the transfer based on past trust and the good reputation of Mr. Shah.
  - (b) No, because she believed Mr. Shah was using the funds for a legitimate community project.
  - (c) Yes, because she transferred the funds without the necessary oversight, violating her fiduciary duties.
  - (d) No, because the actual misappropriation was committed by Mr. Shah, not Ms. Verma.
54. Anita, a professional photographer, borrows a high-tech camera from a friend, Dev, who owns a photography store. Dev agrees to lend the camera to Anita for a special wildlife photography expedition, stipulating that it should only be used for this purpose and must be returned immediately after. Anita, aware of the high demand for such cameras, sees an opportunity to help her friend Rahul, who needs a camera for a wedding shoot the same weekend. Without Dev's knowledge or consent, Anita lends the camera to Rahul after her expedition, believing it would return before Dev notices. Rahul uses the camera for the wedding, captures stunning photos, and returns it to Anita, who then gives it back to Dev, all within the agreed timeframe. Dev later finds out about the unauthorised use through social media posts of the wedding and considers legal action against Anita for criminal breach of trust. Did Anita commit a criminal breach of trust by lending the camera to Rahul for the wedding shoot?
- (a) No, because the camera was returned on time and in perfect condition, which adhered to the fundamental terms of the loan agreement.
  - (b) Yes, because Anita used the camera for purposes other than the agreed wildlife photography, which constitutes a misuse of Dev's property.
  - (c) No, because the camera's use at the wedding indirectly promoted Dev's photography store through social media exposure, potentially benefiting him without harming the property.
  - (d) Yes, because lending the camera to Rahul without Dev's consent for an unrelated event violates the specific terms of the entrustment, resulting in misuse.

55. Nikhil, a developer at a tech startup, is entrusted with a company laptop specifically for the development and testing of a new software project. The company's agreement clearly states that the laptop should only be used for company projects and strictly prohibits any personal use or software installation that is not approved by the IT department. Despite this, Nikhil decides to use the laptop to freelance for another company on weekends, believing that his additional work does not interfere with his primary responsibilities. He installed several tools necessary for his freelance work that are not authorised by his company's IT policies. His manager discovers the unauthorised software during a routine check and considers it a breach of trust. Nikhil argues that he did not misuse the company's property since his freelance work did not impact his assigned projects. Which of the following statements are true regarding Nikhil's actions under the principle of criminal breach of trust?
- Nikhil committed a breach of trust because he used the laptop for personal gain, which is outside of his official duties.
  - Nikhil did not commit a breach of trust because his freelance work did not affect his primary responsibilities.
  - Nikhil's actions do not constitute a breach of trust as long as the laptop was returned in good working condition.
  - The use of unauthorised software for personal projects constitutes a misappropriation of company property under the company's policies. [www.lawpreptutorial.com](http://www.lawpreptutorial.com)
- (a) Statement i (b) Statements i and iv  
(c) Statements ii and iii (d) Statements ii, iii, and iv
56. Alicia, the manager of a high-end boutique, is responsible for the security and management of valuable jewellery items. She hires Simon, a security consultant, to implement a new security system. Although Alicia suspects that Simon may not be fully qualified for the task, she allows him to install the system because he offers a competitively low rate. Alicia doesn't verify his credentials or review his work in detail. A month later, it's discovered that the security system was poorly installed, leading to a breach in which several pieces of jewellery are stolen. The investigation reveals that Simon intentionally compromised the security system, allowing an accomplice to steal the jewellery. The police consider charging Alicia with criminal breach of trust for allowing Simon to handle the security despite her doubts. Is Alicia likely to be charged with criminal breach of trust for her actions?
- Yes, because she did not verify Simon's credentials, indirectly facilitating the theft.
  - No, because Alicia did not directly participate in the theft, nor did she have any intent to steal.
  - Yes, because she allowed Simon to commit the acts by failing to oversee his work adequately, despite her suspicions.
  - No, because Simon was the one who compromised the security, not Alicia.

57. Neha, the chief financial officer (CFO) of a multinational corporation, has a fiduciary responsibility to manage the company's financial assets with integrity. Neha is approached by her close friend Arjun, who is the owner of a startup in financial trouble. Arjun pleads with Neha to help his company secure a crucial investment from her corporation. Feeling empathetic, Neha decides to manipulate the company's financial statements to make it appear that the startup is a lucrative investment opportunity. She reallocates funds from less profitable projects and inflates revenue figures, convincing the board to approve a substantial investment in Arjun's startup. However, six months later, Arjun's company declares bankruptcy, and an internal audit exposes Neha's manipulations. The corporation files a complaint against Neha for criminal breach of trust under Section 409 IPC. Under Section 409 IPC, which of the following statements best describes Neha's legal position?
- (a) Neha did not commit a breach of trust because she acted out of empathy and had no intention of personal gain.
  - (b) Neha committed a breach of trust because she dishonestly manipulated financial statements, violating her fiduciary duty.
  - (c) Neha's actions do not constitute a breach of trust as the ultimate intention was to help a friend's business, not to harm the corporation.
  - (d) Neha is not liable under Section 409 IPC because the misappropriated funds were invested, not stolen or diverted for personal use.
58. Mr. A, a wealthy businessman, owns several valuable paintings. He entrusts his long-time friend Mr. B, an art dealer, with one of these paintings, a rare and expensive piece by a famous artist, for the purpose of exhibiting it in an upcoming art show. The agreement between Mr. A and Mr. B is that the painting will only be used for the exhibition and will be returned to Mr. A afterward. However, due to financial difficulties, Mr. B secretly sells the painting to a third party, Mr. C, without informing Mr. A. Mr. C, unaware of the prior arrangement, buys the painting in good faith and places it in his private collection. When Mr. A learns about the sale, he confronts Mr. B, demanding the return of the painting. Mr. B, realizing his mistake, promises to retrieve the painting from Mr. C but fails to do so. Frustrated, Mr. A decides to take legal action against Mr. C for criminal breach of trust under Section 405 of the IPC, arguing that Mr. C now possesses the painting that was originally entrusted to Mr. B. Will Mr. A succeed in his legal action against Mr. C for criminal breach of trust?
- (a) Yes, because Mr. C is now in possession of the painting that was entrusted to Mr. B.
  - (b) No, because Mr. C purchased the painting in good faith and was not part of the original trust agreement between Mr. A and Mr. B.
  - (c) Yes, because Mr. C, by purchasing the painting, indirectly violated the terms of the trust between Mr. A and Mr. B.
  - (d) No, because Mr. B, not Mr. C, was the one entrusted with the painting and who committed the breach of trust.

59. Ms. G is employed as the financial manager at ABC Corp, a mid-sized company. Over the years, she has gained the trust of the company's board due to her diligent work. However, in an attempt to fund a personal business venture, Ms. G secretly diverts a significant amount of company funds into her own account, intending to return the money once her business becomes profitable. Unfortunately, her venture fails, and she is unable to replace the funds. When the company conducts an internal audit, the discrepancy is discovered, and Ms. G's actions come to light. The company's CEO, Mr. H, immediately reports the matter to the police. The police arrive at Ms. G's residence the next morning and arrest her without a warrant. Ms. G's family is shocked and questions the legality of the arrest, arguing that she should have been given a chance to explain her actions before being taken into custody. Was the police's action of arresting Ms. G without a warrant legally justified?
- (a) Yes, because criminal breach of trust under Section 408 IPC is a cognizable offence, allowing the police to arrest without a warrant.
  - (b) No, because financial crimes usually require a warrant for arrest.
  - (c) Yes, because Section 408 IPC involves breach of trust by employees, and such offences are treated with severity.
  - (d) No, because Ms. G should have been summoned to court first before any arrest could be made.

