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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. Politics is about who gets what. This definition of politics goes back to the 1930s political scientist Harold Lasswell but continues to be relevant. In the early days of the Indian republic, a rhetoric of equality prevailed. B.R. Ambedkar warned that political democracy is in danger as long as social and economic life displays large inequalities. The Congress party spoke the language of socialism and equality, and the main opposition parties were the socialists and the communists. The rhetoric of equality was betrayed in practice. India failed to build the infrastructure of a welfare state. Universal healthcare and even universal schooling were dismissed as pipe dreams.

Nowadays even the rhetoric of equality has disappeared. In the last Lok Sabha election campaign, both major political parties distanced themselves from any talk about the redistribution of wealth. The debate before and after the Budget scarcely focused on ideas of equality. Instead, the government, the opposition, and much commentary in the media appealed to the middle class. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman stated her ambition as providing tax relief to the middle class. The opposition attacked the government on this ground claiming that the Budget was overburdening the salaried middle class. The business media, too, focused on the tax burden of the middle class.

Source: Extracted with edits and revisions from Two myths about the Indian middle class, Frontline, https://frontline.thehindu.com/economy/indian-middle-class-ambedkar-economic-inequality-nirmala-sitharaman-budget-2024-hindenburg/article68521449.ece#cxrecs_s

1. According to the passage, which political focus has been emphasized in recent governmental policies and discussions within India, especially during the last Lok Sabha election campaign and surrounding budget debates?
- (a) Prioritizing economic reforms aimed at minimizing wealth disparities among various demographics within India.
 - (b) Concentrating on the economic challenges faced specifically by the salaried middle class, including tax burdens.
 - (c) Committing to the widespread implementation of universal healthcare and schooling systems as primary governmental objectives.
 - (d) Reviving and promoting ideologies centered around socialism and equitable resource distribution.

2. The passage indicates that the early rhetoric of equality in the Indian republic failed to manifest in practical policies. What reason does the passage suggest for this disconnect between ideological rhetoric and actual policy implementation?
- (a) The presence of strong opposition from socialist and communist parties thwarted the ruling Congress party's attempts to implement equality-focused policies.
 - (b) The foundational aspects of a welfare state, such as universal healthcare and schooling, were comprehensively implemented during this period.
 - (c) B.R. Ambedkar's warnings regarding the dangers of maintaining political democracy amidst large inequalities led to significant social reforms.
 - (d) The establishment of political democracy occurred without effectively addressing the deep-rooted social and economic inequalities that persisted.
3. In the context of the passage's discussion on the early promises of the Indian republic, what do the unrealized social and economic reforms symbolize?
- (a) The gap between political rhetoric and practical achievement.
 - (b) A successful implementation of socialist policies.
 - (c) A fully realized vision of equality and welfare.
 - (d) An example of effective political leadership.
4. According to the passage, what historical warning by B.R. Ambedkar about political democracy in India does recent political behavior continue to ignore?
- (a) The risk to political democracy posed by failing to address large social and economic inequalities.
 - (b) The necessity of involving the main opposition parties in all governmental decisions to ensure a balanced approach to democracy.
 - (c) The importance of maintaining a socialist rhetoric to ensure the survival of political democracy.
 - (d) The effectiveness of political democracy in addressing and reducing the wealth gap between different social classes.

- II. Having false memories is normal. We are all built from real and false memories. Memories are dynamically constructed. They are susceptible to social influences or from inadvertently altering your own memories. We tell ourselves that we are our memories. We hold onto memories to understand our past selves and build a narrative of our lives, cross-comparing them with other people's memories and asking, "What was I like back then?" And if I could recall more vivid memories, I could create a fuller narrative of my life, and so I could know myself more. The reverse seems true as well: If you lose memories, you become less of the person you feel you were. Dementia or age muddles memories: You forget yourself. But if so many of our memories are false or forgotten, how do we know who we really are—our true identity? The answer starts with how our memories are stored in the brain.

Scientific research shows us that a memory is hardwired into the structure of the brain. The brain physically stores memories as connections between neurons, particularly in the hippocampus or amygdala brain regions.

New memories are formed when neurons create new synapses with other neurons, building a mesh of neuronal connections. Memories need to be actively maintained to last. Recalling a memory strengthens the connections between the neurons, forming it through remembrance.

Then there is the act of forgetting. Forgetting is an act of “pruning” the connections between neurons. Neglect or befuddlement withers a memory away. We tend to fill in the blanks with what other people have told us. The problem is that those false memories—memories of things we did not experience the way we remember them—are stored in the brain in exactly the same way as our real memories are stored. The same is true of biased information.

Source: Extracted with edits and revisions from

<https://frontline.thehindu.com/news/psychology-false-memory-how-they-make-us-who-we-are-human-brain-identity-bias/article68677508.ece>

5. What does the passage indicate about the impact of forgetting on our memory's neural structure?
- (a) Forgetting stimulates the neural connections by forming more robust synapses among neurons.
 - (b) It leads to a reduction in the connections between neurons, which contributes to the fading of memories.
 - (c) Forgetting is triggered by an excessive generation of new neural links that interfere with existing memories.
 - (d) It is caused by the transfer of memories from more active to less active brain regions.
6. Reflecting on the passage's description of memory storage and recall, which statement best captures the implications of how memories are modified over time?
- (a) Memories that are frequently recalled become more accurate and less susceptible to alteration due to their strengthened neural connections.
 - (b) The integration of memories based on social interactions and external inputs suggests that our memory's reliability is highly dependent on contextual influences.
 - (c) The act of remembering is purely a biological process, uninfluenced by external social or emotional factors, ensuring a stable recall of past events.
 - (d) As memories are stored the same way regardless of their origin, the distinction between real and fabricated memories becomes increasingly blurred over time.

7. According to the passage, the construction of personal identity is influenced by the nature of our memories. What conclusion can be drawn from the interaction between memory retention and self-concept?
- (a) Increasing the accuracy of our memories can significantly enhance the clarity of our self-identity.
 - (b) The gradual fading of memories, whether real or false, inevitably leads to a diminished sense of personal history and identity.
 - (c) The reliability of memory as a tool for personal identity is compromised by the inability to distinguish true experiences from false recollections.
 - (d) Maintaining a stable self-identity relies primarily on the continuous formation of new memories rather than the preservation of old ones.
8. Considering the passage's insights into the nature of memory and identity, what implication can be drawn about the process of self-reflection based on past experiences?
- (a) Self-reflection based on memories is a reliable process, as memories cannot be easily altered by social influences and personal biases.
 - (b) It is a highly reliable method for personal development, as memories provide a stable base for self-assessment and growth.
 - (c) The process relies heavily on the active maintenance and recall of memories to ensure the fidelity of past experiences in shaping one's identity.
 - (d) Engaging in self-reflection is less about accuracy and more about constructing a narrative that aligns with one's current self-perception.
9. In the context of the passage, what does "befuddlement" most likely refer to when discussing the process of forgetting?
- (a) A condition that causes the weakening or loss of existing memories.
 - (b) The intentional act of distorting memories to protect one's self-identity.
 - (c) A psychological strategy for managing overwhelming information.
 - (d) A state of confusion that disrupts the creation of new memories.

- III. Chronologically, the permeation of Shakespeare into the Indian psyche occurred with the productions of the most culturally uncomplicated “garrison theatres” catering to the British colonists. Theatres were built in all major trading centres within the Empire, and Shakespeare provided a prestigious part of the repertory. Initially it began with performances of Shakespearean plays, by English troupes in Bombay from 1770. In Calcutta, then capital of British India, the earliest recorded performance is of Othello at the Calcutta Theatre during Christmas of 1780. Over the next eight years, Hamlet, The Merchant of Venice, Romeo and Juliet, Richard III and Henry IV were enacted at the same venue. Performances continued unabated, till the mid-19th century, chiefly at the Chowringhee (the teeming heart of Kolkata) and Sans Souci Theaters. And the earliest notable tours were undertaken by Lewis Theater Company in the 1870s and Maurice E Bandmann’s Company in 1880s.

Touring companies however, became famous only in the heyday of the Raj, from the late 19th century. Next with growing interest in Shakespearean plays, local theatrical companies came into existence, especially in Bombay. Consequently, in 1868, the Oriental Theatrical Company started performing Shakespearean plays followed by the Parsi companies. In the academic sphere of 19th century Bengal, it was Richardson, an eminent English teacher of Presidency College, who first ventured to develop a literary taste for Shakespearean dramas in the minds of his Indian students. He taught them to recite and enact scenes from Shakespearean plays. In response, in 1837, several Bengali students performed The Merchant of Venice in the governor’s house, Othello in 1853 at the Oriental Academy and Henry IV in 1855. Subsequently, the growing success of Shakespearean performances, inspired many regional playwrights to both translate and adapt Shakespeare in vernaculars — thereby leading to a spurt of translated and adapted Shakespeare in several Indian languages for performance on Indian stages.

However, despite the best efforts of the enthusiastic regional dramatists, India initially remained a mere outpost of Shakespeare performance, quite untouched by the greater phenomenon of Shakespeare. Radical departure occurred, when Shakespeare entered the curriculum of the new Western-style education. By the continuing paradox inherent in Indian society, this Western infusion was then absorbed into the cultural mainstream of Indian languages. Although the Romantic image of Shakespeare as poet or Bard was clearly dominant with Indian writers who would never see a play staged in English and might have reacted to an Indian-language production with critical or even moral disapproval.

Source: Extracted with edits and revisions from

<https://www.thestatesman.com/entertainment/william-shakespeare-infused-into-indian-culture-1502747595.html>

10. How did the initial introduction of Shakespeare to the Indian audience occur, according to the passage?
- (a) Through academic courses in British literature offered at Indian universities.
 - (b) Via touring English theatre companies performing in major Indian cities starting in the late 19th century.
 - (c) Through local theatrical companies in Bombay adapting Shakespeare for Indian audiences in the 19th century.
 - (d) By English troupes performing Shakespearean plays in Bombay from the 1770s and later in Calcutta.
11. What impact did the inclusion of Shakespeare in the curriculum of Western-style education have on Indian society, according to the passage? www.lawpreptutorial.com
- (a) It led to an immediate acceptance and integration of Shakespeare into the Indian cultural mainstream.
 - (b) Shakespeare was resisted due to its foreign origins and the societal disapproval of adapting Western literature.
 - (c) The introduction into education helped Shakespeare's works become absorbed into the cultural mainstream despite initial resistance.
 - (d) Shakespeare's works remained unpopular and unperformed in India until they were included in school curricula.
12. The primary purpose of the passage is to
- (a) explore the historical trajectory and cultural impact of Shakespeare's introduction and assimilation into Indian society.
 - (b) argue against the traditional methods of teaching Shakespeare in Indian educational institutions.
 - (c) advocate for a renewed interest in staging original English-language Shakespearean plays in India.
 - (d) compare the influence of Shakespeare on Indian theatre with his impact on other colonial regions.
13. The passage suggests that which of the following was an indirect consequence of Shakespeare entering the curriculum of Western-style education in India?
- (a) There was widespread resistance to Shakespeare across Indian society, leading to a decline in his popularity.
 - (b) Shakespeare's works were translated and adapted into various Indian languages, sparking a wave of localized Shakespearean dramas.
 - (c) English troupes were discouraged from performing in India, leading to a rise in local theatrical companies.
 - (d) Indian students of English literature predominantly rejected Shakespeare due to cultural differences.

