



CONSORTIUM OF NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITIES

Reg.No: DRB1/SOR/707/2018-2019

NATIONAL LAW SCHOOL OF INDIA UNIVERSITY

Post Bag No. 7201, Nagarabhavi, Bengaluru - 560 072, Karnataka, India

Date: December 10, 2025

NOTIFICATION: OBJECTIONS TO QUESTION PAPER AND PROVISIONAL ANSWER KEY, CLAT 2026

1. The Question Booklets and Provisional Answer Keys for the CLAT 2026 are appended to this Notification as:
 - a. **Appendix I** (4 sets of Question Booklet for CLAT 2026 UG);
 - b. **Appendix II** (4 sets of Provisional Answer Key for CLAT 2026 UG);
 - c. **Appendix III** (4 sets of Question Booklet for CLAT 2026 PG); and
 - d. **Appendix IV** (4 sets of Provisional Answer Key for CLAT 2026 PG).
2. Candidates who have appeared for the UG and PG CLAT 2026 on December 07, 2026 may file their objections, if any, on the Consortium website. The portal for objection(s) will open at **05:00 P.M. on Wednesday, December 10, 2025.**
3. The portal for objections will **close at 05:00 P.M. on Friday, December 12, 2025,** and the link to the objections portal will be deactivated. No further objections will be entertained after that time.
4. Objection(s) received over email, support tickets on the website or phone calls will **not** be entertained.
5. A fee of Rs. 500/- (Rupees Five hundred only) is to be paid for each objection. If the objection is found to be valid and sustained, the said fee will be refunded/ remitted to the same account from which it was paid. No requests for deposit of the amount in any other account will be entertained.
6. Objection(s) without the prescribed fee will **not** be entertained.
7. Four different series of Question Booklets which are used in the CLAT 2026 have been published. The Question Booklet cover page has the symbols printed at the right side bottom indicating respective series as follows: -

UNDERGRADUATE

- a) (☼) - Series A
- b) (☼) - Series B
- c) (❖) - Series C
- d) (☼) - Series D

POSTGRADUATE

- a) (ρ) - Series A
- b) (σ) - Series B
- c) (τ) - Series C
- d) (υ) - Series D



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8. If Candidates raise objections using question numbers that do not match their respective Question Booklet set as indicated above, the CLAT Consortium shall not respond to such objections.

9. Process of Raising Objection(s):

- a. Login to your CLAT account at <https://consortiumofnlus.ac.in/clat-2026/> and click on '**Submit Objections**'.
- b. Click on the '**Submit Objection**' button.
- c. Select the **Question Booklet set**, '**Type of Objection**', i.e., '**About the Answer Key**' or '**About the Question**', as appropriate.
- d. Select question number, enter your objection details and click on '**Submit Objection**'.
- e. Once all your objections are submitted, click the '**Make Payment**' button to make payment.

Sd/-
CONVENOR, CLAT 2026



UG 2026

QUESTION BOOKLET NO.

1. **Name of the Candidate :**

2. **Admit Card Number :**

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Duration of the Test : 2 hours (120 minutes) *

Maximum Marks : 120

1. This Question Booklet (QB) contains 120 (One hundred and Twenty) Multiple Choice Questions across 40 (Forty) pages including 2 (Two) blank pages for rough work. No additional sheet(s) of paper will be supplied for rough work.
2. You have to answer ALL questions in the separate carbonised Optical Mark Reader (OMR) Response Sheet supplied along with this QB. You must READ the detailed instructions provided with the OMR Response Sheet on the reverse side of this packet BEFORE you start the test.
3. No clarification can be sought on the QB from anyone. In case of any discrepancy such as printing error or missing pages, in the QB, request the Invigilator to replace the QB and OMR Response Sheet. Do not use the previous OMR Response sheet with the fresh QB.
4. You should write the QB Number, and the OMR Response Sheet Number, and sign in the space/column provided in the Attendance Sheet.
5. The QB for the Under Graduate Programme is for 120 marks. Every **Right Answer** secures 1 mark. Every **Wrong Answer** results in the deduction of 0.25 mark. There shall be no deductions for Unanswered Questions.
6. You may retain the QB and the Candidate's copy of the OMR Response Sheet after the end of the test.
7. The use of any unfair means shall result in your disqualification. Possession of Electronic Devices such as mobile phones, headphones, digital watches, etc., is/are strictly prohibited in the test premises. Impersonation or any other unlawful practice will lead to your disqualification and possibly, appropriate action under the law.

DO NOT OPEN TILL 2 P.M.

*** Except for PWD Candidates who are eligible for extra time as per the law.**





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SECTION I

- I. The adoption of the Non-Cooperation Movement by the Congress gave it a new energy and from January 1921 it began to register considerable success all over the country. Gandhiji undertook a nation-wide tour during which he addressed hundreds of meetings and met a large number of political workers. In the first month, thousands of students left their educational institutions and joined more than 800 national schools and colleges that had sprung up all over the country. Gandhiji had promised Swaraj within a year, if his programme was adopted.

The Non-Cooperation Movement demonstrated that it commanded the support and sympathy of vast sections of the Indian people. Its reach among many sections of Indian peasants, workers, artisans etc, had been demonstrated. The spatial spread of the movement was also nation-wide. Some areas were more active than others, but there were few that showed no signs of activity at all.

The capacity of the 'poor dumb millions' of India to take part in modern nationalist politics was also demonstrated. This was the first time that nationalists from the towns, students from schools and colleges or even the educated and politically aware in the villages had made a serious attempt to bring the ideology and the movement into their midst.

The tremendous participation of different communities in the movement, and the maintenance of communal unity, despite the Malabar developments, was in itself no mean achievement. There is hardly any doubt that it was minority participation that gave the movement its truly mass character in many areas. And it was, indeed, unfortunate that this most positive feature of the movement was not to be repeated in later years once communalism began to take its toll. [324 words]

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from India's Struggle for Independence 1857-1947, by Bipin Chandra and Others, Penguin Books, 1989.]