- XII. Current Affairs:** The Supreme Court of India, in a significant judgment on July 25, 2024, ruled that states have the authority to tax mining activities, and that collecting royalties from mining leaseholders is separate from and does not interfere with the power to impose taxes. This decision was delivered by a nine-judge Constitution Bench in the case of Mineral Area Development Authority v. M/s Steel Authority of India, ending a legal battle that had been ongoing for over 25 years. The Bench, led by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, delivered the majority opinion with an 8-1 split, with Justice B V Nagarathna dissenting. The case revolved around whether royalties under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDRA), which are paid by leaseholders to conduct mining activities, should be considered a form of tax. The Supreme Court previously addressed this issue in the India Cement Ltd v. State of Tamil Nadu (1989) case, where it held that royalties were akin to taxes, barring states from imposing additional taxes on mining activities. However, this position was later contested in the State of West Bengal v. Kesoram Industries Ltd (2004) case, where the court suggested that the phrase "royalty is a tax" was a typographical error and should have been "cess on royalty is a tax."
- The issue was further complicated in the Mineral Area Development Authority case, where a Bihar law imposing a cess on land revenue from mineral-bearing lands was challenged. The apparent conflict between the earlier rulings led the Supreme Court to refer the matter to a nine-judge Bench for a final resolution.
- In its majority opinion, the court clarified that royalties are not taxes because they stem from specific contracts or agreements between the mining leaseholder and the lessor, and are not

intended for public purposes like taxes. Instead, royalties are payments made to a lessor in exchange for the right to extract minerals, reflecting a private transaction rather than a public levy.

Furthermore, the court upheld the states' power to tax mineral development activities under Entry 50 of the State List, which allows states to impose taxes on mineral rights, subject to limitations by Parliament. The court ruled that the MMDRA does not interfere with this power, as it merely provides an additional revenue stream through royalties without barring states from imposing other taxes.

Justice Nagarathna, in her dissent, argued that royalties should be considered a tax to ensure uniform mineral development across the country and prevent states from imposing additional financial burdens on mining activities. She contended that the MMDRA aimed to promote mineral development and that allowing states to impose further taxes could undermine this objective.

*Source: Extracted with edits and revisions from*

*<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-law/royalty-not-tax-supreme-court-mining-ruling-9475001/>*

60. Global Extracts Inc., a multinational mining corporation, enters into a lease agreement with the local government of Jharkhand, India, to extract rare earth minerals vital for electronics manufacturing. As part of the agreement, Global Extracts agrees to pay substantial royalties to the lessor, which in this case is the Jharkhand state government. The contract explicitly states that these royalties are in exchange for the exclusive right to mine in specified areas within the state. Two years into operations, Global Extracts faces financial difficulties due to market volatility and seeks to challenge the royalty payments in court, arguing that these should be considered public levies subject to different regulatory scrutiny and potential tax relief measures. Can Global Extracts successfully argue in court that the royalties it agreed to pay should be considered public levies, potentially subject to tax relief, based on the nature of the transaction described in the lease agreement?
- (a) Yes, because the payment of royalties can be argued as a public levy due to its significant contribution to the state's revenue.
  - (b) No, because royalties are payments made to a lessor in exchange for the right to extract minerals, reflecting a private transaction rather than a public levy.
  - (c) Yes, because the economic impact on Global Extracts allows for a reinterpretation of royalties as public taxes eligible for relief.
  - (d) No, because the payment agreement specifies the royalties as a fee for service, which cannot be reclassified legally without amending the contract.



61. Amera Minerals, a mining company operating in several states across India, is faced with a legislative change in Rajasthan where the state government has decided to increase the royalty rates significantly. This change was made to address environmental degradation and promote better management of resources. Amera Minerals argues that these increased rates are a form of tax and should be uniform across all states to prevent a detrimental impact on the mining sector's overall economic health. They challenge this decision in court, citing the dissenting opinion in a recent Supreme Court judgment that royalties should be considered a tax to ensure uniform mineral development across the country. If arguing solely based on the dissenting opinion from a recent Supreme Court judgment, can Amera Minerals successfully argue that the increased royalty rates imposed by the Rajasthan government should be considered a tax, advocating for uniformity across states?
- (a) Yes, because increased royalty rates require national legislative action to ensure they are treated equally across all states, which is in line with the dissenting opinion's emphasis on uniformity.
  - (b) No, because even the dissenting opinion acknowledges the authority of individual states to set their own rates, leaving room for variability.
  - (c) Yes, because the dissenting opinion argues that treating royalties as taxes prevents states from imposing additional financial burdens, aligning with Amera Minerals' contention against the increase.
  - (d) No, because the dissenting opinion still requires a legislative amendment at the national level to enforce uniformity in royalty rates.
62. Quantum Mining Corp., a large mining company, operates under leases in the mineral-rich state of Odisha, India. Recently, the Odisha state government decided to introduce an additional tax on the extraction of bauxite, which is a significant part of Quantum's mining portfolio. Quantum Mining argues that this new tax interferes with their lease agreements which already stipulate the payment of royalties for mineral extraction rights. They believe the existing royalties should cover all state-imposed costs related to mineral extraction. Can Quantum Mining successfully challenge the new tax imposed by the Odisha government on the grounds that it interferes with their royalties as stipulated in their mining lease agreements?
- (a) Yes, because the royalties already paid under the lease agreements should exempt them from any additional state taxes on mineral extraction.
  - (b) No, because collecting royalties from mining leaseholders is separate from and does not interfere with the power to impose taxes.
  - (c) Yes, because the imposition of a new tax on top of royalties constitutes double taxation, which is prohibited under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act.
  - (d) No, because the new tax constitutes a regulatory fee rather than a tax, thus not overlapping with royalties.

63. GreenRock Mining Co. operates a large copper mine in the state of Chhattisgarh, India. The company signed a mining lease agreement with the state government, agreeing to pay specific royalties based on the amount of copper extracted. These royalties are stipulated in the lease as compensation for the depletion of natural resources, allowing GreenRock exclusive mining rights in designated areas. In response to a severe economic downturn, the state government decides to impose an additional "environmental tax" on all extracted minerals, aiming to fund reforestation and water purification projects in mining areas. GreenRock argues that this new tax is unnecessary as their royalty payments should cover all state levies related to mining activities, including environmental management, and decides to challenge this tax in court. Can GreenRock successfully argue in court that the new "environmental tax" imposed by the Chhattisgarh government should be voided because their royalty payments already include provisions for environmental management?
- (a) Yes, because royalties are intended to cover all expenses and taxes arising from mining activities.
  - (b) No, because royalties are not taxes but payments for the specific contract of mining rights and do not cover public purpose levies like environmental taxes.
  - (c) Yes, because imposing an additional tax on top of royalties constitutes double taxation, which is prohibited under contractual agreements.
  - (d) No, because the imposition of an environmental tax, despite overlapping with some goals of royalties, is legally distinct as it serves additional, broader state purposes beyond the contractual scope of royalties.
64. Orion Mining Inc., a large corporation specializing in nickel extraction, operates in a remote area of Madhya Pradesh, India. To facilitate its operations, Orion entered into a lease agreement with the state government, agreeing to pay royalties in exchange for the extraction rights. The lease agreement explicitly states that these royalties are for the exclusive right to mine and not intended for public infrastructure projects or other state needs. Recently, the state government initiated a project to improve roads and public transportation in the area, citing that the increased royalties from Orion should directly contribute to these public works, aligning with their broader development goals. Orion disputes this interpretation, arguing that their royalty payments are not intended for such public projects, but solely for the extraction rights as per their agreement. They decide to challenge this in court. Can Orion Mining Inc. successfully argue in court that their royalty payments should not be used for public infrastructure projects, based on the nature of the royalties as defined in their lease agreement?
- (a) Yes, because the royalties are specified in the lease as payments for extraction rights, not for funding public infrastructure.
  - (b) No, because the state government has the authority to redirect any funds, including royalties, for public welfare and infrastructure as it sees fit.
  - (c) Yes, because using royalties for public infrastructure violates the principle of royalties being non-taxable contributions, not intended for general state revenue.
  - (d) No, because royalties, once paid to the state, can be utilized for any purpose, including public infrastructure, as per government discretion.

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**XIII. Law of Torts:** The legal maxim *Ex turpi causa non oritur actio* holds that no action can arise from an unlawful cause, encapsulating the doctrine that individuals should not profit from their wrongful actions. This principle is pivotal in the law of torts, stipulating that a party cannot claim damages for harm suffered as a consequence of their own illegal act.

This doctrine is rooted in two essential criteria: firstly, the cause of the claim must be unlawful, implicating an act either illegal or against public policy; secondly, there must be harm that results directly from this act. If both conditions are met, the maxim applies, barring the wrongdoer from seeking any judicial remedy for the damages incurred.

In India, *Ex turpi causa non oritur actio* has been instrumental across numerous cases. For instance, a drunk driver responsible for a car accident cannot claim damages for personal injuries sustained in that incident. The driver's illegal conduct (drunk driving) is the direct cause of the accident, thus applying the principle to bar any compensation claims.