14. In the context of the passage, what does the term "heyday" most closely mean as it is used to describe the peak period of touring Shakespearean companies in India?
- (a) A reference to a specific annual celebration related to theatre performances.
 - (b) A period marked by great enthusiasm and success in Shakespearean theatrical presentations.
 - (c) A gradual decline in the popularity of traditional theatre forms.
 - (d) A stage setup commonly used during Shakespearean performances.
15. Which of the following is NOT supported by the passage regarding the spread and adaptation of Shakespeare's works in India?
- (a) Shakespeare's plays were first introduced to Indian audiences through performances by English theatre companies.
 - (b) The successful staging of Shakespeare's plays in Calcutta led to further performances across major Indian cities.
 - (c) Regional dramatists in India initially resisted the incorporation of Shakespeare into their theatrical repertoires.
 - (d) Educational initiatives helped facilitate the integration of Shakespeare into the broader cultural fabric of Indian society.

- IV.** India has taken a big step to protect ocean life by signing an important international agreement called the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement, or the "Treaty of the High Seas". The goal of the BBNJ Agreement is to protect marine life in areas of the ocean that are not owned by any one country. These areas start 370 kilometres from any country's coastline and cover two-thirds of the world's oceans. The agreement helps countries use ocean resources in a sustainable way, meaning they can't claim these resources for themselves. It also ensures that benefits from marine life are shared fairly between countries. The treaty encourages an inclusive approach that combines traditional knowledge and modern science to protect the ocean. It sets rules for countries to follow when planning activities in the high seas, like conducting environmental impact assessments to avoid harm to marine ecosystems. This agreement also helps meet the goals of Sustainable Development, especially SDG 14, which focuses on protecting life underwater.

*Source: Extracted with edits and revisions from
<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/governance/india-signs-agreement-to-protect-marine-life-in-the-high-seas>*

16. Based on the passage, the following suggestions may be made:
1. The BBNJ Agreement allows for unrestricted exploitation of marine resources by all countries.
 2. The agreement involves combining traditional knowledge and modern science to protect ocean life.

Which of the above suggestions is/are valid?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
17. Which statement best reflects the inclusivity approach of the BBNJ Agreement?
- (a) It incorporates both traditional knowledge and modern science in ocean conservation.
 - (b) It encourages the use of modern science alone for ocean conservation.
 - (c) It excludes traditional practices in favor of modern environmental impact assessments.
 - (d) It solely relies on environmental impact assessments conducted by developed countries.

- V. Wonder is, no pun intended, a wonderful emotion, and it's one we can feel toward a wide variety of phenomena, from the stars above us to the beauty of nature all around us, not to mention the artistic feats that humans are capable of. And it's not just big things: watching a hummingbird in your garden, hearing a beautiful guitar solo, or feeling sand under your feet at the beach—those things can fill you with wonder too.

Of course, not all experiences of awe are cheerful. The eternal silence of these infinite spaces terrifies me. Sometimes we can be overwhelmed by all the things we don't understand. But in many cases, such experiences are often inspiring, and even comforting, "if you have a sense of wonder, you're never really alone." And they motivate us to get curious about the world. As Plato's Socrates famously puts it in the Theaetetus, "Wonder is the origin of philosophy."

Source: Extracted with edits and revisions from <https://www.philosophytalk.org/blog/whats-your-mind>

18. According to the passage, which statement best captures the nature of wonder as it relates to human experiences?
- (a) Wonder is typically sparked by highly visible, extraordinary events that catch the eye.
 - (b) Wonder arises from various experiences, both simple and profound, encouraging deeper inquiry.
 - (c) To genuinely experience wonder, one must possess an extensive understanding of the phenomenon.
 - (d) Experiencing wonder leads to feelings of detachment, as it isolates individuals from their routine surroundings.

19. What does the passage imply about the influence of wonder on philosophical thought?
- (a) Philosophy and the sensation of wonder operate in distinct realms without overlapping.
 - (b) Academic study in philosophy is the primary method by which individuals start to experience wonder.
 - (c) Philosophy diminishes our sense of wonder by explaining away the mysteries that inspire it.
 - (d) The impulse for philosophical exploration often starts with a sense of wonder about our existence.
20. According to the passage, what primary impact does wonder have on individuals' engagement with the world around them?
- (a) It leads to a greater appreciation and understanding of the natural and artistic world.
 - (b) It causes confusion and disorientation due to the overwhelming nature of awe-inspiring events.
 - (c) It has a negligible effect, as individuals quickly adapt to awe-inspiring experiences.
 - (d) It results in increased anxiety and fear, especially in response to the vast unknown.
21. Based on the passage, which of the following best describes the author's attitude toward the emotion of wonder?
- (a) Intensely enthusiastic
 - (b) Cautiously optimistic
 - (c) Moderately indifferent
 - (d) Mildly skeptical
22. Which of the following statements would the author most likely disagree with, based on the passage?
- (a) Wonder primarily serves as a conduit for deeper philosophical inquiry and understanding of the universe.
 - (b) Experiencing wonder is essential for leading a fulfilling and intellectually stimulating life.
 - (c) Wonder is a fleeting emotion that has little impact on our long-term perception of the world.
 - (d) The feeling of wonder can transform ordinary experiences into moments of profound significance.

- VI. Dominance of fossil fuels in electricity generation in India will end by the end of the decade, said the Reserve Bank of India in its latest report. The report also noted that renewable energy is expected to cross 50 per cent share in electricity generation globally. It added that the energy transition has accelerated in recent years, with the pace of clean technology deployment and capital investment surging to record levels.

The era of fossil fuels' dominance is coming to an end, with renewables expected to cross 50 per cent share of electricity generation globally by the end of this decade. It added that the rise of cleaner power generation offers a valuable window to address "hard-to-abate" sectors such as steelmaking and aviation, where low-carbon alternatives are still in their nascent stages. The central bank also highlighted the importance of increasing investments in low-carbon energy.

Source: Extracted with edits and revisions from

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/renewables/fossil-fuel-dominance-in-electricity-generation-to-end-by-2030-renewable-to-cross-50-share-rbi/articleshow/113764653.cms>

23. With reference to the passage, the following conclusions have been drawn:
1. The transition to renewable energy is crucial for sectors that are challenging to decarbonize, like steelmaking and aviation.
 2. There will be no significant changes in the electricity generation sector in the near future.
 3. Investment in low-carbon technologies is increasing as part of the global shift towards renewable energy.
 4. The Reserve Bank of India does not see the value in investing in renewable energy technologies.

Which of the above conclusions is/are valid?

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| (a) 1 and 3 only | (b) 2 and 4 only |
| (c) 1 only | (d) 3 only |

24. With reference to the passage, the following assumptions have been made:
1. The transition to renewable energy will benefit all sectors of the economy.
 2. All countries globally will achieve at least 50% renewable energy in their electricity generation by the end of the decade.
 3. The Reserve Bank of India is the primary global agency tasked with funding renewable energy projects.
 4. The move towards renewable energy aims to create equal benefits for all countries, regardless of their current energy infrastructure.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| (a) 1 only | (b) 4 only |
| (c) 1 and 4 only | (d) 2 and 3 only |

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.

25. Where was the first phase of Army Commanders' Conference 2024 organized?
(a) Dehradun (b) Gangtok
(c) Kohima (d) Shillong
26. Who has been awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature 2024?
(a) Gabriel Garcia (b) Alexander Pushkin
(c) Han Kang (d) Haruki Murakami
27. Which ministry launched Yuva Sangam Portal?
(a) Ministry of Defence (b) Ministry of Education
(c) Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (d) Ministry of Women and Child Development
28. What is the causative agent of footrot disease?
(a) Bacteria (b) Fungus
(c) Virus (d) Protozoa
29. What is the theme of World Migratory Bird Day 2024?
(a) Sing, Fly, Soar – Like a Bird (b) Dim the Lights for Birds at Night
(c) Protect Insects, Protect Birds (d) Water: Sustaining Bird Life
30. What is the name of the initiative recently launched by Himachal Pradesh to tackle drug trafficking?
(a) Navjeevan (b) Sankalp
(c) Viksit (d) Nirman
31. Which rare species of leopard has recently identified in Odisha?
(a) Snow Leopard (b) Black Panther
(c) Arabian Leopard (d) Javan Leopard
32. Kawal Tiger Reserve is located in which state?
(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Maharashtra
(c) Karnataka (d) Telangana

33. What is the main objective of the Ni-Kshay Poshan Yojana?
(a) Offer free medical treatment for anaemia patients
(b) To ensure health care services to the disadvantaged group
(c) Offer incentives for nutritional support to TB patients
(d) Aims to reduce cardiovascular diseases
34. Kais Saied has been reelected as the President of which country?
(a) Tunisia (b) Algeria
(c) Egypt (d) Libya
35. What is the theme of the Swachhata Hi Seva – 2024 campaign?
(a) Swabhav Swachhata – Sanskaar Swachhata
(b) Swachhata Hi Seva – Ek Sankalp
(c) Swachh Bharat- Harit Bharat
(d) None of the Above
36. Recently, Jafar Hassan has become the new prime minister of which country?
(a) Qatar (b) Jordan
(c) Iraq (d) Iran
37. What is the total financial outlay recently approved by the Union Cabinet for “Venus Orbiter Mission (VOM)”?
(a) Rs.1236 Cr (b) Rs.536 Cr
(c) Rs.1539 Cr (d) Rs.1400 Cr
38. Recently, which ministry hosted the event “World Food India 2024”?
(a) Ministry of Agriculture (b) Ministry of Food Processing Industries
(c) Ministry of Science and Technology (d) Ministry of Home Affairs
39. Pench Tiger Reserve, recently seen in the news, is located in which state?
(a) Odisha (b) Maharashtra
(c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Madhya Pradesh
40. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), recently seen in the news, is implemented by which ministry?
(a) Ministry of Rural Development (b) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
(c) Ministry of Home Affairs (d) Ministry of Urban Development
41. ‘Ahaetulla longirostris’, recently seen in the news, belongs to which species?
(a) Spider (b) Frog
(c) Snake (d) Fish

42. Recently, Oman hosts “Eastern Bridge VII & Al Najah V Exercise” with which country?
- (a) India (b) Bhutan
(c) Myanmar (d) Nepal

VII. One year after the October 7 attacks, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stated that Israel faces conflicts on multiple fronts, including threats from Iran and its allies, such as Hezbollah and Hamas. Following a recent barrage of missiles from Iran, Israel’s defense minister remarked that “everything is on the table” regarding the nation’s military response. In Tel Aviv, a vigil attracted thousands who gathered to honor the victims of the attacks. Attendees included mourning family members and survivors sharing their harrowing stories. Many protesters are urging the Israeli government to focus on negotiating the release of hostages still held captive. Israel’s military operations have escalated, particularly in southern Beirut, where intense bombardment has targeted Hezbollah. Reports indicate that this conflict has resulted in over 1,400 deaths in Lebanon, contributing to a worsening humanitarian crisis. Meanwhile, in northern Gaza, Israeli forces have detected signs of Hamas regrouping, leading to a renewed offensive. This has caused widespread displacement, with hundreds of Palestinians fleeing the violence. Tragically, recent airstrikes on temporary shelters in Gaza have killed at least 25 individuals, highlighting the ongoing humanitarian toll of the conflict. As tensions rise, the situation remains volatile, with both military and civilian impacts being felt across the region.