1. From the passage it is evident that:
- (A) The idea of Swaraj seemed futile
 - (B) The non-cooperation movement was a complete success
 - (C) The non-cooperation movement gained the sympathy of majority of the Indians
 - (D) The Indian National Congress represented microscopic minority
2. The term "poor dumb millions" refer to-
- (A) The vast number of common people who are impoverished
 - (B) Large number of common people who are hearing impaired
 - (C) Large number of people who are vulnerable
 - (D) The vast number of people who are impoverished and uneducated





3. Which of the statements is true?
- (A) The Swaraj movement happened before the non co-operation movement
 - (B) The non co-operation movement failed due to sudden withdrawal
 - (C) There was a fine show of communal unity in the movement
 - (D) The rich and the educated kept themselves away from the non co-operation movement
4. The main idea of the passage is-
- (A) The Non co-operation movement did not give impetus to the future movements
 - (B) The movement made the Indians realize their potential to fight against the mighty British
 - (C) The British became fearful and worried of Gandhiji's leadership and co-operation of Indians
 - (D) That the most positive feature of the movement was that it was repeated in later years
5. The word "Communalism" in the above passage refers to-
- (A) Religious identity
 - (B) Caste identity
 - (C) Regional identity
 - (D) Secularism

II. There were humans long before there was history. The archaic humans loved, played, formed close friendships and competed for status and power, but so did chimpanzees, baboons and elephants. There was nothing special about them.

Nobody, least of all humans themselves, had any inkling that their descendants would one day walk on the moon, split the atom, fathom the genetic code and write history books. The most important thing to know about prehistoric humans is that they were incognisant animals with no more impact on their environment than gorillas, fireflies or jellyfish.

Biologists classify organisms into species. Animals are said to belong to the same species if they tend to mate with each other, giving birth to fertile offspring. Horses and donkeys have a recent common ancestor and share many physical traits. They will mate if induced to do so - but their offspring, called mules, are sterile. Mutations in donkey DNA can therefore never cross over to horses, or vice versa. The two types of animals are consequently considered two distinct species, moving along separate evolutionary paths. By contrast, a bulldog and a spaniel may look very different, but they are members of the same species, sharing the same DNA pool. [203 words]

(Extracted from Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind by Yuval Noah Harari)

6. Which of the following can be inferred as the most significant characteristic of prehistoric humans, as per the passage?
- (A) Their conscious effort to alter and shape their environment for survival
 - (B) Their complex social organization and clear hierarchical structures that set them apart from other species
 - (C) Their evolutionary divergence was marked by warfare and the pursuit of dominance over rival species
 - (D) Their inability to distinguish themselves from other species in terms of environmental impact





7. In the context of the passage, the term ‘incognisant’ most likely means:
- (A) Lacking intelligence
 - (B) Unaware of their future potential
 - (C) Incapable of social interaction
 - (D) Disinterested in the environment
8. Which of the following best explains why humans did not initially stand out among other organisms?
- (A) They had fewer offspring than other species
 - (B) Their behaviours were not unique compared to other animals
 - (C) They did not yet evolve the ability to use tools
 - (D) They lacked the genetic capacity to develop language
9. According to the passage, what determines whether two animals belong to the same species?
- (A) Their ability to produce fertile offspring
 - (B) Their physical appearance and size
 - (C) Their shared evolutionary ancestor
 - (D) Their capacity to adapt to the environment
10. The passage explains the concept of species classification by
- (A) Highlighting the behavioural differences between species like horses, donkeys, bulldogs and spaniels
 - (B) Focusing on the DNA pool they share
 - (C) Contrasting horses and bulldogs with donkeys and spaniels to explain reproductive compatibility
 - (D) Discussing the environmental impact of different species like horses and donkeys, and bulldogs and spaniels





- III. In 1973, only 45 of the world's 151 countries were counted as 'free' by Freedom House, a nongovernmental organization that produces quantitative measures of civil and political rights for countries around the world. The following generation saw momentous political change, with democracies and market-oriented economies spreading in virtually every part of the world except for the Arab Middle East. This transformation was Samuel Huntington's third wave of democratization; liberal democracy as the default form of government became part of the accepted political landscape at the beginning of the twenty-first century.

Underlying these changes in political systems was a massive social transformation as well. The shift to democracy was a result of millions of formerly passive individuals around the world organizing themselves and participating in the political life of their societies. This social mobilization was driven by a host of factors: greatly expanded access to education that made people more aware of themselves and the political world around them; information technology, which facilitated the rapid spread of ideas and knowledge; cheap travel and communications that allowed people to vote with their feet if they didn't like their government; and greater prosperity, which induced people to demand better protection of their rights.

The third wave crested after the late 1990s, however, a 'democratic recession' emerged in the first decade of the twenty-first century. Approximately one in five countries that had been part of the third wave either reverted to authoritarianism or saw a significant erosion of democratic institutions. Freedom house noted that 2009 marked the fourth consecutive year in which freedom had declined around the world, the first time this had happened since it established its measures of freedom in 1973. [279 words]

(Extracted from The Origins of Political Order by Francis Fukuyama)

11. Which of the following aspects is most critical in understanding Freedom House's evaluation process?
- (A) The methodology by which it quantifies the relative freedoms in different political systems
 - (B) Its emphasis on electoral participation and voter turnout in measuring democracy
 - (C) Its role in advising governments on democratic reforms based on its rankings
 - (D) Its primary focus on economic disparities within democracies
12. What does the phrase 'vote with their feet' imply in the context of the passage?
- (A) Engaging in electoral processes to demand political change
 - (B) Demonstrating political preferences through public protests
 - (C) Migrating to countries with better governance or conditions
 - (D) Participating in local government initiatives and reforms
13. The term 'third wave of democratization' as used in the passage refers to:
- (A) The rise of communism in Eastern Europe
 - (B) The spread of democracy and market-oriented economies
 - (C) The decline of authoritarian regimes in the 1960s
 - (D) The global movement for civil rights