Similarly, if an employee is injured while committing a crime, such as stealing from an employer, they would be barred from recovering damages for injuries sustained during the criminal act. The principle also extends to situations where all involved parties are engaging in illegal activities, such as a pedestrian injured while jaywalking if they were hit by another jaywalking pedestrian. Moreover, drug dealers or individuals engaged in any illegal transactions who sustain injuries during such activities are typically unable to claim damages. Their involvement in an unlawful act precludes them from seeking compensation through legal channels.

However, the application of this principle is not without exceptions. Indian courts have developed tests to determine the applicability of *Ex turpi causa non oritur actio*, ensuring fairness and justice in complex legal landscapes:

1. **Test of Reliance:** This test examines whether the plaintiff's claim relies on their own illegal or immoral conduct. If so, the maxim applies. However, if the claim is independent of the wrongful act, such as injuries from unrelated third-party negligence, the principle may not apply.
2. **Principle of No Benefit:** Under this principle, if the plaintiff would benefit from their wrongful act by succeeding in their claim, the maxim bars such recovery.
3. **Proportionality Test:** This test balances the severity of the illegal conduct against the harm suffered. It determines if the wrongful act was so severe that it outweighs any harm, thus applying the principle.
4. **Inextricably Linked Test:** It considers whether the claim is so closely connected to the illegal act that they cannot be separated. If they are inseparable, the principle bars the claim.
5. **Public Conscience Test:** This evaluates whether permitting the claim would be contrary to public policy. If so, the maxim applies to prevent undermining societal values.
6. **Victimless Crime:** Another exception to the principle of *ex turpi causa non oritur actio* is for victimless crimes. Under this exception, if the plaintiff's illegal conduct did not harm anyone else, then this principle would not apply.

Source: Extracted with edits and revisions from <https://lawbhoomi.com/ex-turpi-causa-non-oritur-actio/>

67. Ajay and Vijay run a company that specializes in importing luxury goods. To avoid hefty customs duties, they devise a plan to smuggle some of these goods into the country. Ajay is responsible for arranging the shipments, while Vijay takes care of the distribution. They agree that the profits from the smuggled goods will be split equally between them. Over time, Ajay suspects that Vijay is hiding some of the profits and confronts him. Vijay denies this, but Ajay secretly records a conversation where Vijay admits to underreporting the profits. Ajay then files a lawsuit to claim his rightful share of the smuggled profits, using the recording as evidence. Vijay counters that since the profits arise from an illegal act, Ajay has no right to any legal remedy. Considering the above situation, can Ajay succeed in his claim against Vijay?
- (a) Yes, because Ajay has undeniable proof of Vijay's underreporting, and the court must enforce the agreement based on this evidence.
  - (b) No, because the court will not enforce an agreement that arises from an illegal act, regardless of any proof presented.
  - (c) Yes, because the recording shows Vijay's intention to deceive, which invalidates the original agreement, allowing Ajay to claim his share.
  - (d) No, because the recording was obtained without Vijay's consent, making it inadmissible as evidence, and thus Ajay's claim cannot be substantiated.
68. Amit borrows Rs. 50,000 from Bhanu, promising to repay the amount within three months. However, instead of using the money for its intended purpose, Amit decides to gamble the entire sum with Chetan in an illegal gambling den. Unfortunately for Amit, he loses the entire Rs. 50,000 to Chetan. Desperate to recover his losses, Amit decides to sue Chetan to reclaim the money he lost during the gambling session. Simultaneously, Bhanu, upon learning what happened, sues Amit to recover the loaned amount. Considering the above scenario, will Amit succeed in his claim against Chetan, and will Bhanu succeed in his claim against Amit?
- (a) Yes, Amit can recover the money from Chetan because the gambling activity was illegal, and Bhanu can also recover the money from Amit because the loan was a separate, lawful transaction.
  - (b) No, Amit cannot recover the money from Chetan because he voluntarily participated in the illegal activity, but Bhanu cannot recover the money from Amit because the money was lost in an illegal activity.
  - (c) No, Amit cannot recover the money from Chetan because he voluntarily participated in the illegal activity, but Bhanu can recover the money from Amit because the loan was a separate, lawful transaction.
  - (d) Yes, Amit can recover the money from Chetan because the gambling activity was illegal, and Bhanu cannot recover the money from Amit because the money was lost in an illegal activity.

69. Rajesh, who operates a small business selling counterfeit luxury goods, hires a local courier service to deliver some of his products to a buyer. While the courier is en route, a reckless driver crashes into the courier's vehicle, causing the complete destruction of Rajesh's goods. Furious, Rajesh decides to sue the reckless driver for the loss of his goods, arguing that the driver's negligence directly led to his financial loss. The driver, however, contends that since the goods were illegal, Rajesh cannot claim any damages. Considering the above scenario, can Rajesh successfully claim damages from the reckless driver?
- (a) Yes, Rajesh can successfully claim damages because the claim for damages is independent of the illegality of the goods, focusing solely on the reckless driver's negligence.
  - (b) Yes, Rajesh can successfully claim damages because the driver's actions directly led to the loss, regardless of the legality of the goods.
  - (c) No, Rajesh cannot claim damages because his business activity was illegal, and the principle of *Ex turpi causa non oritur actio* applies.
  - (d) No, Rajesh cannot claim damages because the loss involved illegal goods, which are not protected by law, making any claim void.
70. Vikram, an art dealer, conspires with Priya, an artist, to create counterfeit paintings of famous artists. Vikram sells one of these counterfeit paintings to a wealthy collector, Mr. Sharma, for a substantial sum. Mr. Sharma, unaware of the fraud, pays Vikram the full amount. Later, the police discover the counterfeit operation, and Vikram is arrested. Priya, however, manages to escape with the money and disappears. Vikram, now in need of funds for his legal defense, files a lawsuit against Priya, claiming that she owes him his share of the profits from the sale of the counterfeit painting.
- Considering the above scenario, can Vikram successfully claim the money from Priya?
- (a) Yes, Vikram can claim the money because their partnership in the counterfeit operation entitles him to his share of the profits.
  - (b) Yes, Vikram can claim the money because the sale to Mr. Sharma was completed, and Priya has no right to withhold his share.
  - (c) No, Vikram cannot claim the money because doing so would allow him to benefit from an illegal act, which is barred by the principle of no benefit.
  - (d) No, Vikram cannot claim the money because Priya completed the sale independently, and Vikram's involvement was not necessary.

71. Suresh and Amit are involved in an illegal gambling operation. One day, while carrying a large amount of money to a gambling den, Amit is attacked by a third party, Vinod, who robs him. Amit manages to escape but is severely injured in the process. Suresh, who had given the money to Amit for safekeeping, sues Amit for negligence, claiming that Amit failed to protect the money. Amit, on the other hand, files a lawsuit against Vinod for the injuries and losses he suffered during the robbery. Considering the above scenario, can Amit successfully claim compensation from Vinod?
- (a) Yes, because Amit's claim for injuries and losses is independent of the illegal gambling operation and is based on the harm caused by Vinod's criminal act.
  - (b) No, because Amit's claim is barred since he was involved in an illegal activity at the time, and his injuries are related to that illegal act.
  - (c) No, because Amit's involvement in the illegal gambling operation bars him from claiming any compensation for injuries suffered during the course of that activity.
  - (d) No, because Amit's claim is inextricably linked to the illegal gambling operation, and the principle of *Ex turpi causa non oritur actio* bars such claims.
72. Ravi is a software developer who illegally hacks into a competitor's database to steal proprietary information, intending to use it to gain an advantage for his own company. After successfully downloading the data, Ravi meets with an accident caused by an unrelated third-party truck driver, Ramesh, while driving to his office. As a result of the accident, Ravi's laptop, containing the stolen data, is destroyed, and he suffers severe injuries. Ravi decides to sue Ramesh for the damages, claiming compensation for his injuries and the loss of the data. Which of the following statements best reflects the likely outcome of Ravi's lawsuit, considering the principles provided?
- i. Ravi will succeed because his claim is independent of his illegal act of hacking.
  - ii. Ravi will fail because his illegal conduct is inextricably linked to the claim for the stolen data.
  - iii. Ravi will fail with regards loss of data because allowing him to recover damages for the loss of stolen data would violate public conscience.
  - iv. Ravi will succeed for personal injuries because the accident was caused by a third party's negligence, unrelated to his illegal activities.
- (a) Only (ii) and (iii)
  - (b) Only (iii) and (iv)
  - (c) Only (ii)
  - (d) Only (i) and (iv)