Source: CNN

43. What operation was carried out by Israel Defense Forces to eliminate Hassan Nasrallah?
- (a) Operation Protective Edge (b) Operation Guardian of the Walls
(c) Operation New Order (d) Operation Cast Lead
44. Who was assassinated in Tehran after the swearing-in ceremony of the Iranian President?
- (a) Mahmoud Abbas (b) Ismail Haniyeh
(c) Hassan Nasrallah (d) Ebrahim Raisi
45. Which of the following is NOT a country that has a coastline on the Persian Gulf?
- (a) Bahrain (b) Iraq
(c) Yemen (d) Saudi Arabia
46. Which Taiwanese company denied making the pagers involved in the explosions in Lebanon?
- (a) Gold Apollo (b) Foxconn
(c) TSMC (d) BAC Consulting

47. Which country has taken the legal step of accusing Israel at the ICJ?
- (a) Palestine (b) Egypt
(c) South Africa (d) Jordan

VIII. After a dispute lasting over 50 years, the United Kingdom has announced it will return the Chagos Islands, located in the Indian Ocean, to Mauritius. This agreement, finalized on Thursday, grants full sovereignty of the archipelago, which consists of more than 60 islands, back to Mauritius. In exchange, the UK will allow a United States military base to continue operating there for the next 99 years. www.lawpreptutorial.com

The announcement has sparked mixed emotions among Chagossians, who were forcibly exiled from the islands to Mauritius, the Seychelles, and the UK during the 1960s and 1970s. For years, they have sought the right to return to their homeland without conditions.

While many Chagossians view this agreement as a crucial step toward reclaiming their rights, others express disappointment over their exclusion from the negotiations. Critics argue that the voices of those most affected should have been included in the discussions between the UK and Mauritius, highlighting the importance of considering the perspectives of the displaced communities.

As this situation evolves, the balance between national interests and the rights of the Chagossians remains a pressing concern. The future of the islands and their inhabitants will likely continue to provoke debate as both governments navigate the complexities of sovereignty, military presence, and the rightful return of those who were removed from their ancestral homeland.

Source: ALJAZEERA

48. To which country will the Chagos Islands be transferred?
- (a) Seychelles (b) Madagascar
(c) Mauritius (d) Maldives
49. What is the National Capital of Mauritius?
- (a) Curepipe (b) Beau Bassin
(c) Port Louis (d) Rose Hill
50. What does SAGAR stand for?
- (a) Security and Growth for All in the Region
(b) Strategic Alliance for Growth and Regional Stability
(c) Security and Governance for All Regions
(d) Sustainable Growth and Action for Regional Development

51. Name 1st African Country with which India has signed Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement?
- (a) South Africa (b) Kenya
(c) Mauritius (d) Nigeria
52. Diego Garcia Island, recently seen in the news, is located in which ocean?
- (a) Atlantic Ocean (b) Indian Ocean
(c) Pacific Ocean (d) Arctic Ocean

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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.

- IX. Article 246 of the Constitution of India grants exclusive power to Parliament and State Legislatures to legislate on matters specified in the Union List and the State List of Schedule VII. In relation to the Concurrent List (List III), both Parliament and State Legislatures can enact laws. The non obstante clause in Article 246 reflects the principle of federal supremacy, establishing that in the event of a conflict between Union and State powers, the Union's authority under List I prevails over State powers under Lists II and III. Similarly, when there is an overlap between Lists III and II, the power of Parliament under List III takes precedence. Article 254 introduces the doctrine of repugnancy, stating that when a conflict arises between a Union law and a State law made under the Concurrent List, the Union law prevails, rendering the State law void to the extent of the conflict, regardless of which law was enacted first. However, Article 254(2) provides an exception, allowing a State law to prevail if it has received the President's assent, even if it conflicts with a Union law. If the President withholds assent, the bill fails to become law. Also, if the President gives assent, the Parliament can amend or repeal the said State law by enacting a law on the same subject. If Parliament enacts a law that is repugnant to the state law, the state law becomes void.

The Supreme Court has clarified the salient features of Article 254 in the case of *Forum for People's Collective Efforts v. State of W.B.*, outlining that repugnancy arises only when both laws pertain to the Concurrent List. Moreover, repugnancy cannot occur when legislation pertains to the Union List or State List, as exclusive jurisdiction exists for each. The doctrine of pith and substance asserts that if a law substantially falls within the legislative powers conferred upon the enacting body, it cannot be deemed invalid simply due to incidental encroachment on matters assigned to another legislature.

The Supreme Court has emphasized that repugnancy is applicable when both laws occupy the same field within the Concurrent List, as highlighted in the *U.P. Sugarcane Act* case. Importantly, repugnancy is determined not merely by apparent inconsistency but requires actual, direct, and irreconcilable conflict. The Court in *M. Karunanidhi v. Union of India* affirmed that in cases of direct collision, the State law would be void to the extent of repugnancy. Tests

to ascertain repugnancy include examining whether there is a direct conflict between the two provisions and whether both laws occupy the same legislative field.

Source: Extracted with edits and revisions from

<https://www.scconline.com/blog/post/2023/09/16/evolution-of-the-doctrine-of-repugnancy-a-perspective-of-the-supreme-court/>

53. In the state of Bharatpur, a new law was enacted by the State Legislature that imposes additional environmental regulations on the manufacturing industry, stricter than those already provided under a Union law. The Bharatpur State Law received the President's assent, even though it conflicts with the Union's existing environmental protection law. Bharat Industries, a major manufacturer in Bharatpur, argues that the new state law should not apply to them as it conflicts with the less stringent Union law, which they prefer to follow. Which of the following is most accurate in this regard?
- (a) The new state law is invalid because it imposes stricter regulations than the Union law.
 - (b) The new state law prevails over the Union law because it has received the President's assent.
 - (c) The new state law is inapplicable because environmental issues fall exclusively under the Union List.
 - (d) The Union law prevails over the state law, as environmental issues should be uniformly regulated across the nation.
54. In the state of Verdanta, a significant surge in online fraud has prompted the state government to enact the "Verdanta Online Consumer Protection Act (VOCPA)," which imposes additional verification requirements on digital transactions exceeding Rs. 10,000. This state law was created to supplement the "Digital Transactions Security Act (DTSA)," a federal law outlined under the Concurrent List, which sets general standards for all digital transactions nationwide. However, the DTSA does not specify detailed verification processes for transactions above Rs. 10,000. A major e-commerce company challenges the VOCPA in the Supreme Court, claiming it conflicts with the broader DTSA. Will the challenge likely succeed in court?
- (a) Yes, because the DTSA already covers the field of digital transaction security, making any state law like VOCPA that adds requirements repugnant.
 - (b) No, because the VOCPA addresses specific local concerns irrespective of the fact if they are covered by the DTSA.
 - (c) Yes, because under Article 254, when a conflict arises between Union and State laws under the Concurrent List, the Union law prevails.
 - (d) No, because the VOCPA only supplements the DTSA without directly conflicting with its provisions.

55. In the state of Prayagraj, both the Union and state governments have enacted laws regulating digital advertising. The Union law sets broad guidelines for digital ad content and placement, ensuring that ads are appropriate and non-discriminatory. The Prayagraj state law, enacted later, imposes additional specific rules about the frequency and timing of digital ads on social media platforms, aimed at reducing public annoyance. DigitalCorp, a company specializing in online advertising, finds these additional state regulations overly restrictive compared to the Union guidelines. They argue that the state law is repugnant to the Union law because it pertains to the same subject matter but adds restrictive measures. Which of the following is most accurate in this regard?
- (a) The state law is repugnant to the Union law because it adds additional restrictions not present in the Union law.
 - (b) The state law is not repugnant to the Union law because it addresses a different aspect of digital advertising, focusing on timing and frequency rather than content.
 - (c) The state law is valid because it was enacted after the Union law and provides more specific regulations.
 - (d) The Union law prevails over the state law because it provides the basic framework for digital advertising, making any state law redundant.
56. In the Union of India, Parliament passed a law regulating the production and sale of alcohol intended for non-human consumption under the Union List, establishing uniform safety and quality standards across all states. Subsequently, the state of Karnataka enacted its own law imposing additional safety requirements for alcohol intended for human consumption, which is stricter than the national standards for non-human consumption. Both laws address alcohol safety, but from different regulatory angles. A manufacturer in Karnataka, SpiritsCo, argues that the state law is repugnant to the Union law and should not apply since they only produce alcohol for non-human uses. Which of the following is most accurate in this regard?
- (a) The Karnataka state law is repugnant because it imposes additional regulations that contradict the Union law.
 - (b) The Union law prevails over the state law because the production of alcohol should be uniformly regulated to avoid discrepancies in safety standards.
 - (c) The Karnataka state law is invalid because it imposes unnecessary safety measures that are not required for non-human consumption alcohol.
 - (d) The Karnataka state law is not repugnant because it pertains to alcohol for human consumption, which falls under state jurisdiction, not conflicting with the Union legislation.

57. In the state of Rajasthan, the legislature passed a law aimed at boosting tourism by incentivizing local arts and crafts. The law provides subsidies and tax benefits specifically for traditional handicraft businesses, aiming to preserve cultural heritage and boost local economies. However, the law also includes a clause that regulates the online advertising of such handicrafts, which some argue encroaches on the Union's authority over digital commerce regulations—a subject covered under the Union List. DigitalAds, an online advertising company, challenges the legality of this clause, claiming it invalidates the entire state law. Which of the following is most accurate in this regard?
- (a) The entire Rajasthan state law is invalid because it includes provisions regulating online advertising, which is a subject under the Union List.
 - (b) The clause on online advertising is invalid, but the rest of the law is valid because the main substance of the law concerns local arts and crafts, which is within the state's legislative powers.
 - (c) The Rajasthan state law is valid because it substantially falls within the state's powers to promote local arts and crafts, despite the incidental encroachment on digital commerce.
 - (d) The clause on online advertising invalidates only those sections directly related to digital commerce, while other provisions unrelated to advertising remain valid.
58. In the state of Telangana, the legislature passed a bill establishing new regulations for water usage during drought conditions, including provisions that conflict with existing Union laws on water conservation. The bill aims to prioritize water distribution to essential services and agricultural sectors, diverging from the more generalized Union regulations. However, the President withholds assent to this bill. A local agricultural company, AgriGrow, argues that the state law should still apply, claiming its critical importance to the state's economy. Which of the following is most accurate in this regard?
- (a) The Telangana state law prevails over the Union law because it addresses more urgent local needs.
 - (b) The Telangana state bill fails to become law because it was withheld assent by the President, despite its conflict with Union laws.
 - (c) The Telangana state law is invalid because all water usage regulations must uniformly adhere to Union laws.
 - (d) The Telangana state law can still be enforced because the local government has the authority to implement emergency measures during drought conditions.