14. Which of the following was not mentioned as a factor contributing to social mobilization and the shift to democracy?
- (A) Increased access to education
 - (B) Expanding information technology
 - (C) Heightened global military presence
 - (D) Greater prosperity
15. According to this passage, when was the first time the freedom had declined around the world
- (A) 1973
 - (B) 1990
 - (C) 2006
 - (D) 2009

IV. My kinsman and I were returning to Calcutta from our Puja trip when we encountered an unusual man on the train. At first, judging from his dress and bearing, we mistook him for an up-country boorish man. But as soon as he began to speak, our impression changed. He discoursed on every subject with such confidence that one might think the ‘Disposer of All Things’ sought his counsel in every decision. Until then, we had been perfectly content, unaware of hidden forces shaping the world—that the Russians were advancing, that the English were pursuing secret policies, and that confusion among native chiefs had reached its peak. Our new acquaintance, however, hinted at such matters with a sly smile, remarking:

“There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are reported in your newspapers.”

Having never before travelled beyond our homes, we were struck dumb with wonder at his manner. No matter how trivial the topic, he could quote science, comment on the Vedas, or recite quatrains from Persian poets. Since we possessed no real knowledge of science, the Vedas, or Persian literature, our admiration for him only grew. My kinsman, a theosophist, became convinced that our fellow passenger was inspired by some strange magnetism, occult power, or astral body. He listened with devotional rapture even to the most common place remarks and secretly noted down his words. I suspect our extraordinary companion noticed this and was quietly pleased. When the train reached the junction, we gathered in the waiting room to await our connection. It was 10 p.m., and as the train was expected to be delayed owing to some fault in the lines, I spread my bed on the table and prepared to sleep. But just then, the extraordinary man began spinning a tale, and of course, I could not close my eyes all night. (307 words)

[Extracted with edits from Rabindranath Tagore’s “The Hungry Stones”]

16. The narrator and his kinsman’s initial impression of the “unusual man” highlights which theme most strongly?
- (A) The deceptive nature of appearances
 - (B) The superiority of Western education
 - (C) The danger of blind faith
 - (D) The reliability of cultural stereotypes





17. Which literary device is most evident in the narrator's line: "*one might think the Disposer of All Things sought his counsel in every decision*"?
- (A) Irony
 - (B) Euphemism
 - (C) Allegory
 - (D) Hyperbole
18. The word "theosophist" means:
- (A) Skeptic
 - (B) Mystic
 - (C) Agnostic
 - (D) Materialist
19. The word "Boorish" mean:
- (A) Discourteous
 - (B) Genteel
 - (C) Well-bred
 - (D) Courtly
20. The narrator's suspicion that the extraordinary man was "quietly pleased" suggests:
- (A) The man was genuinely humble and embarrassed by the attention
 - (B) The man wished to avoid any recognition of his authority
 - (C) The man was indifferent to how others perceived him
 - (D) The man derived satisfaction from impressing and influencing others
- V. Man is the only creature that consumes without producing. He does not give milk, he does not lay eggs, he is too weak to pull the plough, and he cannot run fast enough to catch rabbits. Yet he claims dominion over all animals. He sets us to work, returns only the bare minimum to keep us from starving, and keeps the rest for himself. Our labour tills the soil, our dung fertilizes it, and still, not one of us owns more than our bare skin. You cows, look at yourselves—how many thousands of gallons of milk have you produced this past year? And what has become of it, milk that should have nurtured strong calves? Every drop has gone down the throats of our enemies. And you hens, how many eggs have you laid, and how many of those ever hatched into chicks? The rest have gone to market to bring in money for Jones and his men. And you, Clover, where are the four foals you bore, who should have supported and comforted you in your old age? Each was sold at just a year old—you will never see them again. For all your labour in the fields and your four confinements, what have you gained except bare rations and a stall?





Even the lives we do live are cut short, denied their natural span. I do not grumble, for I am among the fortunate. I am twelve years old and have borne over four hundred children. Such is the natural life of a pig. But no animal escapes the cruel knife in the end. You young porkers sitting before me, each of you will scream your lives out at the block within a year. This is the fate that awaits all of us—cows, pigs, hens, sheep, everyone. Even horses and dogs share no better end. Boxer, the very day your great muscles fail you, Jones will sell you to the knacker, who will slit your throat and boil you down for the foxhounds. And the dogs, when old and toothless, are tied with a brick and drowned in the nearest pond. (356 words)

[*Extracted with edits from George Orwell's "Animal Farm"*]

21. Which of the following best describes the tone of the passage?
- (A) Detached and neutral
 - (B) Critical, somber, and resentful, evoking both awareness and outrage
 - (C) Humorous and light-hearted
 - (D) Admiring and celebratory
22. The speaker frequently contrasts animals' work with human gain. This literary technique is best classified as:
- (A) Allegory of class exploitation
 - (B) Hyperbole for comic effect
 - (C) Irony about farm management
 - (D) Metaphor for animal biology
23. Who is 'knacker'?
- (A) A slaughterer
 - (B) A trader whose business is disposal of dead and unwanted animals
 - (C) A person whose business is disposal of dead or unwanted animals especially those whose flesh is not fit for human consumption
 - (D) Harness-maker
24. The repeated reference to slaughter, drowning, and the knacker in the passage primarily implies to:
- (A) Provide a detailed account of animal husbandry
 - (B) Evoke emotional outrage and highlight the brutality of exploitation
 - (C) Suggest that animals are naturally subservient
 - (D) Indicate that humans value animals





SECTION II

VI. US president Donald trump has landed a triple whammy on India by torpedoing the H-1B visa programme, days after revoking sanctions waiver on Chabahar port in Iran and weeks after imposing a 50% tariff on Indian exports to the US. The White House also maintained a conspicuous silence on the Pakistan-Saudi Arabia mutual defence treaty amid reports that neither country informed Washington of the pact, suggesting a growing US indifference to India's concerns. The triple blow has shaken US-India ties to the foundation, mystifying experts who expected a reset after an exchange of friendly messages between Modi and Trump. While some observers see in the crackdown on H-1B a pressure tactic to make India bend on the trade deal, sources familiar with the dynamics of the current White House say the two issues are unrelated and Trump was convinced of the need to "reform" the guest worker visa programme ever since MAGA hardliners persuaded him that American workers were being gamed out of jobs by foreign companies and US big tech acting in tandem. (174 words)