73. Arjun was driving home late at night when he was involved in a severe car accident with Vikram. Arjun suffered multiple injuries and his car was badly damaged. After the accident, it was discovered that Arjun did not have a valid driver's license at the time of the accident, as his license had expired a few months prior. Arjun decided to sue Vikram for compensation, claiming that Vikram's negligent driving caused the accident and his injuries. Vikram, in his defense, argued that because Arjun was driving without a valid license, the principle of *Ex turpi causa non oritur actio* should apply, barring Arjun from recovering any damages. Vikram claimed that since Arjun was engaging in illegal activity by driving without a valid license, he should not be entitled to any compensation. Can Arjun successfully claim compensation for his injuries and damages despite not having a valid driver's license?
- (a) Yes, because the accident and resulting injuries were caused by Vikram's negligence, and Arjun's lack of a valid license did not directly contribute to the accident.
  - (b) Yes, because the absence of a valid license is a victimless crime that did not harm anyone else, so the principle of *Ex turpi causa non oritur actio* does not apply.
  - (c) No, because Arjun was driving illegally without a valid license, and therefore, he cannot seek compensation for any damages resulting from the accident. [www.lawpreptutorial.com](http://www.lawpreptutorial.com)
  - (d) No, because driving without a valid license is a violation of the law, and the principle of *Ex turpi causa non oritur actio* bars Arjun from recovering any compensation.

**XIV. Current Affairs:** The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, introduced in the Lok Sabha on August 8, 2024, proposes significant changes to the Waqf Act, 1995, which governs waqf properties in India. The Bill renames the Act to the 'United Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency and Development Act, 1995' and introduces several key amendments.

**Formation of Waqf:** The Bill specifies that only a person who has practiced Islam for at least five years and owns the property can declare a waqf. It removes the provision for waqf by user, which previously allowed properties to be deemed waqf based on long-term religious use. The Bill also ensures that waqf-alal-aulad, an endowment when the line of succession ends, does not deny inheritance rights to the donor's heirs, including women.

**Government Property as Waqf:** The Bill states that any government property identified as waqf will cease to be considered as such. The area's Collector will determine ownership in case of disputes, and if deemed government property, the revenue records will be updated accordingly.

**Power to Determine Waqf Property:** The existing power of the Waqf Board to inquire and determine if a property is waqf has been removed. This responsibility now shifts to state authorities.

**Survey of Waqf:** Instead of the Survey Commissioner, Collectors will now conduct waqf property surveys. Any pending surveys will be carried out according to state revenue laws.

**Waqf Boards:** The Bill empowers state governments to nominate members to the Waqf Board, including one person each from the backgrounds of MPs, MLAs, MLCs, and Bar Council members, who need not be Muslims. The Board must include two non-Muslim members, at



least one member each from Shia, Sunni, and Backward classes of Muslims, and one member each from the Bohra and Agakhani communities if they have waqf properties in the state. Additionally, two Muslim members must be women.

**Composition of Tribunals:** The Bill changes the composition of Waqf Tribunals, removing the requirement for a member knowledgeable in Muslim law and jurisprudence. Instead, the Tribunal will include a current or former District Court judge as chairman and a current or former officer of the rank of joint secretary to the state government.

**Appeal on Orders of Tribunals:** The Bill allows appeals to be made to the High Court within 90 days of the Tribunal's order, removing the finality previously given to Tribunal decisions.

**Waqf Boards for Bohra and Agakhani:** The Act allows establishing separate Waqf Boards for Sunni and Shia sects if Shia waqf constitute more than 15% of all waqf properties or waqf income in the state. The Bill also allows separate waqf boards for Aghakhani and Bohra sects.

*Source: Extracted with edits and revisions from [https://prsindia.org/billtrack/the-waqf-amendment-bill-2024#:~:text=The%20Waqf%20\(Amendment\)%20Bill%2C%202024%20was%20introduced%20in%20Lok,or%20charitable%20under%20Muslim%20law.](https://prsindia.org/billtrack/the-waqf-amendment-bill-2024#:~:text=The%20Waqf%20(Amendment)%20Bill%2C%202024%20was%20introduced%20in%20Lok,or%20charitable%20under%20Muslim%20law.)*

74. Zainab, a devout Muslim, has been regularly using a privately owned plot of land for over 30 years to host weekly religious gatherings and community prayers. The land has been recognized by the local community as a place of religious significance, and a small makeshift mosque has been constructed on it. Zainab and the community have always considered the land to be waqf due to its long-term religious use, although no formal waqf declaration has ever been made. The landowner, who has been abroad for the last 20 years, recently returned and decided to sell the property. When Zainab and the community learned about this, they opposed the sale, claiming that the land is waqf based on its long-term religious use. The landowner argues that there has never been any formal declaration of waqf, and the property is rightfully his. The dispute reaches the court. Based on the proposed Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, what is the most likely outcome?
- (a) The court will rule in favour of Zainab and the community, recognizing the land as waqf due to its long-term religious use.
  - (b) The court will dismiss the claim of Zainab and the community, as the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, removes the provision for waqf by user.
  - (c) The court will order a survey of the land to determine if it has been used as waqf property before making a final decision.
  - (d) The court will refer the matter to the Waqf Board to inquire and determine if the land should be considered waqf.

75. The state of Mahajan has recently seen a dispute regarding a piece of land that has been in use as a burial ground for over 50 years. The local Muslim community claims that the land is waqf property, arguing that it has been used for religious purposes for decades. However, no formal waqf declaration was ever made, and the land is officially listed in government records as public land. Recently, a real estate developer obtained approval from the state government to construct a shopping complex on the land. The local Waqf Board, upon hearing this, initiated an inquiry to declare the land as waqf and halt the construction. Simultaneously, a survey of the land was requested by the local community to establish its status as waqf property. The matter escalated and was brought before the court. Considering the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, what is the most likely outcome?
- (a) The Waqf Board's inquiry will be upheld, and the land will be declared waqf, preventing the construction of the shopping complex.
  - (b) The court will instruct the Survey Commissioner to conduct a survey to determine the land's status as waqf, after which a decision will be made.
  - (c) The court will dismiss the Waqf Board's inquiry, and the responsibility to determine the status of the land will rest with state authorities.
  - (d) The land will automatically be declared waqf property due to its long-term religious use, and the state authorities will update the records accordingly.
76. In the state of Amravati, a large plot of land has been used as a mosque and community center for over 100 years. The local Waqf Board had declared the land as waqf property decades ago, and it has been managed by the Board ever since. However, the state government recently discovered that the land was originally government property and had never been officially transferred to the Waqf Board. The government claims that the land was mistakenly declared as waqf and now seeks to reclaim it for public use. The Waqf Board argues that since the land has been used for religious purposes for such a long time, it should remain waqf property. The dispute is brought before the court. In light of the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, how is the court likely to rule?
- (a) The court will rule in favour of the Waqf Board, allowing the land to remain waqf due to its long-term religious use.
  - (b) The court will rule in favour of the state government, as the Bill states that any government property identified as waqf will cease to be considered as such.
  - (c) The court will order a joint inquiry by the Waqf Board and the government to determine the land's status.
  - (d) The court will allow the Waqf Board to continue managing the property but require them to compensate the government for the land's value.