59. The state of Kerala enacted a law to promote renewable energy by providing substantial subsidies and tax benefits specifically for solar panel installations in residential areas, which received the President's assent despite conflicting with broader Union energy policies. Subsequently, Parliament passed a new national energy law that standardized energy subsidies across all renewable sources, aiming to ensure uniformity across states, which is repugnant to the Kerala state law. A homeowner in Kerala, Ravi, recently applied for a subsidy under the state law. Which of the following is most accurate in this regard?
- (a) The Kerala state law is void to the extent of the conflict with the new Union law, rendering Ravi's application invalid.
 - (b) Ravi can still receive the subsidy under the Kerala state law because it received the President's assent.
 - (c) Ravi's application is valid because local laws are prioritized over national laws when it comes to state-specific issues like renewable energy.
 - (d) The new Union law does not affect Ravi's application because the Kerala state law was enacted first and had presidential assent.
- X. The Hindu Succession Act of 1956 plays a pivotal role in governing the inheritance and succession of property among Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, and Buddhists, excluding those under the jurisdiction of Jammu and Kashmir and individuals governed by the Special Marriage Act of 1954. This Act is applicable to areas following the Mitakshara and Dayabhaga schools, which are foundational to Hindu personal law. The Mitakshara School distinguishes between devolution of succession and devolution by survivorship, where the latter applies exclusively to ancestral or coparcenary property, while the succession rule governs self-acquired property. Conversely, the Dayabhaga School primarily emphasizes succession.
- Section 2 of the Act abrogates earlier customs and laws, which previously did not recognize female heirs and restricted the survivorship rule to male heirs. Following the Act, if a male dies intestate leaving only female heirs, property devolves according to the Hindu Succession Act rather than through the survivorship rule. The Act categorizes heirs into Class I heirs, Class II heirs, Agnates, and Cognates, determining the order of succession based on blood closeness. Moreover, Section 20 grants rights to an unborn child, allowing them to inherit property if born alive after the intestate's death.
- However, certain disqualifications are outlined in the Act. Section 25 disqualifies individuals involved in murder or assisting in its commission from inheriting the property of the murdered person. Additionally, Section 28 ensures that no individual is disqualified from inheriting due to any disease, defect, or deformity unless specified by the Act.
- The Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act of 2005 significantly reformed the original Act by granting daughters equal rights to property, establishing them as coparceners by birth, with equal rights and liabilities as sons. This amendment, particularly through Section 6, affirmed that both sons and daughters are Class I heirs, enabling married daughters to seek partition of coparcenary property without limitation. Consequently, if a Hindu male or female dies post-amendment, property devolves through intestate or testamentary succession.

Testamentary succession refers to property governed by a will, allowing individuals to distribute their property per their testamentary wishes. Conversely, intestate succession applies when a person dies without a valid will, leading to property distribution according to the inheritance laws. The 2005 Amendment also omitted Section 3, granting women the right to seek partition within a house, addressing previous inequities.

Source: Extracted with edits and revisions from <https://www.freelaw.in/legalarticles/Property-Rights-of-Daughters-under-Hindu-Succession-Act-1956#:~:text=On%20September%209%2C%202005%2C%20the,well%20as%20liabilities%20as%20sons.>

60. In the community of Bhairavpur, traditional customs dictated that only male members could inherit ancestral property. However, after the passing of Mohan, who died intestate, his daughter, Sunita, claims the right to inherit her share of the ancestral home under the Hindu Succession Act of 1956, contrary to the longstanding community customs. The community leaders insist that the property should pass only to Mohan's two sons, citing decades of family traditions. Which of the following is most accurate in this regard?
- (a) Sunita can inherit the property as the Hindu Succession Act abrogates earlier customs and laws that did not recognize female heirs.
 - (b) Sunita cannot inherit the property because the community's customs take precedence over statutory law.
 - (c) Sunita's claim is invalid because ancestral property is exclusively governed by traditional community rules, not by statutory law.
 - (d) The property must be divided among the sons only, as the traditional rule of survivorship excludes female heirs in Bhairavpur.
61. Rajesh, a successful businessman, was found deceased under mysterious circumstances. The primary beneficiary of his will is his business partner, Vikram, who, following Rajesh's death, stands to inherit the entirety of Rajesh's estate. However, an ongoing investigation reveals that Vikram may have provided Rajesh with falsified financial reports, leading to high-risk business decisions that eventually caused immense stress for Rajesh. This indirectly contributed to Rajesh's deteriorating health and his untimely death. Family members argue that Vikram's actions should disqualify him from inheriting based on their indirect contribution to Rajesh's demise. Which of the following is most accurate regarding Vikram's legal right to inherit Rajesh's estate?
- (a) Vikram can inherit because his actions do not directly constitute involvement in murder or assistance in its commission.
 - (b) Vikram cannot inherit because his actions indirectly led to Rajesh's death, qualifying as assistance in murder.
 - (c) Vikram cannot inherit because providing falsified financial reports is legally equivalent to assisting in murder.
 - (d) Vikram can inherit as there is no direct evidence linking the falsified reports to Rajesh's death as a cause of murder.

62. Ramesh, a wealthy landowner in Udaipur, dies intestate without leaving a will. He has no male heirs, and his estate consists of several valuable properties. His surviving family includes his wife, Geeta, and two daughters, Priya and Neha. The local community council, adhering to old traditions, claims that the property should revert to distant male relatives based on the old rules of survivorship, arguing that female heirs cannot inherit ancestral property. Geeta, aware of the Hindu Succession Act, contends that the property should rightfully be divided among her and her daughters. Which of the following is most accurate in this regard?
- (a) The property must be distributed among the distant male relatives as per the local community council's interpretation of the old rules of survivorship.
 - (b) Geeta and her daughters are entitled to the property because, under the Hindu Succession Act, property inherited by a female heir must stay within the direct lineage and not revert to distant relatives.
 - (c) The property devolves to Geeta and her daughters according to the Hindu Succession Act, which overrides any previous customs that exclude female heirs.
 - (d) Geeta should inherit all the property exclusively as the surviving spouse, regardless of the presence of daughters, because the Hindu Succession Act prioritizes spouse inheritance over children in the absence of a will.
63. After the death of Mr. Sharma, a wealthy businessman in Chennai, his estate was to be distributed among his heirs according to the Hindu Succession Act. Mr. Sharma's youngest son, Arjun, who was born with a genetic disorder, was denied a share of the estate by other family members. They argued that his condition would prevent him from managing the property effectively. The family members pointed to an old family agreement that excluded members with such conditions from inheriting property. Arjun challenges this decision based on Section 28 of the Hindu Succession Act. Which of the following is most accurate in this regard?
- (a) Arjun is disqualified from inheriting the property because the family agreement overrides statutory provisions regarding inheritance.
 - (b) Arjun cannot inherit the property as his condition renders him incapable of property management, which is a valid disqualification under the Hindu Succession Act.
 - (c) Arjun retains his right to inherit the property as Section 28 of the Hindu Succession Act ensures no individual is disqualified from inheriting due to any disease, defect, or deformity.
 - (d) The property should be managed by a trustee on Arjun's behalf, as his genetic disorder disqualifies him from direct inheritance under the Hindu Succession Act.

64. Sunita, a married daughter of a deceased property owner, decides to seek partition of her father's estate, which includes a substantial amount of coparcenary property. Her brother, Arjun, who has been managing the property since their father's death, opposes Sunita's claim. He argues that Sunita forfeited her rights to the property by getting married and moving away from the family home, suggesting that only those who remain active in the family's affairs should inherit. Arjun also claims that local customs override the statutory law in this regard. Which of the following is most accurate regarding Sunita's right to claim partition of the property?
- (a) Sunita can claim partition as she is a Class I heir, and her marital status does not affect her right to seek partition.
 - (b) Sunita cannot claim partition because she moved away and is no longer involved in the family affairs.
 - (c) Sunita cannot claim partition as local customs take precedence over statutory rights in matters of coparcenary property.
 - (d) Sunita can claim partition only if she returns to contribute to the family affairs and property management.
65. Avinash, a wealthy businessman, dies intestate, survived by his pregnant wife, Meena, and two adult children from a previous marriage. Avinash's estate is substantial, including real estate, investments, and personal assets. Meena is expected to give birth in a few months. Tragically, the child is stillborn. Meena claims a portion of the estate should be set aside for the unborn child as per Avinash's presumed wishes and argues that she should inherit this portion now that the child is not alive to claim it. Considering Section 20, which grants rights to an unborn child to inherit property if born alive after the intestate's death, which of the following is most accurate about the inheritance of the stillborn child's portion of Avinash's estate?
- (a) The property intended for the unborn child should be equally divided among Avinash's adult children, as they are the next direct heirs.
 - (b) The stillborn child can inherit, and the property should be managed in trust until further family court decisions.
 - (c) The property intended for the unborn child should now pass to Meena since she argues that it was Avinash's wish to support their child.
 - (d) The stillborn child cannot inherit, and therefore the property is distributed only between Avinash's surviving wife and children as per intestate succession laws.

66. Sunita and her brother Ravi are the third-generation heirs to their family's ancestral estate, which includes a significant amount of agricultural land and properties in urban areas. Under the traditional inheritance practices of their community, only sons had rights to the coparcenary property. However, Sunita's grandfather had partitioned some of his property during his lifetime, and that part was inherited by Sunita's father. After the death of their father, the remaining coparcenary property and the partitioned property were to be divided among the siblings. Sunita, who has been actively managing part of the family business and contributing to its growth, claims an equal share in both the ancestral and partitioned property. Ravi contests this, asserting that the partitioned property should revert to traditional gender roles in inheritance, favoring him as the male heir. Can Sunita claim an equal share in both the ancestral and partitioned property?
- (a) Yes, because the 2005 Amendment overrides any previous family agreements or traditional practices that discriminate based on gender.
 - (b) No, because the properties were partitioned during the grandfather's lifetime, thus not subject to the coparcenary rights established in the 2005 Amendment.
 - (c) Yes, because the Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act of 2005 grants daughters equal rights to property as coparceners, with the same rights and liabilities as sons.
 - (d) No, because the partitioned property no longer qualifies as coparcenary property, thereby exempting it from the rules of the 2005 Amendment.

- XI.** The doctrine of lis pendens, encapsulated in Section 52 of the Transfer of Property Act, 1882, serves as a crucial legal principle governing the transfer of immovable property during the pendency of litigation. This doctrine aims to prevent parties involved in a lawsuit from transferring or otherwise dealing with property in a manner that could affect the rights of other parties until the resolution of the case. The key premise of this doctrine is that once a suit or legal proceeding concerning a right to immovable property is initiated, any transfer made during that period is subject to the outcome of the ongoing litigation.

Section 52 states that during the pendency of any suit or proceeding that directly involves a right to immovable property, the property cannot be transferred or dealt with by any party to the suit in a way that would impact the rights of other parties. This restriction is enforced unless there is explicit court authorization, which can impose conditions on such transfers. The doctrine operates on the principles of equity and fairness, ensuring that the interests of parties in litigation are protected while the case is unresolved. www.lawpreptutorial.com

For the doctrine of lis pendens to be applicable, certain essential conditions must be met. There must be a pending suit or proceeding before a competent court, the dispute must explicitly involve rights to immovable property, and the lawsuit must not be collusive. Additionally, the transfer or action related to the property must involve a party to the suit and must have the potential to impact the rights of others involved.

Judicial precedents, such as in *Balwant Singh v. Buta Ram*, have reinforced the doctrine's applicability, asserting that ownership of immovable property directly contested in court cannot

be transferred without the court's permission. Transfers made in violation of this principle are not automatically void; instead, they are voidable, depending on the decision of the affected party.

While the doctrine provides robust protections, there are exceptions. If a court allows a transfer under its authority, that transfer can proceed, provided conditions are met. For instance, in *Vinod Seth v. Devinder Bajaj*, the court permitted a sale during pending litigation upon securing a deposit, illustrating the court's discretion in such matters.

Ultimately, the doctrine of *lis pendens* operates to uphold the integrity of legal proceedings involving property rights. It ensures that anyone acquiring property during litigation is bound by the eventual judgment, thus safeguarding the rights of all parties involved. This legal framework is essential for maintaining stability and fairness in property transactions amid ongoing disputes, preventing unjust enrichment or loss due to improper transfers during the pendency of legal action.