[*Extracted from the newspaper, The Times of India, September 21, 2025*]

25. What percentage tariff did President Trump initially impose on Indian imports in 2025?
- (A) 15% (B) 25%
(C) 40% (D) 50%
26. What strategic reason did Donald Trump cite for penalizing India with additional tariffs apart from trade imbalances?
- (A) India's IT service exports
(B) Indian Banknote Demonetization
(C) India's immigration policies
(D) India's defense and energy ties with Russia
27. What is the strategic significance of Chabahar Port for India?
- (A) Provides trade access to China through Pakistan
(B) Acts as counterbalance to China's presence in nearby Gwadar Port, Pakistan
(C) Serves as the primary naval base for India
(D) Connects India directly to the Mediterranean Sea
28. What is the primary purpose of the H-1B Visa?
- (A) Exchange Visitor Visa
(B) Employment Visa
(C) Immigrant visa for permanent residence in the U.S.
(D) Non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to hire foreign professionals in specialized field





29. The acronym 'MAGA' mentioned in the above passage refers to:

- (A) Multilateral Agencies Global Association
- (B) Make America Great Again
- (C) Mutual Agreements for Global Advantage
- (D) Monetary Advantage For Great America

VII. Indian Chess recorded yet another great moment on Monday; as Divya Deshmukh won the Women's World Cup in Georgian city of Batumi. In the final, the 19-year-old defeated fellow-Indian Koneru Humpy in the tiebreakers. While Humpy contesting the final wasn't much of a surprise-she is the World No. 5 and has been one of the best female players for the last couple of decades-not many would have anticipated Divya's stunning show. But, given her obvious talent and the way she has been playing for the past two years, it didn't come as a big surprise. By winning the World Cup, one of the biggest events organized by the world chess governing body FIDE, Divya also achieved another significant milestone. She became India's 88th Grandmaster and is only the fourth Indian Woman after Humpy, D. Harika and R. Vaishali to get that coveted title. Last year, Divya won the World junior championship in Ahmedabad with a dominant display. She also played a key role in India's historic gold in the Chess Olympiad at Budapest. India was the top seed there, though. At the World Cup, the Indian women exceeded expectations, with four of them making it to the quarterfinals. (198 words)

[*Extracted from the newspaper, The Hindu July 29, 2025*]

30. Where is the origin of chess believed to be?

- (A) China
- (B) Russia
- (C) India
- (D) Egypt

31. Who was the first Indian to earn the title of chess Grandmaster ?

- (A) D. Gukesh
- (B) Praveen Thipsay
- (C) Dibyendu Barua
- (D) Vishwanathan Anand

32. Who was the first official World Chess Champion?

- (A) Bobby Fischer
- (B) Gary Kasparov
- (C) Vishwanathan Anand
- (D) Wilhelm Steinitz





33. Which of the following computers successfully defeated Garry Kasparov, the reigning world chess champion, in a tournament match?
- (A) Deep AI
 - (B) Deep Thought
 - (C) Deep Blue
 - (D) Deep Water
34. Which of the following cities is the venue for hosting the 11th edition of Chess World Cup 2025?
- (A) Paris, France
 - (B) Baku, Azerbaijan
 - (C) Goa, India
 - (D) Chennai, India

VIII. I rise to apprise this august House of the foreign policy dimension of our response to the Pahalgam terrorist attack, going into the preparations for Operation Sindoor and how foreign policy was handled during Operation Sindoor. As all the honourable members would appreciate, it was important to send a clear, strong and resolute message after the Pahalgam attack. Our red lines had been crossed and we had to make it very apparent that there would be serious consequences. As a result, the first step which was taken was that a meeting of the Cabinet Committee of Security took place on the 23rd of April, and that meeting decided that:

- One, the Indus Water Treaty of 1960 will be held in abeyance with immediate effect until Pakistan credibly and irrevocably abjures its support for cross-border terrorism.
- Two, the integrated checkpoint Attari would be closed with immediate effect.
- Three, Pakistani nationals who were traveling under SAARC visa exemption scheme would no longer be allowed to do that.
- Four, the Defence, Naval and Air Advisors of the Pakistani High Commission would be declared persona non-grata and,
- Five, the overall strength of the High Commission would be brought down to 30 from the number of 55. (207 words)

(Excerpts from Statement made by Minister of External Affairs Dr. S Jaishankar on special discussion in Lok Sabha on Operation Sindoor dated 28th Jul 2025)

35. Where is Pahalgam situated in India?
- (A) Punjab
 - (B) Himachal Pradesh
 - (C) Jammu & Kashmir
 - (D) Uttarakhand





36. The Checkpost Attari is located in
- (A) Near Amritsar Punjab
 - (B) Near Baramulla in Jammu & Kashmir
 - (C) Near Kutch in Gujrat
 - (D) Near Barmer in Rajasthan
37. Which amongst the following is not a SAARC Nation?
- (A) Afghanistan
 - (B) Maldives
 - (C) Mauritius
 - (D) Bangladesh
38. Expression '*Persona Non Grata*' means:
- (A) An ungrateful person
 - (B) An unwelcome person
 - (C) An untrustworthy person
 - (D) A displaced person
39. The Indus Water Treaty signed in 1960 between India and Pakistan was facilitated by:
- (A) The United Nations General Assembly
 - (B) The United Nations Security Council
 - (C) The World Bank
 - (D) The permanent Indus Commission
40. Which amongst the following is not a tributary of River Indus?
- (A) Ravi
 - (B) Jhelum
 - (C) Tapti
 - (D) Chenab





IX. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi participated in the 25th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), held in Tianjin, China, from 31 August to 1 September 2025. The Summit witnessed productive discussions on SCO Development Strategy, Reform of Global Governance, Counter-Terrorism, Peace and Security, Economic and Financial Cooperation, and Sustainable Development.