77. In the state of Noorabad, a dispute arises over the ownership of a large tract of land that was declared waqf by the local Waqf Board. The claimant, Mrs. Zara, who has held the land for generations, argues that the declaration was made in error. The Waqf Tribunal, after a lengthy trial, rules in favour of the Waqf Board, declaring the land as waqf property. Mrs. Zara, dissatisfied with the Tribunal's decision, wishes to challenge the ruling but is unsure of the legal process. Previously, the Tribunal's decision would have been final, but she is now informed that the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, has introduced a new provision. Assuming it has been passed, what should Mrs. Zara do if she wants to challenge the Tribunal's decision?
- (a) Mrs. Zara should accept the Tribunal's decision as final, as it cannot be appealed.
  - (b) Mrs. Zara can appeal the Tribunal's decision to the High Court within 90 days.
  - (c) Mrs. Zara must seek a special leave to appeal to the Supreme Court directly.
  - (d) Mrs. Zara can file a review petition with the same Tribunal within 90 days.
78. Hassan, a wealthy landowner who has practiced Islam for over 20 years, decides to create a waqf with his large estate to benefit the local community by establishing a mosque and a school. He consults with his family and decides to declare the property as waqf-alal-aulad, ensuring that after the mosque and school are built, the remaining revenue from the property will benefit his descendants. However, Hassan's eldest son, Ahmed, who converted to Islam a decade ago, is concerned that his sisters might lose their inheritance rights. In addition, a dispute arises when the local imam argues that a small plot of land used for religious purposes for over 50 years, but owned by a non-Muslim, should also be included in the waqf. Considering the principles provided by the Bill, which of the following statements are correct?
- i. Hassan can legally declare the estate as a waqf because he meets the requirement of practicing Islam for at least five years and owning the property.
  - ii. The imam's demand to include the small plot of land in the waqf is invalid because the Bill removes the provision for waqf by user.
  - iii. Ahmed's concern is unfounded because the Bill ensures that waqf-alal-aulad does not deny inheritance rights to the donor's heirs, including women.
  - iv. Ahmed cannot declare his own property as waqf since he has not practiced Islam for at least five years.
- (a) Only (i) and (ii)
  - (b) Only (ii), (iii), and iv)
  - (c) Only (i), (ii), and (iii)
  - (d) Only (iii) and (iv)

- XV. POSH Act:** The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, commonly known as the POSH Act, is a significant legal measure designed to prevent and address sexual harassment in Indian workplaces. This law was inspired by the Bhanwari Devi gang rape case in 1992, which led the Supreme Court to issue the Vishakha guidelines in 1997, emphasizing the urgent need for protections against workplace sexual harassment.

The POSH Act provides a clear definition of sexual harassment, which includes demands for sexual favors, sexually suggestive comments, and other unwelcome physical or verbal behavior of a sexual nature. It expands the concept of a "workplace" to include all areas of employment, whether in the public or private sectors. The law requires the establishment of Internal Complaints Committees (ICC) and Local Complaints Committees (LCC) in workplaces to handle complaints of sexual harassment. An ICC is established in organizations with more than ten employees. The ICC is made up of a chairperson or presiding officer, two employee members, and one external member. Aggrieved women employee can make written complaint of sexual harassment at workplace to the ICC of PCI within a period of three months from the date of incident and in case of a series of incidents, within a period of three months from the date of last incident. If the employee is unable to file a complaint, a relative, friend, co-worker, or officer from the National Commission for Women or State Women's Commission can file on her behalf with her written consent.

An LCC is established in workplaces with fewer than ten employees, or when it's not possible to establish an ICC. The LCC is also responsible for receiving complaints from women working in the unorganized sector, or complaints against the employer from organizations with more than ten employees. The committees under the POSH Act can suggest a range of actions, such as transferring the accused, suspending or terminating them, and even recommending compensation for the victim. Employers are required to implement these recommendations and must also work to create a safe workplace environment free from sexual harassment, which includes conducting awareness programs and supporting the committees in their duties. Failure to comply with these requirements can result in a fine of up to 50,000 rupees, with more severe penalties, including the cancellation of business licenses, for repeat offenses. However, despite the strong provisions of the Act, challenges in implementation remain, particularly in sectors like sports federations where the formation of committees is often neglected, as highlighted by a Supreme Court survey. This situation underscores the ongoing need for widespread gender sensitization programs, which could help create a workplace culture that naturally respects all genders and reduces the need for such legislation.

*Source: Extracted with edits and revisions from <https://blog.ipleaders.in/an-overview-of-the-posh-act-2013/>*

80. Rita is a content writer working remotely for Digital Horizons, a company based in Delhi that primarily handles digital marketing and web development. The company has both office-based and remote employees. During an online team meeting, Rita's manager, Sandeep, makes several unwelcome comments about her appearance and suggests that they should meet outside of work for a "more personal project discussion." Feeling uncomfortable and harassed, Rita decides to report the incident. Does Rita's situation fall under the definition of sexual harassment at the workplace as defined by the POSH Act?
- (a) No, because Rita and Sandeep were not in a physical office setting, and thus it does not qualify as a workplace incident under the POSH Act.
  - (b) Yes, because the POSH Act expands the definition of "workplace" to include all areas of employment, whether in the public or private sectors.
  - (c) No, because verbal comments made during online meetings are considered informal and do not constitute sexual harassment under the POSH Act.
  - (d) Yes, because the incident involves demands for personal meetings disguised as work discussions, which is covered under the POSH Act.

81. Shreya runs "CodeMagic," a remote software development firm that employs individuals working from diverse locations across India. Anjali, a dedicated employee, works from a small rented office in a residential area of Chennai, shared with other freelancers. Recently, she faced sexual harassment from a fellow freelancer, who is not affiliated with CodeMagic. Anjali is unsure about the correct protocol for filing her complaint, considering her unique work arrangement and the harasser's lack of ties to her employer. Given Anjali's situation, where should she file her complaint of sexual harassment, considering the harasser is not an employee of CodeMagic?
- (a) The Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) of CodeMagic, since Anjali is an employee and the harassment occurred in her workplace.
  - (b) The police or local law enforcement, since the harasser is outside the jurisdiction of any workplace-specific committee.
  - (c) Direct intervention by the National Commission for Women, given that the harasser is not affiliated with CodeMagic, indicating a need for broader legal intervention.
  - (d) The Local Complaints Committee (LCC), because Anjali's workspace qualifies under the category of workplaces with no formal ICC due to the remote nature of her employment.
82. At TechSolve Solutions, after witnessing repeated incidents of sexual harassment towards her friend Meera by their team leader, Rahul, Neeta decides to take action. Understanding Meera's distress and her inability to file the complaint herself, Neeta proceeds to file the complaint with the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) after receiving verbal approval from Meera during a supportive phone conversation. Is the complaint filed by Neeta on behalf of Meera valid under the POSH Act?
- (a) Yes, the complaint is valid as Neeta has Meera's verbal consent, which is sufficient for filing under stressful circumstances.
  - (b) Yes, the complaint is valid because Neeta is a co-worker and acting in good faith to assist Meera, making formal consent unnecessary.
  - (c) No, the complaint is not valid because it lacks Meera's written consent, which is explicitly required under the POSH Act for third-party filings.
  - (d) No, the complaint is valid but will require formal ratification by Meera in written form within a specified timeframe to remain active.

83. Priya, a data analyst at FastForward Technologies in Pune, experienced a series of unwelcome advances from her manager, Amit, over several months. The harassment incidents occurred sporadically, starting on January 15th and the most recent on April 15th. Priya, initially hesitant and fearful of repercussions, decided to file a complaint after discussions with a supportive colleague. She officially filed her complaint with the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) on July 20th. Considering the dates of the harassment incidents and the date Priya filed the complaint, is her complaint valid under the POSH Act?
- (a) Yes, the complaint is valid because it was filed within three months of the first incident, which sets the timeline for all subsequent complaints.
  - (b) No, the complaint is not valid because it was filed more than three months after the last incident, missing the deadline specified by the POSH Act.
  - (c) Yes, the complaint is valid because the ongoing nature of the harassment allows for extensions in the filing deadline under special circumstances.
  - (d) No, the complaint is valid but will only be considered for incidents that occurred within three months prior to the filing date.
84. Meena works at a prominent law firm where she has been employed for the past three years. Recently, she reported to the Internal Committee (IC) established under the POSH Act that her immediate supervisor, Rajesh, has been sexually harassing her through inappropriate comments and unwanted physical advances. The IC conducted a thorough investigation and found sufficient evidence supporting Meena's claims. The IC recommended that Rajesh be suspended immediately, that Meena be transferred to a different department where she would not have to interact with Rajesh, and that Meena receive compensation for the distress caused. The firm's management, however, decided to only issue a verbal warning to Rajesh, stating that his suspension would negatively impact important ongoing projects. They also delayed the implementation of Meena's transfer and did not address the compensation recommendation.
- Considering the provisions under the POSH Act, which of the following statements are correct?
- i. The firm is obligated to follow all recommendations made by the IC, including the suspension of Rajesh and the transfer of Meena.
  - ii. The firm can choose to modify the recommendations of the IC based on the potential impact on business operations.
  - iii. The firm's failure to implement the IC's recommendations regarding compensation could lead to legal consequences.
  - iv. The firm's decision to delay the transfer and not suspend Rajesh may be justified if it can demonstrate that the IC's recommendations were unreasonable.
- (a) Only (i) and (iii)
  - (b) Only (ii) and (iv)
  - (c) Only (i), (iii), and (iv)
  - (d) Only (ii), (iii), and (iv)