67. In the city of Jyotipur, Priyanka and Karan are co-owners of a piece of immovable property. During a pending legal dispute over the division of this property, Priyanka, without consulting Karan or obtaining court permission, sells her share to an outsider, Mr. Aakash, claiming financial distress. Karan finds out about the sale after the fact and objects, stating that the sale might affect the court's final decision regarding property division. The court has not yet resolved their case, and Aakash is now claiming ownership rights based on his purchase. Which of the following is most accurate regarding Priyanka's sale of the property to Aakash?
- (a) The sale is valid, and Aakash has legal ownership since Priyanka acted out of financial necessity.
 - (b) The sale is invalid as it was done without court approval and during a pending legal dispute, affecting the court's ability to make a final decision.
 - (c) The sale is voidable at Karan's discretion since it was made without his consent and during the litigation.
 - (d) The sale is automatically void because it occurred during the pendency of litigation over property rights.

68. In the city of Devnagar, a lengthy court case is underway involving a valuable commercial property owned by an aging businessman, Mr. Sharma. Mr. Sharma, amidst the litigation, decides to retire and sells the property to an investment firm, Bluechip Investments, unaware that the firm is aware of the ongoing litigation but proceeds with the purchase hoping for a favorable judgment. The court eventually rules in favor of the opposing party, Mr. Gupta, who claims a 50% interest in the property based on a prior undisclosed agreement with Mr. Sharma. Bluechip Investments, having already invested in renovations and leased out part of the property, now faces significant financial consequences from the court's decision. Which of the following is most accurate regarding Bluechip Investments' acquisition of the property?
- (a) Bluechip Investments is bound by the court's judgment, which favored Mr. Gupta, thus impacting their rights post-acquisition.
 - (b) Bluechip Investments retains full ownership rights despite the court's ruling because their investments in the property post-purchase should be legally recognized.
 - (c) Bluechip Investments' acquisition is protected since they were unaware of the full details of Mr. Sharma's litigation.
 - (d) The transaction between Mr. Sharma and Bluechip Investments is void since it occurred during ongoing litigation.
69. In the town of Vaishali, two neighboring landowners, Rajat and Sumit, are embroiled in a dispute over a boundary that has implications for their respective property rights. Both have extensive development plans that hinge on the outcome of this boundary determination. However, behind closed doors, Rajat and Sumit are in agreement to use the lawsuit to pressure a third party, a large real estate firm, into purchasing their lands at a higher price by creating a legal spectacle around the boundary issue. Their strategy involves presenting the dispute in court as genuine, though they have already amicably settled their differences and are using the court to enhance their bargaining positions. Which of the following is most accurate in assessing the validity of the lawsuit under the doctrine of lis pendens?
- (a) The lawsuit is valid as it involves rights to immovable property, fulfilling the requirement of the doctrine.
 - (b) The lawsuit is invalid because it is a collusive effort by Rajat and Sumit to manipulate the outcome of their legal standings for personal gain.
 - (c) The lawsuit is valid as the involvement of conflicting boundary claims necessitates judicial resolution.
 - (d) The lawsuit is invalid since it does not involve any genuine dispute between the parties, which is a requirement for applying the doctrine of lis pendens.

70. In the city of Kalpanagar, a significant dispute has arisen between two corporations, FutureTech and BuildRight, over a large tract of land. FutureTech claims that they legally acquired the land from a previous owner who had the undisputed title, planning to develop a new technology campus. BuildRight contests this claim, asserting that they had a prior agreement with the same owner, granting them first rights to purchase should the property ever be sold. FutureTech files a lawsuit in a local court to affirm their ownership. However, it is soon discovered that the court where the lawsuit was filed lacks jurisdiction over property disputes of this scale and nature due to recent legislative changes that redirect such cases to a specialized real estate tribunal. Which of the following is most accurate regarding the applicability of the doctrine of lis pendens to this case?
- (a) The doctrine of lis pendens applies as the lawsuit was properly filed before a competent court, and the dispute explicitly involves rights to immovable property.
 - (b) The doctrine of lis pendens applies since the dispute explicitly involves rights to immovable property, irrespective of the court's jurisdiction.
 - (c) The doctrine of lis pendens does not apply since the court where the lawsuit was initially filed lacks the necessary jurisdiction to handle this property dispute.
 - (d) The doctrine of lis pendens does not apply because BuildRight's prior agreement affects the legal standing of the dispute, overriding jurisdictional concerns.
71. In the burgeoning city of Mirapur, a land dispute arises between the construction company SkyHigh Builders and the local nonprofit, GreenLungs, over a parcel of land designated for community parks. SkyHigh Builders, part of an ongoing lawsuit regarding zoning permissions, attempts to expedite their commercial project by leasing the disputed land to a third party, MetroMalls Inc., to begin preliminary construction work. GreenLungs argues that this lease could potentially affect the outcome of the lawsuit as it involves the transformation of the designated community park into a commercial space, which is central to the legal proceedings. Which of the following is most accurate regarding SkyHigh Builders' decision to lease the land to MetroMalls Inc. during the litigation?
- (a) The lease is valid because SkyHigh Builders owns the land and can lease it to any third party as they deem necessary.
 - (b) The lease is valid because it involves a third party not originally involved in the lawsuit, making the transaction independent of the dispute.
 - (c) The lease is invalid because it involves a party to the suit and has the potential to impact the rights of others involved, affecting the lawsuit's outcome.
 - (d) The lease is invalid as any action by a party to a lawsuit involving the disputed property is prohibited under all circumstances.

72. In the bustling district of Navrangpur, the local government initiates a redevelopment project aimed at revitalizing an old residential area. The project includes the construction of new housing complexes and commercial centers. As part of the process, the government needs to acquire land currently owned by several homeowners. One homeowner, Mr. Iyer, is particularly reluctant to sell his ancestral home. However, the court overseeing the redevelopment process grants the government the authority to proceed with the acquisition, under the condition that all affected homeowners, including Mr. Iyer, are compensated at market rates plus an additional 20% for relocation expenses. Despite this court order, Mr. Iyer refuses to vacate, claiming that the court's decision is invalid because it infringes on his property rights. Which of the following is most accurate regarding the court's decision to allow the transfer of Mr. Iyer's property?
- (a) The court's decision is invalid because it involves compulsory acquisition, which is inherently against property rights principles.
 - (b) The court's decision is valid, and the transfer can proceed as it was made under court authority with specific conditions met.
 - (c) The court's decision is invalid as it does not respect Mr. Iyer's emotional attachment to his ancestral home.
 - (d) The court's decision is valid only if Mr. Iyer voluntarily agrees to the terms set out by the court, despite the court order.

- XII.** On April 18, the Department of Telecommunications released four sets of draft rules under the Telecommunications Act, 2023, for public consultation over a 30-day period. These draft rules address interception, suspension of telecom services, cybersecurity, and critical telecom infrastructure. While the interception and suspension rules largely mirror existing regulations, the Critical Telecommunication Infrastructure Rules are newly introduced.

The draft interception rules maintain that orders can be issued by the Union or State Home Secretary, and in unavoidable circumstances, a duly authorized joint secretary-level officer may issue the order. In emergent cases, such as in remote areas, the head of an authorized law enforcement agency can also issue interception orders. The central government can designate agencies to intercept messages for reasons including national sovereignty, security, public order, and the prevention of offenses.

As per the draft, interception orders must specify the authorized agency and the reasons for interception, which are limited to the stated purposes. The orders will remain in force for a maximum of 60 days, subject to renewal, but cannot exceed 180 days. Both the ordering entity and the intercepting agency must destroy records related to the interception every six months, with specific requirements for the telecommunication entity to do the same within two months of discontinuation.

Raman Jit Singh Chima from Access Now criticized the provision for destroying interception orders, arguing it could foster a lack of accountability. He pointed out that in other jurisdictions, the information collected through interception may be deleted, but the orders themselves are retained for oversight. The review committees that must confirm interception orders remain

unchanged, with new requirements for the Department of Telecommunications to authorize two nodal officers in each service area to manage interception orders.

The rules expand the definition of telecom entities to include those involved in establishing and maintaining telecom networks. Chima raised concerns about how exemptions would be defined, questioning the transparency of the process.

In terms of internet suspension rules, while they largely remain the same, the draft includes a requirement for the publication of suspension orders detailing the reasons, geographical areas affected, and duration, capped at 15 calendar days. The review committee remains unchanged. Legal experts like Vrinda Bhandari expressed that while public consultation is positive, the executive-led nature of the review process lacks sufficient judicial or parliamentary oversight.

Chima further highlighted that the suspension of telecom services rules may lack necessary safeguards, as they do not include a requirement to seek less restrictive means before suspending services. This omission could lead to a precedent where suspending telecom services becomes the first recourse for law enforcement. The draft rules, therefore, raise significant concerns regarding the balance between public safety and individual rights in the context of telecommunications in India.

73. In the coastal region of Sundarban, an urgent situation develops when intelligence reports suggest a high possibility of a terrorist attack targeting critical infrastructure. Given the immediate threat, the usual protocols for issuing interception orders could not be followed due to the sudden unavailability of both the Union and State Home Secretaries. In response, a joint secretary-level officer, who is duly authorized for such emergencies, issues an order to intercept communications in the area to prevent the potential attack. This decision was taken during a late-night security meeting, with no time to wait for the higher officials to become available. Which of the following is most accurate regarding the joint secretary-level officer's decision to issue the interception order?
- (a) The interception order is invalid because it was not issued by the Union or State Home Secretary.
 - (b) The interception order is valid as it was issued by a duly authorized joint secretary-level officer in unavoidable circumstances.
 - (c) The interception order is invalid because the joint secretary did not consult with other intelligence agencies before issuing the order.
 - (d) The interception order is valid only if confirmed by the Union or State Home Secretary at a later time.

74. In the metropolitan city of Indrapur, amidst growing concerns of espionage and data theft linked to foreign entities, the central government designates the National Security Agency (NSA) to intercept specific foreign communications under the Telecommunications Act, 2023. The designated interception officer at NSA receives credible intelligence about a potential cyber-attack planned by a foreign hacker group targeting critical national infrastructure. In an attempt to prevent this imminent threat, the interception officer unilaterally decides to extend the scope of interception beyond the initially authorized agencies and targets, including domestic groups suspected but not confirmed to be collaborating with the foreign hackers. This extension was not specified in the original order from the central government. Which of the following is most accurate regarding the interception officer's decision to extend the scope of interception?
- (a) The extension of the interception scope is valid because the officer acted to protect national security, which is a primary concern under the Act.
 - (b) The extension is valid only if the central government retrospectively approves the additional interceptions.
 - (c) The extension is valid as long as the intercepted information helps in preventing the foreseen cyber-attack, regardless of initial limitations.
 - (d) The extension is invalid because the interception officer exceeded the scope specified in the authorized order, which did not include the domestic groups.
75. In the state of Karnataka, amidst escalating concerns about cyber-terrorism, the central government issues an interception order to monitor the communications of a suspect tech company, CyberTech Solutions, believed to be secretly facilitating cyber-attacks. The initial interception order was set for a 60-day period, with the potential for renewal upon reevaluation. Due to administrative oversight and the complexity of the case, the interception unintentionally continued for 80 days without formal renewal after the initial period expired. This oversight was caught during a routine audit, and questions arose about the legality of the data collected during the additional 20 days. Which of the following is most accurate regarding the interception order's compliance with legal standards?
- (a) The interception for 80 days is valid because the original order did not explicitly prohibit continuation beyond 60 days without renewal. www.lawpreptutorial.com
 - (b) The continuation of the interception to 80 days is valid as long as it did not exceed the maximum limit of 180 days set by law.
 - (c) The interception beyond 60 days is invalid because it continued without formal renewal, exceeding the initial authorized period.
 - (d) The interception for 80 days is valid only if the data collected during the additional 20 days can be proven critical to national security.