Addressing the Summit, Prime Minister highlighted India's approach to strengthening cooperation under the SCO framework. In this regard, he noted that India seeks greater action under three pillars – Security, Connectivity and Opportunity. Emphasising that peace, security and stability remain key to progress and prosperity, he called upon member countries to take firm and decisive action to fight terrorism in all its manifestations. Prime Minister underlined the need for coordinated action against terror financing and radicalization. Thanking member countries for their strong solidarity in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack, he emphasized that there should be no double standards in dealing with terrorism and urged the group to hold countries who perpetrate and support cross-border terrorism accountable.

Highlighting the role of connectivity in fostering development and building trust, Prime Minister stated that India strongly supported projects such as Chabahar port and International North-South Transport Corridor. He also spoke about opportunities in the fields of start-ups, innovation, youth empowerment and shared heritage, which must be pursued under the SCO umbrella. Prime Minister proposed commencing a Civilizational Dialogue Forum within the group to foster greater people-to-people ties and cultural understanding. (246 words)

(Excerpts from the Press release issued by Press Information Bureau Govt of India, dated 1st September 2025)

41. The civilizational dialogue forum (CDF) proposed by the Prime Minister of India at the 25th Meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organization, is intended to promote
- (A) Peace and security
 - (B) Sustainable development
 - (C) Reform of Global governance
 - (D) Cultural Understanding





42. The next Presidency of SCO is taken over by:
- (A) Kyrgyzstan
 - (B) Tajikistan
 - (C) Uzbekistan
 - (D) Kazakhstan
43. Prime Minister of India stated that India strongly supported projects such as Chabahar port. Where is this port located?
- (A) Oman
 - (B) Iran
 - (C) Afghanistan
 - (D) Saudi Arabia
44. Which of the following countries is not a member of SCO?
- (A) Belarus
 - (B) Iran
 - (C) Pakistan
 - (D) Myanmar
45. The Secretariat of SCO is located in:
- (A) Beijing, China
 - (B) Tianjin, China
 - (C) Shanghai, China
 - (D) Wuhan, China
46. At the conclusion of 25th SCO summit, the member countries adopted the:
- (A) Beijing Declaration
 - (B) Tianjin Declaration
 - (C) Shanghai Declaration
 - (D) Wuhan Declaration





X. Air India stands in solidarity with the families and those affected by the AI-171 accident. We continue to mourn their loss and remain fully committed to providing support during this difficult time. Over a month ago, Air India started releasing interim payment of Rs 25 lakh to the affected families, to help them meet their immediate financial needs. The interim payment will be adjusted against any final compensation.

Air India has, so far, released the interim compensation to the families of 147 of the 229 deceased passengers and also the 19 who lost their lives at the accident site. In addition, the requisite documents of 52 others have been verified, to whose families the interim compensation will be released progressively. The Tata Group has also registered 'The AI-171 Memorial and Welfare Trust', dedicated to the victims of the unfortunate accident. The Trust has pledged an ex-gratia payment of Rs 1 crore in respect of each of the deceased, and support for rebuilding the B.J. Medical College Hostel infrastructure, which was damaged in the accident.

The Trust will also provide aid and assistance for alleviation of any trauma or distress suffered by the first responders, medical and disaster relief professionals, social workers, and governmental staff who provided invaluable institutional support and service in the aftermath of the accident. (217 words)

(Excerpts from the Press Release published by Air India, on July 26, 2025)

47. Air India flight AI-171 was operating from Ahmedabad to:

- (A) London Gatwick airport
- (B) Heathrow Airport
- (C) London Luton Airport
- (D) London Stansted Airport

48. Who is the Minister of Civil Aviation of India?

- (A) Shri Piyush Goyal
- (B) Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia
- (C) Shri Ram Mohan Naidu
- (D) Shri Prafulla Patel





49. 'The AI-171 Memorial and Welfare Trust' is registered by Tata Group as a public charitable trust in:
- (A) Ahmedabad
 - (B) Gandhinagar
 - (C) Mumbai
 - (D) Delhi
50. The sole survivor of 'The Air India flight AI-171 accident is:
- (A) British National of Indian Origin
 - (B) Canadian National of Indian origin
 - (C) Portuguese National of Indian Origin
 - (D) Indian National
51. The agency that probes the fatal crash of AI-171 is:
- (A) DGCA
 - (B) AAI
 - (C) AAIB
 - (D) FIP
52. The Air India flight AI-171 was:
- (A) Boeing 737-800 aircraft
 - (B) Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner
 - (C) Boeing 737 Max aircraft
 - (D) Boeing Next Generation 737





SECTION III

- XI. One of the central motifs of the past decade of governance under Indian Prime Minister has been the embrace of policy measures that seek to apply uniform solutions to disparate policy dilemmas facing the country. These measures, often termed One Nation policies, are motivated by a desire to replace the existing patchwork of state-specific policies, regulations, and regimes with measures that are identical across the length and breadth of India.

There are numerous examples of such One Nation policies being propagated and, in several cases, implemented in the eleven years since this Government came to power. For instance, in 2016, Parliament passed a series of constitutional amendments to introduce a new Goods and Services Tax (GST), which introduced a unified value-added tax in place of state-specific levies. This reform, known informally as One Nation, One Tax, had been debated and discussed for nearly two decades and was widely touted as an important precursor to forging a common market across India's twenty-eight states.

In a similar vein, the government rolled out a new initiative to allow Indian citizens to take advantage of subsidized food rations irrespective of their state of residence. This scheme, commonly termed One Nation, One Ration Card, was intended to increase access to welfare benefits, especially for the millions of internal migrants in India without a fixed place of residence.

Earlier this year, the government announced the launch of a new online portal that will provide students, faculty, and researchers across the country's public higher education institutions with open access to international scholarly journals and articles under a scheme it has dubbed One Nation, One Subscription.