**Logical Reasoning**

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

**XVI. Pollution:**

India, like other large economies, faces a significant plastic waste problem. According to a 2020-21 report by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), four million tonnes of plastic waste are generated annually. Unfortunately, only a quarter of this waste is recycled or treated, with the rest ending up in landfills or being disposed of unsustainably. Since 2016, the Plastic Waste Management Rules have mandated that users of plastics are responsible for collecting and recycling their waste. These requirements, or the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) rules, were initially voluntary but are now enforced through an online EPR trading platform. The EPR system involves packagers, importers, and large industrial users of plastic packaging, as well as professional recyclers, registering with the CPCB. Recyclers, who have networks to collect plastic waste, recycle the waste and receive validated certificates for each tonne recycled. These certificates can be uploaded to a dedicated CPCB portal and purchased by plastic packaging companies that fall short of their annual recycling targets. In 2022-23, the CPCB estimated that certificates for nearly 3.7 million tonnes of recycled plastic were generated. However, it was discovered that not all of these certificates were legitimate — there were approximately 6,00,000 fraudulent certificates. Additionally, hackers reportedly stole several thousand certificates last year and sold them to companies. A criminal investigation is ongoing, and it remains unclear how much of the claimed 3.7 million tonnes was genuinely recycled. [www.lawpreptutorial.com](http://www.lawpreptutorial.com)

In response, the CPCB has taken two significant actions. First, it commissioned an audit of nearly 800 firms, representing almost a fourth of the 2,300 registered recyclers who had traded certificates. Second, it undertook a comprehensive overhaul of the security features on the EPR trading platform, although this has delayed the process of filing returns for 2023-24 by several months. The CPCB has described these problems as “teething issues” associated with implementing a large-scale electronic system. While the audit is necessary, it should be a one-time initiative to avoid undermining trust in the system with annual, lengthy investigations. Although the CPCB has the authority to impose heavy fines, the process is lengthy and fraught with legal challenges. A market-driven approach to solving plastic waste has a significant but limited effect. Greater efforts must be made to curb plastic production and promote sustainable alternatives. Addressing the root causes of plastic waste and enhancing the effectiveness of recycling systems are crucial in mitigating India’s plastic waste problem.



Source: Extracted with edits and revisions from:

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/plastic-mess-on-indias-waste-problem/article68457840.ece>

85. Which of the following is the author most likely to agree with?
- (a) Focusing on technological upgrades will completely solve the plastic waste problem.
  - (b) Market mechanisms alone are inadequate for resolving plastic waste issues.
  - (c) The EPR trading platform should be audited annually to ensure transparency.
  - (d) Heavy fines imposed by CPCB are effective in curbing fraudulent activities.
86. Which of the following statements presents a paradox based on the passage?
- (a) The CPCB audits aim to improve compliance but have resulted in delaying the filing of returns for stakeholders.
  - (b) The EPR system was designed to manage plastic waste effectively but struggles with significant fraudulent activities.
  - (c) The CPCB can impose fines for violations but faces substantial difficulties in the legal enforcement process.
  - (d) The Plastic Waste Management Rules are intended to curb plastic waste, yet the amount of plastic waste continues to increase.
87. Which of the following best represents the premise of the author's argument regarding the plastic waste problem in India?
- (a) Regular audits by the CPCB are crucial to maintaining transparency and compliance.
  - (b) Legal difficulties in imposing fines hinder the CPCB's enforcement efforts.
  - (c) Most plastic waste ends up in landfills or is unsustainably disposed of rather than recycled.
  - (d) Enhancing security measures on the EPR trading platform is essential to prevent fraud.
88. Which of the following would strengthen the argument that the EPR system can effectively manage plastic waste in India?
- (a) Evidence that the volume of plastic waste has significantly decreased since the EPR system's implementation.
  - (b) Reports that the EPR trading platform's security measures have prevented all hacking attempts post-overhaul.
  - (c) Data indicating that all recycling certificates issued recently have been thoroughly validated and confirmed as legitimate.
  - (d) Studies showing the EPR system's role in substantially lowering the production rates of plastic materials.

89. Which of the following is an unstated assumption in the author's discussion on the effectiveness of the EPR system?
- (a) The EPR system can operate successfully without any additional government intervention.
  - (b) Improved security measures will completely eliminate all fraudulent activities on the platform.
  - (c) Conducting annual audits is sufficient to ensure ongoing compliance and system integrity.
  - (d) Recyclers are trusted to measure and report the amount of plastic waste they recycle accurately.
90. Which of the following conclusions is most supported by the passage?
- (a) The CPCB should primarily focus on improving the security of the EPR trading platform to prevent fraud.
  - (b) A combined approach of managing plastic waste and reducing production is necessary for long-term success.
  - (c) Abandoning the current EPR system would be the most effective way to solve the plastic waste problem.
  - (d) Frequent and thorough audits are the best solution to ensure the effectiveness of the EPR system.

**XVII. Reservations**

The recent controversy involving Puja Khedkar, who allegedly faked her disability and caste to obtain benefits, has ignited a debate on the reservations granted to persons with disabilities (PwDs). The issue gained further traction when a former chief executive officer of NITI Aayog tweeted that reservations for PwDs need to be reviewed. Although he later clarified that he was referring only to mental disabilities (thereby drawing an unnecessary and baseless wedge between physical and mental disabilities), his statement, along with similar comments from other civil servants, raises troubling questions about societal attitudes towards disabilities and reservation policies.

First, how many disabled individuals have these officers interacted with, or had the opportunity to know? Have they ever been introduced to the challenges faced by PwDs, during a session or a workshop? The deep-rooted ableism that their statements reflect are the lived realities of many PwDs. PwDs face multiple barriers to their effective participation in society and the workforce. These include infrastructural challenges, the education system, and exam curricula and formats that are designed to be used by, and suit, able-bodied individuals. Reservation policies aim to level the playing field by providing equitable opportunities to PwDs. That a few individuals are exploiting these benefits should not overshadow the broader purpose and impact of such policies. Sweeping generalisations based on isolated incidents are unfair and counterproductive. Certain officers have asked whether PwDs who hold positions within the civil services have the “physical fitness” to fulfil their duties. Such statements reflect the unconscious bias that many people hold against PwDs.

PwDs continue to face challenges in both the education and employment sectors, yet those are hardly highlighted. The 76th round of the National Sample Survey in 2018 found that only 23.8% of PwDs were employed, whereas the Labour Force Participation Rate at the national level was 50.2% the same year. This can be attributed to lack of access to accessible education; stigma and biases at the hiring stage; and lack of reasonable accommodation at the workplace for PwDs.

These structural issues, however, are hardly ever pointed out by the same individuals who question the validity of affirmative action provided to PwDs. For instance, take the case of Kartik Kansal, who is affected by muscular dystrophy. He has not been allotted a service despite clearing the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)'s civil service exam four times. Similarly, due to her disability, Ira Singhal had to approach the Central Administrative Tribunal to secure her rightful posting despite having secured the first rank in the civil service exams. These are the moments when the conscience of our intellectuals should be stirred.

*Source: Extracted with edits and revisions from: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/defending-disability-reservations/article68456680.ece>*

91. Which of the following statements necessarily follows from the author's perspective on the effectiveness of reservations for persons with disabilities (PwDs)?
- (a) Officials questioning the reservations have substantial interactions with PwDs and understand their challenges well.
  - (b) Reservations for PwDs have no meaningful impact on improving their employment rates in the long run.
  - (c) The misuse of reservation benefits is a widespread and common issue among persons with disabilities.
  - (d) PwDs face numerous barriers that significantly affect their participation in society and the workforce.
92. Based on the passage, which of the following inferences can be reasonably drawn about the societal attitudes towards PwDs?
- (a) Society is increasingly becoming more accepting of PwDs in professional roles and other spheres.
  - (b) Many individuals hold unconscious biases and prejudices that question the capabilities and fitness of PwDs.
  - (c) Public awareness campaigns about disabilities and the rights of PwDs have been highly effective.
  - (d) Societal attitudes are largely irrelevant to the success or failure of affirmative action policies for PwDs.