76. In the state of Maharashtra, the law enforcement agency initiated a covert operation, involving the interception of communications between suspected criminal networks operating within the cities of Mumbai and Pune. The operation was sanctioned under the Telecommunications Act, 2023, with the goal of dismantling an extensive illegal trade network. The initial interception order was issued for a period of six months. After the operation concluded, there was a procedural oversight: the telecom company, IndiComm, failed to destroy the records of the intercepted communications within the required time of the operation's discontinuation. The oversight was discovered during an internal audit by the telecom company five months post-operation. Which of the following is most accurate regarding IndiComm's compliance with the record destruction requirements?
- (a) IndiComm's actions are valid as long as no external party has accessed the records post-operation.
 - (b) IndiComm's actions are valid because the responsibility to destroy records lies solely with the intercepting agency, not the telecom company.
 - (c) IndiComm's failure to destroy the records within two months of discontinuation is valid as the records are to be maintained for six months as per standard procedure.
 - (d) IndiComm's failure to destroy the records within two months of discontinuation is invalid, violating specific legal requirements for telecom entities under the Telecommunications Act, 2023.
77. In the state of Telangana, the local government issues a temporary internet suspension order for the city of Hyderabad following a credible threat of widespread riots sparked by a controversial political event. The suspension is intended to prevent the spread of misinformation and coordinate law enforcement efforts more effectively. The order specifies that the internet will be suspended across Hyderabad for a total duration of 15 calendar days. It details the reasons for the suspension, identifies the entire city as the geographical area affected, and is published as per the new draft rules under the Telecommunications Act, 2023. However, the publication of the order was delayed and only made public after the suspension was already in effect for three days. Which of the following is most accurate regarding the legality of the internet suspension order's implementation?
- (a) The suspension order is valid because it complies with the cap of 15 calendar days for the duration.
 - (b) The suspension order is invalid because it was not published before the suspension took effect, violating the requirement for timely publication.
 - (c) The suspension order is invalid because the affected area was too large, covering the entire city of Hyderabad.
 - (d) The suspension order is valid as long as it effectively prevents the spread of misinformation, regardless of the timing of its publication.

78. In the Union Territory of Chandigarh, following a spate of cybersecurity threats, the Department of Telecommunications issued an interception order against a major tech company suspected of inadvertently allowing data breaches that could compromise national security. Two nodal officers were tasked with overseeing and managing the execution of this interception order. However, after the interception was initiated, it came to light that one of the nodal officers had failed to properly document the process and results as mandated, raising concerns about the oversight effectiveness. The interception order was also due for a review by the unchanged review committee to confirm its continued necessity and legality, but due to internal miscommunications, the review was delayed beyond the set period. Which of the following is most accurate regarding the management and oversight of the interception order?
- (a) The interception order remains valid as long as the initial authorization by the Department of Telecommunications was correctly executed.
 - (b) The interception order is invalid because one of the nodal officers failed to document the process properly, compromising the integrity of the oversight.
 - (c) The interception order is invalid if the review committee does not confirm it within the required timeframe, irrespective of the actions of the nodal officers.
 - (d) The interception order is valid only if both nodal officers correctly manage and document all related activities without any errors.

- XIII.** Jus cogens, or peremptory norms, constitute a body of fundamental principles of international law that bind all states and allow no exceptions. These norms are essential for the protection of the fundamental interests of the international community, and any violation is recognized as a crime against the community as a whole. Binding upon all members in all circumstances, jus cogens imply absolute restrictions on acts like genocide, slavery or the slave trade, torture or other inhuman treatment, prolonged arbitrary detention, and racial discrimination. Any activity or treaty that contradicts human dignity and rights will offend the concept of jus cogens and thus be void. Essentially, jus cogens exist to protect and uphold human dignity and rights. The doctrine stemmed from the idea of a binding law aligned with natural law, rendering contrary customs and treaties invalid. This led to the existence of hierarchically superior norms that invalidate conflicting treaties and customs. The doctrine of jus cogens was initially defined in Article 53 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties 1969 and was later recognized as a customary principle, although Article 53 contains no reference to any element of practice. In contrast, jus positivism, or legal positivism, refers to human-made laws that define specific rights for individuals or groups. It encompasses laws made by the state for its swift, efficient, and proper functioning. The primary difference between jus cogens and jus positivism is that the former is a set of norms applicable internationally, while jus positivism involves laws applicable within the state only. Jus cogens and jus positivism often remain in debate due to their contradictory applicability. Jus cogens are mandatory, constant, and binding on all states irrespective of their consent, whereas jus positivism is not binding and can be changed over

time. This places jus cogens at a higher pedestal than jus positivism, especially considering aspects of universal jurisdiction by all states over alleged violators of such crimes.

Article 2(6) of the Vienna Convention deals with the definition of a "contracting state," mentioning that it means a state that has consented to be bound by the treaty, whether or not the treaty has entered into force. It mandates that non-parties act in accordance with principles necessary for the maintenance of international peace and security, setting a limit determined by the general interest of the international community. Article 53, the origin of the principle of jus cogens, states that a treaty is void if, at the time of its conclusion, it conflicts with a peremptory norm of general international law. Such a norm must be accepted and recognized by the international community of states as one from which no derogation is permitted and can only be modified by a subsequent norm of the same character. Article 64 deals with the emergence of a new peremptory norm, stating that any existing treaty in conflict becomes void and is terminated.

Source: Extracted with edits and revisions from <https://blog.ipleaders.in/jus-cogens/>

79. The country of Libertania has entered into a bilateral treaty with the authoritarian regime of Autocrata to exchange refugees for economic aid. This treaty allows Autocrata to retrieve any of its citizens who have fled to Libertania due to political persecution. In exchange, Autocrata provides substantial economic assistance to Libertania. However, this arrangement has raised international concerns because it involves returning individuals to a country where they face well-documented risks of torture and inhuman treatment, which are actions prohibited under the concept of jus cogens. Which of the following is most accurate regarding the validity of the treaty between Libertania and Autocrata?
- (a) The treaty is valid because it involves bilateral agreements between sovereign states, which are respected under international law.
 - (b) The treaty is valid as long as both Libertania and Autocrata consent to its terms, regardless of the nature of the exchanged benefits.
 - (c) The treaty is invalid because it contradicts human dignity and rights by facilitating the return of individuals to a regime where they face torture and inhuman treatment, offending the concept of jus cogens.
 - (d) The treaty is valid only if economic benefits to Libertania outweigh the potential human rights violations in Autocrata.

80. The Republic of Veridia and the Kingdom of Terranova recently concluded a treaty that permits the use of forced labor from prisoners for international infrastructure projects. This treaty stipulates that prisoners from Veridia can be used to build infrastructure in Terranova under conditions that have been criticized by international human rights organizations as severe and degrading. International law recognizes forced labor, especially under coercive conditions, as a violation of human rights and a peremptory norm. Which of the following is most accurate regarding the validity of the treaty between Veridia and Terranova?
- (a) The treaty is invalid because it involves the use of forced labor, which conflicts with the peremptory norm against such practices under international law.
 - (b) The treaty is invalid because it does not provide economic benefits to the prisoners involved, failing to meet international labor standards.
 - (c) The treaty is invalid because it does not specify the exact nature of the infrastructure projects, which is necessary under international law.
 - (d) The treaty is valid only if both countries implement strict regulations to ensure the prisoners' rights are protected during their work.
81. The Global Coalition of States, recognizing the urgent need to address escalating environmental degradation, proposes a new international treaty, "The Blue Sky Protocol," aimed at significantly enhancing industrial emissions standards worldwide. This treaty introduces much stricter emission controls and more robust enforcement mechanisms than those set by the previously established "Green Earth Agreement," a recognized peremptory norm under international law that mandates a minimum level of environmental protection. While the Blue Sky Protocol reshapes some mechanisms of the Green Earth Agreement, it does so to introduce higher standards and more effective enforcement, which has been accepted and recognized by the international community as a necessary evolution of the norm. Which of the following is most accurate regarding the validity of The Blue Sky Protocol in relation to the Green Earth Agreement?
- (a) The Blue Sky Protocol is valid because it enhances the existing jus cogens norm of environmental protection by introducing stricter emission controls and more effective enforcement mechanisms.
 - (b) The Blue Sky Protocol is invalid because any change to the provisions of the Green Earth Agreement, regardless of intent, cannot alter established peremptory norms.
 - (c) The Blue Sky Protocol is valid only if it does not alter any of the core provisions of the Green Earth Agreement, regardless of the new measures introduced.
 - (d) The Blue Sky Protocol is valid only if a majority of environmental watchdogs endorse the changes as beneficial, regardless of their alignment with international law standards.

82. In 2025, the United Nations establishes a new peremptory norm under international law explicitly banning the use of cyber weapons for offensive purposes by states. This norm aims to curb cyber warfare practices that have escalated tensions and caused significant harm worldwide. This norm is considered by the international community as the *jus cogens*. Prior to this, in 2020, a treaty known as the Cyber Defense Pact was entered into by multiple nations, including the Republic of Techna and the Federation of Digitaria. The treaty primarily facilitated cooperative cyber defense but ambiguously allowed member states to develop and deploy cyber capabilities that could be used offensively under certain conditions. With the establishment of the new peremptory norm by the United Nations, questions arise regarding the status of the Cyber Defense Pact. Which of the following is most accurate regarding the Cyber Defense Pact post-establishment of the new peremptory norm?
- (a) The treaty is void only if a resolution is passed by the United Nations explicitly stating that all such previous treaties are terminated.
 - (b) The treaty remains valid as it predates the establishment of the new peremptory norm and can continue to operate under its original terms.
 - (c) The treaty is valid only if the Republic of Techna and the Federation of Digitaria can demonstrate that their cyber capabilities are strictly defensive.
 - (d) The treaty is void and is terminated because it conflicts with the new peremptory norm of general international law banning the use of cyber weapons for offensive purposes.
83. In a recent global summit, a multilateral treaty known as the Global Maritime Safety Protocol (GMSP) was signed by 120 nations, including the Republic of Oceania. This treaty aims to enhance maritime security and safety measures by setting strict guidelines for ship navigation and pollution control. However, the neighboring non-signatory state of Aquaria raises concerns that the navigational routes prescribed by GMSP could interfere with their sovereign maritime activities and pose environmental risks due to increased maritime traffic. Aquaria argues that, despite not being a party to the GMSP, they should be considered in its implementation, citing Article 2(6) of the Vienna Convention. Which of the following is most accurate regarding Aquaria's stance in relation to GMSP based on Article 2(6) of the Vienna Convention?
- (a) Aquaria's stance is invalid because Article 2(6) does not allow non-parties to influence the terms of a treaty; it only requires them to not act against the general principles of international peace and security.
 - (b) Aquaria's concerns are invalid because Article 2(6) only applies to contracting states, and as a non-signatory, Aquaria has no right to demand changes in the treaty.
 - (c) Aquaria's stance is valid as Article 2(6) mandates that non-parties must act in accordance with principles necessary for the maintenance of international peace and security, which includes respecting the environmental and navigational concerns of non-signatories.
 - (d) Aquaria's concerns are valid only if they can prove that the treaty's effects directly violate specific international laws protecting non-signatory states' rights.