Most notably, the government recently signalled its intention to pursue a monumental One Nation policy that has been long discussed but only recently outlined in detail. This measure, known as One Nation, One Election, would do away with India's current system of staggered elections for state and national assemblies, replacing it with a framework of simultaneous elections. The proposal, which has featured in many of PM's speeches in the past, was advanced by a high-level committee (HLC) established by the government in 2023. (351 words)

[Excerpts from Does "One Nation, One Election" Make Sense for India? by Milan Vaishnav, Caroline Mallory, and Annabel Richter Published on July 28, 2025]

53. What is the underlying idea behind the "One Nation" policies of the government?
- (A) To strengthen federalism by empowering states with greater autonomy
 - (B) To apply uniform solutions across India, replacing state-specific variations
 - (C) To decentralize governance to local self-government institutions
 - (D) To promote diversity by encouraging state-specific policies





54. Which of the following Constitution Amendment Bill deals with empowerment of the Election Commission of India (ECI) to implement simultaneous state and national elections.
- (A) One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment
 - (B) One Hundred and Twenty-Eighth Amendment
 - (C) One Hundred and Twenty-Seventh Amendment
 - (D) One Hundred and Twenty-Sixth Amendment
55. Which committee or report has discussed the feasibility of simultaneous elections in India?
- (A) Justice Verma Committee 2013
 - (B) Law Commission of India Report 2018
 - (C) Sarkaria Commission Report 1988
 - (D) Punchhi Commission Report 2010
56. A High-Level Committee was constituted by the government to examine the policy of One Nation One Election. The Committee was led by:
- (A) Shri Ram Nath Kovind
 - (B) Shri Jagdish Dhankar
 - (C) Shri Pranab Mukherjee
 - (D) Smt. Draupadi Murmu
57. As per the new GST reforms introduced in September 2025, the structure of new GST rates are as follows
- (A) 5%, 12%, 18% and 28%
 - (B) 5%, 12% and 18%
 - (C) 5%, 12% and 40%
 - (D) 5%, 18% and 40%
58. The object of One Nation, One Ration Card scheme is to benefit:
- (A) The rural population
 - (B) The Farmers
 - (C) The Migrant labourers
 - (D) The ration shopkeepers





XII. I may here trace the history of the shaping of the Preamble because this would show that the Preamble was in conformity with the Constitution as it was finally accepted. Not only was the Constitution framed in the light of the Preamble but the Preamble was ultimately settled in the light of the Constitution. In the earliest draft the Preamble was something formal and read: "We, the people of India, seeking to promote the common good, do hereby, through our chosen representatives, enact, adopt and give to ourselves this Constitution.

After the plan of June 3, 1947, which led to the decision to partition the country and to set up two independent Dominions of India and Pakistan, on June 8, 1947, a joint sub-committee of the Union Constitution and Provincial Constitution Committees, took note that the objective resolution would require amendment in view of the latest announcement of the British Government. The announcement of June 3 had made it clear that full independence, in the form of Dominion Status, would be conferred on India as from August 15, 1947. After examining the implications of partition the sub-committee thought that the question of making changes in the Objectives Resolution could appropriately be considered only when effect had actually been given to the June 3 Plan. Later on July 12, 1947, the special sub-committee again postponed consideration of the matter. The Union Constitution Committee provisionally accepted the Preamble as drafted by B.N. Rao and reproduced it in its report of July 4, 1947 without any change, with the tacit recognition at that stage that the Preamble would be finally based on the Objectives Resolution. In a statement circulated to members of the Assembly on July 18, 1947 Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru inter alia, observed that the Preamble was covered more or less by the Objectives Resolution which it was intended to incorporate in the final Constitution, subject to some modification on account of the political changes resulting from partition. (327 words)

(Extracted with edits and revision from B Shiva Rao's-Framing of India's Constitution)

59. According to the passage, the relationship between the Constitution and the Preamble can best be described as:
- (A) The Preamble was drafted in isolation
 - (B) The Constitution and the Preamble were framed independent of each other
 - (C) Both the Constitution and the Preamble were shaped in light of each other
 - (D) The Preamble had no relevance to the Constitution





60. What did the earliest draft of the Preamble emphasize?
- (A) Liberty, equality, and fraternity
 - (B) Sovereign, socialist, secular democratic republic
 - (C) Formal enactment by the people through representatives
 - (D) Unity and integrity of the nation
61. Which of the following is not enshrined in the Preamble of the Constitution of India?
- (A) Equality of status and of opportunity
 - (B) Liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship
 - (C) Justice –moral, ethical and legal
 - (D) Fraternity assuring the dignity of the individual
62. Which has been rightly arranged according to the Preamble of the Constitution of India-
- (A) Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic
 - (B) Sovereign Secular Socialist Democratic Republic
 - (C) Sovereign Socialist Democratic Secular Republic
 - (D) Secular, Socialist, Sovereign and Democratic Republic
63. The Preamble of the Constitution of India is finally based on:
- (A) The Objectives Resolution
 - (B) The Report of the Union Constitution Committee
 - (C) The June 3 plan of the British Government
 - (D) The Report of special Sub-committee of the Constituent Assembly
64. What was the role of Sir B. N. Rau in the making of the Indian Constitution?
- (A) Chairman of the Drafting Committee
 - (B) Constitutional Advisor to the Constituent Assembly
 - (C) President of the Constituent Assembly
 - (D) Member of the Union Powers Committee





XIII. Good governance is only in the hands of good men. No doubt, what is good or bad is not for the court to decide: but the court can always indicate the constitutional ethos on goodness, good governance and purity in administration remind the constitutional functionaries to preserve, protect and promote the same. That ethos are the unwritten words in our Constitution. However, as the Constitution makers stated, there is a presumption that the Prime Minister/Chief Minister would be well advised and guided by such unwritten yet constitutional principles as well. According to Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, such things were only to be left to the good sense of the Prime Minister, and for that matter, the Chief Minister of State, since it was expected that the two great constitutional functionaries would not dare to do any infamous thing by inducting an otherwise unfit person to the Council of Ministers. It appears, over a period of time, at least in some cases, it was only a story of great expectations. Some of the instances pointed out in the writ petition indicate that Dr. Ambedkar and other great visionaries in the Constituent Assembly have been bailed out. Qualification has been wrongly understood as the mere absence of prescribed disqualification. Hence, it has become the bounden duty of the court to remind the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister of the State of their duty to act in accordance with the constitutional aspirations.