93. Which of the following statements best resolves the paradox of low employment rates among PwDs despite affirmative action policies?
- (a) Employers lack sufficient incentives to implement inclusive hiring practices for persons with disabilities.
  - (b) Many PwDs choose not to seek employment due to societal stigma and potential workplace discrimination.
  - (c) Affirmative action policies for PwDs are not consistently or effectively applied across all sectors and regions.
  - (d) Educational qualifications of PwDs are often not recognized or valued by prospective employers in various industries.
94. Based on the author's arguments, which of the following actions should policymakers prioritize to address the challenges faced by persons with disabilities (PwDs)?
- (a) Conduct extensive training sessions for civil servants on the realities and challenges faced by PwDs.
  - (b) Reevaluate reservation policies to ensure they are not being misused by undeserving individuals.
  - (c) Increase the percentage of reserved seats for PwDs in educational institutions and government jobs.
  - (d) Implement stricter screening processes to prevent abuse of reservation benefits by non-PwDs.
95. Which of the following statements is the author most likely to disagree with, based on the passage?
- (a) Structural barriers must be addressed to improve the participation of PwDs in society and employment.
  - (b) The abuse of reservation benefits by some individuals necessitates a review of the entire reservation system.
  - (c) Reservations for PwDs are essential for providing equitable opportunities in both education and employment.
  - (d) Changing societal attitudes towards disabilities is crucial to reducing biases and improving inclusion.
96. Which of the following, if true, would most strongly support the author's argument about the necessity of reservation policies for PwDs?
- (a) Empirical data shows that PwDs with reservation benefits are more likely to succeed in their careers.
  - (b) Reports indicate that the misuse of reservation benefits by non-PwDs is widespread and increasing.
  - (c) Surveys reveal that a majority of civil servants believe reservations are no longer needed for PwDs.
  - (d) Public opinion increasingly favors eliminating reservations due to perceived abuses in the system.

**XVIII. Health:** Socio-normative representations of homeless persons living with a mental illness (HPMI) have ubiquitously ascribed them to the role of refuge seekers. This has resulted in rescue missions that are singularly focused on transferring them, volitionally or coercively, to mental hospitals, shelter homes, beggars' homes and even prisons. The primary assumption that HPIMs must be displaced from the streets because of the many risks that it poses, while valid, is also contestable.

As a mental health professional and bureaucrat, respectively, our perspective was similarly limiting over two decades ago, when we prioritised shelter and treatment over agency, choice and place-making. Social order, while it is of relevance and valuable in many contexts, can sometimes constrain the imagination and restrict responses that fall within the safer, more dominant narratives, albeit well-intentioned. That there is a social world not necessarily aligned to the mores of the day and that culture, freedoms and notions of safety can be experienced in non-typical ways take some getting used to.

Engagement with lived experience experts can often support this journey and challenge notions of what care and responsiveness constitute. Often, homeless persons form affiliations with local support circles that include fellow homeless persons, local eateries and pets, that offer them a self-curated sense of belongingness. Equally, and perhaps more significantly among the multitude of truths, is the narrative of oppression, scarcity, abuse, exposure to inclement weather conditions, and an exacerbation of symptoms associated with psychoses. Consequently, we would be loath to locate the problem in sacred and rigid binaries. It requires more than the paltry effort that is accorded now, to complicate the narrative and texture the phenomenon with the complexity that it deserves.

Noteworthy among a few efforts in India that have supported several HPMI reenter communities is the collaboration between the National Health Mission, the Tamil Nadu Department of Health, the Institute of Mental Health, The Banyan, the Azim Premji Foundation and local civil society organisations. This has resulted in access to emergency care and recovery centres (ECRCs) within district hospitals. This integration serves two purposes.

First it ruptures the hegemonic domination of large asylum-styled treatment spaces that perpetuate the stereotypical identity of a diseased mind. More importantly, it services an increased number of people with greater immediacy, ensuring last-mile proximal care and crises responses across scattered geographies. Overcrowding, limited human service professionals, the use of restraint, and poor personal attention have impacted care ecologies globally, just as they have in India.

*Source: Extracted with edits and revisions from:*

*<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/recasting-care-models-for-mental-illness-and-homelessness/article68457977.ece>*

97. Which of the following is the author most likely to agree with?
- (a) Displacing HPMI individuals from the streets is always necessary for their safety and well-being.
  - (b) Cultural norms should be the primary guide in the treatment and care of HPMI individuals.
  - (c) Dismantling traditional asylum models is crucial for providing effective mental health care.
  - (d) HPMI individuals should primarily rely on familial and community support systems for care.
98. Which of the following points from the passage is most likely incorrect?
- (a) Homeless individuals with mental illness often create self-curated support systems within their communities.
  - (b) Integrating ECRCs within district hospitals has fully replaced the need for traditional mental health institutions.
  - (c) Collaborative efforts have improved access to emergency care for homeless persons with mental illness.
  - (d) Rigid social norms can limit the responses and solutions available for addressing mental health issues.
99. Which inference can be drawn from the passage regarding the current state of mental health care for HPMI in India?
- (a) The traditional institutional model has seen renewed support and expansion due to its effectiveness.
  - (b) Community-based care initiatives have significantly reduced the prevalence of mental illness in India.
  - (c) Government policies now prioritize social order over individual agency and personal freedom for HPMI.
  - (d) Collaborative efforts have marginally improved conditions but systemic issues persist and need more attention.
100. Which of the following options reflects flawed reasoning in the passage?
- (a) Assuming that community-based care will address all the needs of homeless persons with mental illness.
  - (b) Believing that the establishment of ECRCs alone will resolve systemic issues in mental health care.
  - (c) Suggesting that large asylum-style institutions are less effective in providing individualized care. [www.lawpreptutorial.com](http://www.lawpreptutorial.com)
  - (d) Concluding that integrating care within communities will improve the overall well-being of HPMI.

101. Which of the following, if true, would most undermine the author's argument regarding the benefits of integrating ECRCs within district hospitals?
- (a) ECRCs have become overcrowded and replicate issues found in traditional institutions.
  - (b) HPMI individuals prefer traditional institutions over community-based care options.
  - (c) Studies show that ECRCs are significantly more expensive to operate than traditional institutions.
  - (d) Community-based care has shown no significant improvement in the well-being of HPMI individuals.
102. Which of the following most closely parallels the reasoning used by the author regarding the treatment of HPMI?
- (a) A corporation implements a flexible work policy to accommodate diverse employee needs and preferences.
  - (b) A city enforces uniform traffic rules to maintain order and reduce the likelihood of accidents.
  - (c) A school district standardised testing methods to ensure equal assessment for all students across schools.
  - (d) A hospital requires all patients to follow the same treatment protocol regardless of their individual diagnosis.

**XIX. Economy:** No further changes are expected to the capital gains tax regime in the short to medium term as the government is committed to delivering tax certainty, and the proposed review of the Income Tax Act of 1961 will reduce the tax compliance burden for people by simplifying the law, rather than reduce their tax outgoes.

About 70% of personal income tax payers have switched to the new tax regime without exemptions, as per available data for last year, following the reduction of rates for those earning up to Rs. 15 lakh.

Last year itself, we gave a number of benefits which made the new tax regime attractive with the 30% rate kicking in at incomes beyond Rs. 15 lakh. In the old tax regime, it kicks in at Rs. 10 lakh. Before that, hardly anyone was in the new tax regime and now most have shifted, as the Rs. 10 lakh threshold under the old tax regime effectively became Rs. 15 lakh.

On the Income Tax Act review, he said the idea is to make it easy for tax practitioners, authorities, the courts and tribunals to read and implement the law. Some sections have multiple provisions, some have multiple exemptions, some provisions are spread over various sections across pages. The TDS [tax deduction at source] provisions themselves run into 90 pages, and some provisions are redundant. We will have a relook at all of these and see how we can reduce the volume and simplify the language.

The Budget has also sought to plug some loopholes and expand the tax net. For instance, it has been stipulated that income from a rented house cannot be treated as business income.

Some are classifying this as income from property which meant they could claim expenses on account of depreciation. Now, they can't claim it, because that is not really a business to our understanding, but a pure and simple income from property. The I-T department will also use its power to levy tax collection at source for luxury goods of over Rs. 10 lakh.

A similar review of the Customs duties, proposed in this Budget, will seek to ensure there is adequate difference between the import duties on intermediate inputs, raw materials and final products. "We'll see how many rates we end up with... I don't want to give you any number, but we will try to reduce it as far as possible without actually causing any major disruption or change. Asked if more free trade agreements would lead to lower customs revenues over the years owing to concessional duties offered to trade partners.