84. The Global Health Alliance (GHA), an international coalition, introduces a treaty requiring mandatory administration of a new vaccine for a fast-spreading viral disease, which includes provisions for sanctions against non-complying states. This treaty, however, conflicts with the well-established international peremptory norm that upholds the right to informed consent in medical practices, recognized universally as fundamental to protecting individual autonomy and human dignity. The norm prohibits any form of coercive medical interventions without explicit consent. Which of the following is most accurate regarding the legality of the GHA's vaccine mandate treaty in relation to the established peremptory norm of informed consent?
- (a) The treaty is valid as it addresses a global health emergency, and its implementation is crucial for international public health safety.
 - (b) The treaty is invalid because it conflicts with the peremptory norm of informed consent, which must be accepted and recognized by the international community of states as allowing no derogation.
 - (c) The treaty is valid only if a sufficient number of international states ratify it, thus redefining the scope of the peremptory norm through collective consent.
 - (d) The treaty is valid only if exemptions are provided for individuals or states on a case-by-case basis, allowing some degree of flexibility in its enforcement.

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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.

- XIV.** Cancellation of 25,753 appointments made in teaching and non-teaching staff by West Bengal School Service Commission has justifiably evoked mixed feelings and reactions from the public at large including those who are directly affected by the order of cancellation passed on 22 April 2024 by the highest Court of the State of West Bengal. Many people in their anguish went as far as to charge that the court had dispensed injustice instead of justice. The cause prompting the court in passing such a heart-breaking, drastic order has been a concerted 'fraud', deliberate and calculated commission of 'illegalities' and a scam for personal and/or political gains in the matter of those appointments perpetrated by diverse persons in league directly and indirectly with persons involved in the process of those appointments in the administration of school education in West Bengal including the Cabinet Ministers of the State. In the scam, recourse to nepotism, favouritism, manipulations and motivated destruction of primary documents were taken by those persons involved in the process of appointments. Rule of Law mandates absolute obedience to existing law in its letter and spirit even if such law, until changed, is found to be irrational because of either lapse of time or any change in circumstances. The facts unleashed by the trail of events unfortunately reveal that there were a good number of genuine candidates within the said total number of 25,753 candidates who were not actors or accomplices in the commission of either fraud or illegalities. But they became pathetic victims for no wrong of their own.

Source: Extracted with edits and revisions from

<https://www.thestatesman.com/supplements/law/courts-as-savengers-2-1503313192.html>

85. Which of the following statements aligns with the author's perspective on the rule of law as mentioned in the passage?
- (a) Laws must be strictly enforced regardless of the outcomes for those involved.
 - (b) Laws should evolve rapidly to keep pace with changes in society and avoid unnecessary harshness.
 - (c) Laws need only be followed when they align with the public's current sentiment and understanding.
 - (d) Laws that seem outdated or irrational need not be obeyed until they are revised.

86. Which of the following outcomes would most likely be a consequence of the court's decision as described in the passage?
- (a) Increased scrutiny and reform of appointment processes in the educational sector.
 - (b) A decrease in public trust in judicial decisions due to perceived injustice.
 - (c) A swift reinstatement of all canceled appointments to mitigate public outcry.
 - (d) Enhanced political stability by aligning judicial actions with governmental policies.
87. Based on the passage, which of the following would most likely undermine public confidence in the judicial system further?
- (a) Conducting a transparent investigation into the appointment scam.
 - (b) Immediate reinstatement of all cancelled appointments without further review.
 - (c) Implementing stricter laws to prevent nepotism and favoritism in future appointments.
 - (d) Requiring additional evidence before any future cancellations of appointments can occur.
88. Which of the following conclusions can be drawn from the passage regarding the court's decision to cancel the appointments?
- (a) The decision was entirely based on legal precedents and completely justified without regard to public sentiment.
 - (b) The court's action reflects a balanced approach to justice, considering both the illegalities committed and the effects on innocent parties.
 - (c) The cancellation of appointments, despite its legal basis, resulted in significant unintended harm to innocent candidates.
 - (d) The decision will likely lead to a reform in how educational appointments are made, preventing future scandals.
89. Which of the following cannot be inferred from the passage about the court's decision to cancel the appointments?
- (a) The court's decision was influenced by the magnitude of fraud and illegalities discovered during the investigations.
 - (b) The cancellation of the appointments was intended as a punitive measure against the candidates.
 - (c) Some of the candidates affected by the cancellation were innocent and not involved in any misconduct. www.lawpreptutorial.com
 - (d) All candidates affected by the cancellation had knowledge of the illegalities and fraud involved in the process.

- XV.** Record-breaking heat waves scorching cities, landslides and floods sweeping away whole towns — the world is currently in the grip of a climate emergency. More than 2,300 local governments in more than 40 countries around the world have declared it.
- At this time, when climate change is affecting the earth in unprecedented ways, climate scientists around the world are working hard to keep track of the damage. The question is: should they continue to make observations and analyse data impartially, as scientists usually do? Or should they raise their voices and engage in advocacy and activism to push for mitigation?
- Excessive communication and activism around climate science can be a distraction to scientists, and they should still do what they are paid to do: the science. A little climate knowledge tends to lead to a massive saviour complex.
- Source: Extracted with edits and revisions from <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/from-analysis-to-action-should-climate-scientists-engage-in-activism/article68700660.ece>*
90. The author argues that climate scientists should refrain from activism as it distracts from their primary role. Which of the following arguments follows a similar line of reasoning?
- (a) School teachers should focus solely on educating their students and avoid participating in educational policy reform.
 - (b) Medical doctors should engage more in health policy to ensure public health laws align with current medical research.
 - (c) Politicians should primarily focus on policy-making and not involve themselves in the day-to-day administrative tasks of their constituents.
 - (d) Lawyers should actively engage in political activism to ensure that the laws they work under are just and fair.
91. What is an implicit assumption in the author's claim that climate scientists should avoid activism?
- (a) Climate scientists are not effective as activists.
 - (b) Activism may lead to biased scientific research and results.
 - (c) The primary duty of climate scientists is to observe and report data without bias.
 - (d) Activism does not impact the public's perception of climate change.
92. Assuming the main goal of climate scientists is to impartially analyze climate data, which of the following would be the strongest argument that their involvement in activism could compromise this goal?
- (a) Activism could lead climate scientists to focus only on data that supports their advocacy positions, potentially ignoring conflicting evidence.
 - (b) Involvement in activism might increase public awareness and support for climate change mitigation, thereby enhancing the impact of their scientific work.
 - (c) Activism could provide scientists with more platforms to disseminate their findings, increasing their influence on policy and public opinion.
 - (d) Engaging in activism might lead to increased funding for climate research, thereby enhancing the resources available for comprehensive studies.

XVI. Over the years, many residents, particularly in the Hill regions, have demanded stricter laws akin to those in Himachal Pradesh, where Section 118 of the Himachal Pradesh Tenancy and Land Reforms Act of 1972 restricts land ownership by non-residents. In Himachal, non-agriculturists, including outsiders and even non-agriculturist Himachalis, cannot freely purchase agricultural land. However, with government permission, land can be acquired for specific purposes such as industry, tourism, or horticulture.

In contrast, Uttarakhand has periodically relaxed restrictions on land purchases by non-residents to promote economic growth, especially in tourism and real estate. This has sparked local unrest, with regular protests and demonstrations against the liberalisation of land laws. These concerns have led to frequent mobilisations, with people taking to the streets, especially as the narrative of “demographic change” in the hills has gained momentum. This fear is fuelled by the belief that “outsiders” are buying up land, altering the social and cultural fabric of the state.

With the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) not bringing the expected political dividends, the BJP is hoping that addressing the land law issue will, particularly in the Hill regions. At the same time, the challenge is to ensure the economic growth of the state. The Congress is on the same page as the BJP on the issue of amending land laws as it too cannot alienate locals demanding changes.

Source: Extracted with edits and revisions from https://indianexpress.com/article/political-pulse/decode-politics-why-bjp-govt-has-promised-stricter-land-laws-in-uttarakhand-9597506/?ref=hometop_hp

93. Which of the following provides the strongest counter-argument to the author's concern that the liberalisation of land laws will lead to significant demographic changes in Uttarakhand?
- (a) The relaxation of land laws has consistently boosted economic growth in other states without causing demographic changes.
 - (b) Government-sanctioned land purchases for specific purposes have had minimal impact on the overall demographic composition of Uttarakhand.
 - (c) Many residents support the liberalisation of land laws as it brings increased investment and job opportunities to the area.
 - (d) Historical data shows that despite periodic relaxations in land laws, Uttarakhand's demographic composition has remained largely stable.

94. Which of the following statements must necessarily be false based on the author's claims in the passage?
- (a) The BJP and Congress are in disagreement over how to handle the land law reforms in the Hill regions.
 - (b) Economic growth and the preservation of local demographic characteristics are seen as mutually exclusive goals in Uttarakhand.
 - (c) Regular protests and demonstrations have occurred in response to the liberalization of land laws.
 - (d) Both major political parties are considering the demands of local residents regarding changes to the land laws.
95. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the argument that the BJP is focusing on land law reform due to the failure of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) to yield political benefits?
- (a) Recent surveys show that the majority of the population in the Hill regions supports the Uniform Civil Code despite its lack of political dividends.
 - (b) The BJP had planned to focus on land law reform well before the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code.
 - (c) Other political parties have also failed to gain political benefits from their support of the Uniform Civil Code.
 - (d) Economic reports indicate that the changes in land laws have already started to stimulate economic growth in the Hill regions.
96. Which assumption is critical to the argument that addressing the land law issue will yield political dividends for the BJP?
- (a) The majority of the electorate in the Hill regions prioritizes land law reform over other pressing issues.
 - (b) The current liberal land laws are widely viewed as a threat to the social and cultural fabric of the Hill regions.
 - (c) The BJP's success in the upcoming elections is entirely dependent on addressing the concerns related to land law reform.
 - (d) Local residents will uniformly support any land law reform proposed by the BJP, regardless of its specific content.

XVII. Our minds are amazing prediction machines—and sometimes they can even make their predictions come true! Does reading that strike you as something out of The Secret—like if you believe in something hard enough, you're going to "manifest" it, and it will drop down out of the heavens and into your hands?

Hopefully not, because there's nothing mystical or magical here—we're just talking about the kind of thinking we do all the time. Let's say you're a little thirsty, and there's a nice glass of lemonade in front of you. You imagine reaching your hand out and grabbing the glass. You predict the way it's going to feel when you bring it to your face and take a sip. Then you do it—you make your prediction come true!

Now you could argue that it didn't come true because you predicted it, but rather because you did it. So, let's take a different example: stereotype threat. Women are often told they're no good at mathematics, and some of them internalize that prejudice. As a result, they end up doing worse at math. If you predict you're going to do poorly, you do worse; if you predict you're going to do well, you do better. Some of our predictions really are self-fulfilling prophecies.

Results like that are pretty worrying. So why not ditch all of our faulty predictions, and just stick with the data? The answer is that those very data are affected by our predictions. Take stereotype threat again: because the culture at large wrongly predicted that women couldn't be mathematicians, very few women used to go into mathematics. So if you looked at the data in 1980, say, you might have concluded—erroneously—that mathematics was a field for men. The predictions skewed the data.

Source: Extracted with edits and revisions from <https://www.philosophytalk.org/blog/brain-prediction-machine>

97. What is the primary argument the author is making throughout the passage?
- (a) Self-fulfilling prophecies are a form of magical thinking that can manifest desired outcomes in reality.
 - (b) Cultural stereotypes about women's abilities in mathematics have been the main factor limiting their participation in the field.
 - (c) Our mental predictions and expectations can influence real-world outcomes and skew the data we use to understand reality.
 - (d) To avoid bias, we should rely exclusively on empirical data when forming beliefs about the world.

98. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the argument that stereotype threat is a significant factor in women's mathematical performance?
- (a) Studies show that women and men perform equally well in math when not reminded of their gender.
 - (b) Most women who underperform in math have not been explicitly told they are likely to do so.
 - (c) Several top mathematicians in recent years have been women.
 - (d) Educational interventions have not improved women's performance in mathematics.
99. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the argument that predictions can become self-fulfilling prophecies?
- (a) Studies show that students who expect to fail an exam tend to underperform, even if they have previously done well in the subject.
 - (b) Students who are provided with additional study materials tend to perform better, regardless of their prior expectations.
 - (c) Researchers found that setting goals based on past performance leads to consistently improved outcomes over time.
 - (d) People who avoid making predictions about their performance on tasks tend to achieve neutral outcomes regardless of the task's difficulty.
100. Which of the following scenarios is an example of a self-fulfilling prophecy, according to the principles outlined in the passage?
- (a) A student excels in mathematics because they enjoy the subject and work hard for many hours every day.
 - (b) A scientist discovers a new theory that contradicts earlier predictions in her field after years of dedicated research.
 - (c) A business achieves higher sales after launching a successful advertising campaign that reaches many new customers.
 - (d) A soccer player performs poorly in a game after reading negative predictions about his performance in the newspaper.
101. Which of the following is a flaw in author's reasoning?
- (a) It assumes that cultural predictions are the primary cause of stereotype threat without considering other potential factors.
 - (b) It oversimplifies the relationship between predictions and outcomes, ignoring the complexity of human behavior and decision-making.
 - (c) It extrapolates from individual examples to make broad claims about the nature of predictions and their effects on reality.
 - (d) It confuses correlation with causation in attributing women's underrepresentation in mathematics to stereotype threat.

XVIII. When India achieved independence in 1947, it comprised nearly 600 princely states with diverse titles like Maharaja, Nizam, and Nawab. These states merged into the Union of India by 1949, preserving their unique cultural identities despite political consolidation. This historical mosaic of cultures and governance models significantly shaped India's federal structure as outlined in its Constitution.

India's constitutional design of cooperative federalism respects its diverse socio-political fabrics, allowing states to manage most of their affairs while centralizing key functions like Defence and External Affairs. Over the decades, economic disparities among states necessitated the establishment of mechanisms like the Planning and Finance Commissions to ensure equitable development across the federation.

However, recent shifts in governance have seen a move away from inclusive economic planning towards a centralization of power that undermines state autonomy. This includes the dismantling of the Planning Commission, the rise of the NITI Aayog, and a shift towards a technocracy that favors central over state interests, particularly in opposition-ruled regions. Moreover, an increase in central cesses and surcharges since 2015 has significantly reduced the fiscal capabilities of states, with losses over Rs.5 lakh crore. This centralizing trend, intensifying under the guise of electoral gains, poses a threat to the cooperative spirit intended by India's founders and the constitutional equilibrium between the Centre and the states.

Source: Extracted with edits and revisions from <https://frontline.thehindu.com/politics/editors-note-vaishna-roy-centre-stripping-states-of-fiscal-rights-bjp-stepmother-opposition-double-engine-project/article68532608.ece>

102. The passage discusses the impact of recent governance changes in India on the principles of cooperative federalism. With reference to the passage, the following assumptions have been made:

1. State autonomy is essential for the proper functioning of India's federal system.
2. The changes in fiscal policies like increased cesses and surcharges are solely intended to strengthen the central government's control.
3. The founders of the Indian Constitution intended for a dynamic interpretation of federalism that could adapt to modern governance challenges.

Which of the above assumptions is/are necessary for the conclusion of the passage to hold?

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| (a) 1 only | (b) 2 and 3 only |
| (c) 1 and 2 only | (d) All of the above |

103. Which of the following would the author most likely agree with, based on the passage?
- (a) Centralization of power has been beneficial for India's states, promoting faster economic growth and development.
 - (b) The historical mosaic of princely states has hindered India's attempts at achieving a unified federal structure. www.lawpreptutorial.com
 - (c) The recent trends of centralization are undermining the cooperative federalism outlined in India's Constitution.
 - (d) The rise of technocratic governance through institutions like the NITI Aayog has enhanced the fiscal autonomy of Indian states.
104. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the argument that the rise of NITI Aayog has undermined state autonomy?
- (a) The NITI Aayog has actively sought inputs from state governments and regularly engages them in policy formulation.
 - (b) States with opposition governments have consistently opposed NITI Aayog's recommendations due to ideological differences.
 - (c) The central government retains control over key national issues like Defense and External Affairs, areas where NITI Aayog has no influence.
 - (d) NITI Aayog's primary role is to provide data and technical support, without the power to enforce policy decisions in states.
105. The argument that dismantling the Planning Commission undermines state autonomy is most vulnerable to criticism on the grounds that:
- (a) The Finance Commission continues to ensure that states receive adequate funds for development.
 - (b) The Planning Commission had no direct role in the execution of state-specific projects.
 - (c) States retain the authority to implement policies independently, even after the Planning Commission's dissolution.
 - (d) NITI Aayog's mandate includes increasing cooperative federalism through state involvement in economic planning.

XIX. In recent decades, the electronics industry experienced meteoric growth as it swiftly invented and marketed a galaxy of novel products for consumers hungry for the next innovation, better performance and greater convenience. But there's a dark side to this tech miracle: Our digital age love affair with ever-more-powerful cell phones, smart TVs, laptops, tablets, gaming consoles and other devices comes with a high price.

The environmental and social costs of producing the trillions of silicon semiconductor chips needed to run our gadgets and to operate remote data centres is escalating incredibly fast and “fostering an environmental time bomb”.

The environmental impact of making semiconductor chips is already huge and increasing rapidly. But chip structure and computing power doesn't stand still: It must keep pace with new tech innovations. Each new generation requires more energy and water and generates more greenhouse gases than the previous generation. However, few seem aware of the looming risk. Competition among tech giants to produce faster, more advanced devices is leading to unbridled demand for increasingly sophisticated semiconductors, worsening global impacts.

Source: *Extracted with edits and revisions from <https://news.mongabay.com/2024/09/ever-smarter-consumer-electronics-push-world-toward-environmental-brink/>*

106. According to the passage, which of the following is/are of paramount importance when considering the environmental impact of semiconductor production?
1. The rapid increase in energy and water consumption in the production process.
 2. The competition among tech companies to produce more advanced devices.
 3. The public's awareness of the environmental risks posed by semiconductor production.
- (a) 1 and 3 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 3 only (d) 1 and 2 only
107. What is the essential message in this passage?
- (a) The rapid evolution of technology is a key driver of economic growth, but it also brings unintended environmental consequences.
 - (b) Competition among tech giants has led to greater awareness of environmental issues, but this awareness is not yet sufficient to create change.
 - (c) The production of semiconductor chips is creating significant environmental and social challenges that are being overlooked by most people.
 - (d) Increased energy consumption is necessary to keep pace with technological advancements, but it is also creating a major environmental crisis.

108. Based on the passage, the following suggestions may be made:

1. Semiconductor production should focus on reducing its water and energy consumption to minimize environmental damage.
2. Governments should impose stricter regulations on tech companies to curb the escalating environmental impact of semiconductor production.

Which of the above suggestions is/are valid?

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| (a) 1 only | (b) 2 only |
| (c) Both 1 and 2 | (d) Neither 1 nor 2 |

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. Following Information shows the present ages (in years) of five boy.

The age of Vikash is 20 years. Present age of Mohan is 20% more than the present age of Vikash which is 66.67% of the present age of Rahul. Present age of suman is 40% less than the present age of Rahul while the present age of harish is 25% more than the present age of Vikash.

The following table represents ratio of the present ages of five boys and five girls.

Mohan : Parul	6 : 5
Rahul : Tina	5 : 4
Suman : Sarita	9 : 11
Vikash : Vinita	4 : 5
Harish : Neha	5 : 6

109. Average of the ages of Rahul, Sarita, Nimo and Ragini after two years will be 28.5 years. Ragini is two years older than Nimo. Average age of Nimo and Nidhi before four years was 21 years. Present age of Nidhi is what percent of the present age of Harish?

- (a) 96% (b) 88%
(c) 92% (d) 76%

110. Respective ratio of the ages of Mohan and Nitin after six years will be 15: 17 and respective ratio of the ages of Vinita and Sumi before five years was 4: 3 Sum of the present ages of Mohan and Sumi is approximately what percent of the sum of the present ages of Nitin and Vinita?

- (a) 71% (b) 83%
(c) 79% (d) 69%

111. Respective ratio of the ages of Parul and Nisha after four years will be 12: 11. Average of the present ages of Nisha, Tina and Vinay is 21 years. If Vinay is three years older than Shashank, find the average of the present ages of Parul and Shashank.

- (a) 19 years (b) 17 years
(c) 21 years (d) 23 years

112. Find the relation between following two quantities:
Quantity I: Average of the present ages of Suman, Neha and Merlin is 24 years. Find the difference between the present ages of Rahul and Merlin.
Quantity II: Average of the present ages of Vikash, Sarita and Kavita is 22 years. Find the difference between the present ages of Mohan and Kavita.
(a) Quantity I > Quantity II (b) Quantity I < Quantity II
(c) Quantity I \geq Quantity II (d) Quantity I \leq Quantity II
113. Find the age of Seema after four years.
Statement I: Average of the present ages of Vinita, Tina and Deepa is 24 years. Deepa is two years younger than Meeta.
Statement II: Average of the ages of Meeta and Seema before two years was 22 years.
(a) Statement I alone is sufficient to answer the question, but the statement II alone is not sufficient.
(b) Statement II alone is sufficient to answer the question, but the statement I alone is not sufficient.
(c) Either statement I alone or statement II alone is sufficient to answer the question
(d) Both statements I and II together are needed to answer the question.
114. Find the difference between the average age of Rahul, Suman and Mohan to the average age of Parul, Tina and Sarita.
(a) 5 Year (b) 3 Year
(c) 2 Year (d) 1 Year
- XXI.** The election conducted in the state of Maharashtra for MLA. There are two villages A and B. Total number of votes in both the village is 25000.
For Village A -Ratio between Valid vote by Male to the Invalid vote by Female is 9:2. Also Invalid Vote by Male is 20% less than the Valid vote by female. Ratio between Total valid vote to Total invalid vote is 7:3.
For Village B - Total Valid vote is 2600 more than the valid vote from village A. While ratio between valid vote by male to female is 5:3. Invalid vote by female is 120% more than the invalid vote by female from village A . While Invalid vote by male is 1000 more than the Invalid vote by female. www.lawpreptutorial.com
115. What is the total number of valid vote casted in both the village?
(a) 16600 (b) 15000
(c) 12000 (d) 15500

116. Valid vote casted by male from village A and Invalid vote by Female from village B together is what % less or more than the Invalid vote casted by Male from both the village together?
- (a) 36.25% (b) 28.85%
(c) 22.65% (d) 14.45%
117. What is the ratio between total vote casted in village B to village A ?
- (a) 3:2 (b) 3:4
(c) 1:5 (d) 2:3
118. Invalid vote from village A and B together is how much more or less than the valid vote from A and B together?
- (a) 9000 (b) 7400
(c) 6500 (d) 8200
119. Total number of valid vote casted is what % more than the total number of invalid vote casted by female only?
- (a) 472.25% (b) 382.5%
(c) 418.75% (d) 345.25%
120. Valid vote casted by male from village A is what percent more or less than the valid vote casted by male from village B.
- (a) 25% (b) 24%
(c) 35% (d) 20%

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