No doubt, it is not for the court to issue any direction to the Prime Minister or the Chief Minister, as the case may be, as to the manner in which they should exercise their power while selecting the colleagues in the Council of Ministers. That is the constitutional prerogative of those functionaries who are called upon to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution. But it is the prophetic duty of this Court to remind the key duty holders about their role in working the Constitution. Hence, I am of the firm view, that the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister of the State, who themselves have taken oath to bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India and to discharge their duties faithfully and conscientiously, will be well advised to consider avoiding any person in the Council of Ministers, against whom charges have been framed by a criminal court in respect of offences involving moral turpitude and also offences specifically referred to in Chapter III of The Representation of the People Act, 1951. (416 words)

[Extract from the Supreme Court Judgement Manoj Narula v. Union of India]

65. According to the passage, the Court cannot decide what is “good” or “bad” governance, but it can:
- (A) Disqualify Ministers from holding office
 - (B) Indicate constitutional ethos on governance and remind functionaries of their duty
 - (C) Frame rules on qualifications of Ministers
 - (D) Amend the Constitution to insert explicit standards of morality





66. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar believed that the working of the Constitution ultimately depends on:
- (A) The rigidity of the constitutional text
 - (B) The good sense and integrity of those who are going to administer this constitution
 - (C) The presence of a strong opposition
 - (D) Judicial intervention in governance
67. The Court, while respecting the prerogative of the Prime Minister and Chief Minister to select Ministers emphasized that:
- (A) They should avoid appointing persons against whom criminal charges involving moral turpitude are framed
 - (B) They must appoint Ministers strictly from the ruling party only
 - (C) They should consult the Supreme Court before finalizing appointments
 - (D) They are bound to appoint only members of the Lok Sabha/Legislative Assembly
68. What role does the Court assume, as described in the passage, regarding governance and appointments to the Council of Ministers?
- (A) Judicial review of all ministerial appointments
 - (B) Prophetic duty to remind key functionaries of their constitutional role
 - (C) Power to veto ministerial selections made by the Prime Minister
 - (D) Directing Parliament to amend the law on disqualification
69. Who are the constitutional functionaries, this passage primarily refers to?
- (A) Council of Ministers
 - (B) Prime Minister and Council of Ministers
 - (C) Chief Minister and Council of Ministers
 - (D) Prime Minister and Chief Minister
70. Who, according to the above passage shall not be appointed as a Minister?
- (A) Against whom charges have been framed in a court of law
 - (B) Against whom charges involving moral turpitude have been framed in a court of law
 - (C) Against whom charges have been proved in a court of law
 - (D) Against whom case is pending in a court of law





XIV. The recent Supreme Court judgment in *State of Tamil Nadu v. Governor of Tamil Nadu* (2025) affirmed that a Governor cannot exercise an absolute or "pocket" veto on bills, holding that if assent is withheld, the bill must be returned to the legislature "as soon as possible" for reconsideration, with the Governor having no discretion to withhold assent again. The court established that inaction or indefinite delay is illegal and unconstitutional, prescribing timelines for the Governor's decision and even "deeming assent" on pending bills in the Tamil Nadu case, establishing a critical precedent for judicial review of gubernatorial powers. The Supreme Court explicitly rejected the Governor's power to an absolute or "pocket" veto, which allows for bills to be indefinitely delayed. If a Governor withholds assent to a bill, they are constitutionally obligated to return it to the State Assembly for reconsideration, according to the proviso in Article 200 of the Constitution. If the State Assembly re-enacts a bill after it has been returned by the Governor, the Governor has no choice but to give assent to it and cannot withhold it for a second time. The Court held that indefinitely delaying or remaining silent on bills is unconstitutional and that Governors must act "as soon as possible" on bills. The judgment expanded the scope of judicial review by setting timelines for the Governor's actions on bills, allowing state governments to approach courts if these timelines are breached. In the case of the Tamil Nadu, the Court used its powers under Article 142 to "deem assent" on the long-pending bills, which had the effect of making any subsequent decision by the President on those bills void. (276 words)

[Extracted with edits & revisions from "The Hindu", dated 8th April 2025]

71. The Legislative Assembly of State X passes a controversial bill and sends it to the Governor for assent. The Governor, strongly disagreeing with the bill's provisions, decides to neither give assent nor return the bill, hoping it will be forgotten over the time. Which of the following statements accurately describes the legal position of the Governor's action?
- (A) The Governor's action is a legitimate exercise of a "pocket veto", allowing for indefinite delay of bills
 - (B) The Governor's inaction is unconstitutional, as the Supreme Court has explicitly rejected the power to an absolute or "pocket" veto, and they are obligated to return the bill "as soon as possible" if assent is withheld
 - (C) The Governor is within their rights to delay the bill indefinitely as long as they do not explicitly reject it, reflecting the true spirit of gubernatorial discretion
 - (D) The bill will automatically lapse after six months of gubernatorial inaction, making the delay a *de facto rejection*