[But] Customs is not primarily a revenue mechanism in any case. They comprise less than 5% of our total tax revenue, at roughly Rs. 2 lakh crore out of Rs. 38 lakh crore; so it is not an area of concern.

*Source: Extracted with edits and revisions from: <https://www.thehindu.com/business/no-further-changes-to-capital-gains-tax-in-medium-term/article68454520.ece>*

103. What is the main point of the passage concerning the government's approach to the tax system?
- (a) Immediate tax reductions are the primary focus of the government's current tax strategy.
  - (b) Simplifying the tax law to reduce compliance burdens is a key goal of the government's tax strategy.
  - (c) The new tax regime is intended to completely replace the old regime due to its inherent advantages.
  - (d) Increasing customs revenue through duty adjustments is the government's main objective at present.
104. Which of the following presents the strongest counter-argument to the claim that the new tax regime has successfully attracted the majority of taxpayers due to its benefits?
- (a) The lack of exemptions may lead to higher overall tax burdens for specific taxpayers despite the lower rates.
  - (b) The old regime's lower threshold for the highest tax rate may still offer advantages for certain high earners.
  - (c) The data on taxpayer shifts might not accurately reflect preferences due to possible external pressures or misinformation.
  - (d) Simplification of the Income Tax Act could potentially make the old regime more competitive and appealing again.



105. Which of the following would most weaken the argument that the new tax regime is more attractive due to its benefits?
- (a) A significant number of taxpayers have reported higher overall tax liabilities under the new regime.
  - (b) The data on taxpayer shifts primarily reflects high-income earners rather than the general population.
  - (c) The old regime's exemptions and deductions might still provide greater overall savings for many taxpayers.
  - (d) Simplifying tax laws might not effectively address the complexities faced by middle-income earners.
106. Which statement is the author most likely to agree with regarding the future impact of simplifying the Income Tax Act?
- (a) Simplification will likely result in a significant increase in government revenue over time.
  - (b) Simplifying the tax law will benefit all stakeholders by making compliance easier and more straightforward.
  - (c) The review will lead to more exemptions and deductions being available to the taxpayers.
  - (d) Simplifying the law will mainly benefit tax practitioners and authorities, not the general taxpayers.
107. Based on the author's arguments, which of the following, if true, would most support the claim that the Budget's measures will expand the tax net?
- (a) A significant number of taxpayers previously classified rental income as business income to claim deductions.
  - (b) There is a consistent increase in the number of luxury goods purchases subject to tax collection at source.
  - (c) Simplifying the tax code will lead to more accurate and efficient tax filing by individual taxpayers.
  - (d) The reclassification of rental income will lead to a higher number of taxpayers falling under the taxable category.
108. Which of the following would be the most suitable title for the passage?
- (a) "Income Tax Act Review: Easing Compliance for All"
  - (b) "The Shift to a New Tax Regime: Benefits and Challenges"
  - (c) "Balancing Customs Duties and Expanding the Tax Net"
  - (d) "Tax Reforms: Simplification and Fairness in Focus"

**Quantitative Techniques**

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

- XX.** Mr. Sagar Joshi who is the founder of Law Prep Tutorial and Mrs. Anupama Joshi who is the co-founder of Law Prep Tutorial invested some amount in Scheme P which offer 10%. p.a. Compound Interest for 2 years. Mrs. Sonia Jain who is the Senior faculty and miss Richa Bais who is the centre head of Law Prep Tutorial invested some amount in Scheme Q which offer 12.5% p.a. Compound Interest and the ratio of their investment is in the ratio of 4:5 for 3 year. Some other member in Law Prep Tutorial invested some amount in Scheme R which offer 15%. p.a. Simple Interest for 4 years. Mr. Jasa Ram Chaudhary who is the manager of Law Prep Tutorial Invested 50000 Rs, while Mukul Krishna Vyas who is the academic head and Mr. Javed Khan who is senior GK faculty also invested in this Scheme the sum of money invested by Mukul Krishna Vyas is 50% more than the amount Inverted by Jasa Ram Chaudhary and 6.25% less than the sum Invested by Javed Khan.
109. If the Sum of money invested by Mr. Sagar Joshi is 120000 Rs which is 20% less than the sum invested by Mrs. Anupama Joshi than find the difference between the interest earn by them in Scheme P for 2 years.
- (a) 6300 Rs. (b) 6500 Rs.  
(c) 6000 Rs. (d) 7300 Rs.
110. The Sum of money invested by Mrs. Sonia Jain is 102400 Rs in Scheme Q. than find the Sum of Interest earn by Mrs Sonia Jain and miss Richa Bais in scheme Q for 3 years.
- (a) 90000 Rs. (b) 97650 Rs.  
(c) 9600 Rs. (d) None of these
111. Mr. Jasa Ram Chaudhary who invested in Scheme R withdraw the total amount after 4 years and deposit it in a bank which offer 25%. Per annum compounded half yearly than find the Interest earn from the bank after one year. [www.lawpreptutorial.com](http://www.lawpreptutorial.com)
- (a) 20000 Rs. (b) 16000 Rs.  
(c) 21250 Rs. (d) None of these
112. The Sum of Money invested by Mr. Javed Khan is how much % more than the sum invested by Mr. Jasaram Choudhary.
- (a) 50% (b) 60%  
(c) 40% (d) 37.5%

113. If the sum of money invested by Miss Richa Bais is 51200 in scheme Q than find the total amount received by her?  
(a) 70000 Rs. (b) 72900 Rs.  
(c) 60000 Rs. (d) 21700 Rs.
114. What is the difference between the amount invested by Mr. Mukul Krishna Vyas in scheme are and the amount invested by Mrs. Sonia Jain in scheme Q?  
(a) 52500 (b) 12500  
(c) 34500 (d) Cannot be determine
- XXI.** Following information shows the down stream speed of five boats A, B, C, D and E on Monday and Tuesday in Narmda River.  
The down stream speed of boat A on Monday is 50 km/hr. Which is 66.67% more than the down stream speed of boat C on same day. The down stream speed of Boat B on Monday is 5 more than twice the downstream speed of Boat C on Monday. The ratio of down stream speed of Boat C, D and E on Monday is 6 : 8 : 11.  
The down stream speed of Boat A on Tuesday is 40 km/hr which is 11.11% less than the down stream speed of Boat B on Tuesday. The down stream speed of Boat C on Tuesday is 22.22% more than the down stream speed of Boat B on Tuesday. The ratio of down stream speed of Boat B, D and E on Tuesday is 9 : 14 : 12.
115. What is the ratio of time taken by boat B on Monday and Tuesday travelling Upstream, if distances for both the days are equal and speed of stream on Monday is 87.5% of speed of stream on Tuesday which is 16 km/h?  
(a) 13:37 (b) 27:32  
(c) 12:17 (d) 3:4
116. On Tuesday, downstream speed for boat A, B, C, D and E is increased by 20%, 10%, 18.18%, 15% and 25% respectively and stream speed is 12 km/ h on same day, then what will be the average of upstream speed of all boats on same day?  
(a) 24.4 (b) 33.8  
(c) 39.6 (d) 44.8
117. If effective speeds in opposite direction of stream of boat A is 18 km/h on Tuesday and effective speeds in opposite direction of stream of boat E is 22 km/h on Monday, find the difference between speed of boat A in still water on Tuesday and that of boat E on Monday.  
(a) 13 km/h (b) 9.5 km/h  
(c) 12.5 km/h (d) 7 km/h

118. What is the total distance covered by boat C on Monday in 1.4 hour in downstream and boat D on Tuesday in 2 hour against the stream with 15 km/h water speed?
- (a) 110 km (b) 122 km  
(c) 90 km (d) 135 km
119. What is the total time taken by boat A to cover 180 km with the stream and boat E to cover 210 km against the stream on Monday? (Speed of stream is 10 km/h on Monday)
- (a) 9.6 hours (b) 6 hours  
(c) 7.2 hours (d) 12.5 hours
120. On Monday a race is conducted between Boats A, B, C, D and E and all the boats travelling downstream then find the difference between time taken by Boat A and Boat D to complete the race 600km.
- (a) 3 hr (b) 5 hr  
(c) 2 hr (d) Cannot be determined

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