72. Governor Y receives a bill from the State Assembly and, after careful consideration, decides to withhold assent, promptly returning it with a message for reconsideration. The State Assembly then re-enacts the bill without any change and sends it back to Governor Y. What is the constitutional obligation of Governor Y at this point?
- (A) Governor Y has no choice but to give assent to the re-enacted bill, as the Supreme Court has ruled that the Governor cannot withhold assent for a second time
 - (B) Governor Y can again withhold assent if they continue to disagree with the bill's content, sending it back for further reconsideration
 - (C) Governor Y can refer the bill to the President of India for a final decision, exercising a higher discretionary power
 - (D) Governor Y can dissolve the State Assembly for consistently passing erroneous bills
73. After the Supreme Court's judgment in *State of Tamil Nadu v. Governor of Tamil Nadu* (2025), a State Governor holds a bill for eight months without taking any action—neither assenting nor returning it. The State Government believes that this delay is unconstitutional. Based on the precedent set by the judgment, what recourse is available to the State Government?
- (A) The State Government must wait for a full year before any action can be taken, as gubernatorial delays are typically permitted for this duration
 - (B) The bill automatically lapses after six months of inaction, making any further action by the State Government unnecessary
 - (C) The State Government's only recourse is to re-enact the bill, which would then compel the Governor to act
 - (D) The State Government can approach the courts, as the judgment had prescribed timelines for the Governor's actions on bills since indefinite delay was construed unconstitutional
74. In a situation mirroring the Tamil Nadu case, a Supreme Court bench is reviewing several instances where a particular Governor has indefinitely delayed assent on multiple bills passed by the State Assembly, despite Constitutional obligations. If the Supreme Court decides to follow the precedent established in *State of Tamil Nadu v. Governor of Tamil Nadu* (2025) regarding pending bills, what would be a likely outcome for these delayed bills?
- (A) The Supreme Court would order the Governor to explicitly reject all the delayed bills
 - (B) The Supreme Court would direct the State Assembly to conduct a public referendum on each delayed bill
 - (C) The Supreme Court could deem assent on the pending bills, establishing a critical precedent for judicial review of gubernatorial powers in such cases, as it did in the Tamil Nadu case
 - (D) The Supreme Court would advise the Governor to seek legal counsel and then re-evaluate each bill individually without a set timeline





75. A newly appointed Governor publicly declares that he intend to use his discretion to permanently halt any legislation he deems inappropriate, by simply not acting on the bills, citing an inherent gubernatorial power. How does this declaration align with the constitutional interpretation provided by the Supreme Court of India?
- (A) The Governor's declaration is consistent with the broad discretionary powers traditionally afforded to Governors, allowing them significant influence over state legislation
 - (B) The Governor's declaration is valid only for non-money bills, as money bills have different Constitutional protocols
 - (C) The Governor's declaration is partially valid, as indefinite delay is permissible only if the State Assembly is not in session
 - (D) The Governor's declaration is unconstitutional; the Supreme Court explicitly rejected the Governor's power to an absolute or "pocket" veto
76. What are the three primary courses of action for a Governor when a Bill is enacted by the State Assembly and sent to him/her for his/her assent. Which option correctly lists these three courses?
- (A) (i) Give assent, (ii) Veto absolutely, or (iii) Refer to the Supreme Court
 - (B) (i) Give assent, (ii) Withhold assent (allowing the Bill to fail, unless the proviso is followed), or (iii) Recommend amendments
 - (C) (i) Give assent, (ii) Withhold assent (with the option to return for reconsideration), or (iii) Reserve for the consideration of the President
 - (D) (i) Give assent, (ii) Return for reconsideration, or (iii) Refer to the Union Government
- XV. Same-sex marriage has no legal recognition in India as per the recent Supreme Court's judgment, where it was decided that this is an issue for Parliament to address. While Hindu marriages between transgender persons and cisgender men are permissible, and the Court acknowledged systemic discrimination and the right to choose a partner, it held that there is no fundamental right to marry. The government has been urged to form a panel to consider granting more legal rights to same-sex couples, but the legal status of marriage remains unchanged for now. The five-judge bench of the Supreme Court of India in *Supriyo @ Supriya Chakraborty & Anr. v. Union of India* (2023), in a majority verdict, ruled that there is no fundamental right to marry under the Indian Constitution, making it beyond the court's scope to legislate on same-sex marriage.





The Court stated that the power to legislate on same-sex marriage rests with the Parliament and state legislatures. The judgment affirmed constitutional rights for LGBTQ+ citizens and the right to choose a partner. The government agreed to set up a panel to explore legal rights and benefits for same-sex couples, though these benefits are not the same as those conferred by marriage. Same-sex couples cannot legally marry and do not receive the same legal rights, such as automatic inheritance, pension, or adoption rights, that legally married couples do. Despite the ruling, LGBTQ+ couples continue to face legal discrimination and have no social recognition of marriage. The Court affirmed the right of same-sex couples to cohabit privately. While the Supreme Court's verdict brought limited benefits and acknowledgments, it has not legalized same-sex marriage in India, deferring the ultimate decision to the Parliament. (279 words)

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from "The Hindu", dated 27th October 2023]

77. In October 2023, two individuals in India, Ramesh and Sameer, who identify as a same-sex couple, sought to legally solemnize their marriage. Based on the Supreme Court's ruling, what is the current legal standing of their ability to marry?
- (A) Their marriage is legally recognized nationwide under a new constitutional right
 - (B) Their marriage is not legally recognized, as the Supreme Court ruled that this issue is for Parliament to address
 - (C) Their marriage is recognized only if both of them identify as transgender
 - (D) Their marriage is temporarily recognized until Parliament decides otherwise
78. During a legal proceeding in India, an advocate argues that the Supreme Court should directly legislate on same-sex marriage because the right to choose a partner inherently implies a fundamental right to marry for all citizens. How would the Supreme Court's judgment likely to counter this argument?
- (A) The Court acknowledged the right to choose a partner, therefore it would agree to legislate on marriage
 - (B) The Court held that there is no fundamental right to marry under the Indian Constitution, and such a policy can be made only by the Parliament
 - (C) The Court has held that it will set up a panel to look into the fundamental right to marry
 - (D) The Court upheld the fundamental right to marry, but declined to recognise same sex marriage





79. Following the Supreme Court's decision, an LGBTQ+ advocacy group in India aims to achieve legal recognition for same-sex marriage. To which governmental body or bodies should this group primarily direct its lobbying efforts to secure the necessary legislation?
- (A) The Supreme Court of India, as they are ultimately responsible for interpreting constitutional rights
 - (B) The President of India as head of the Union legislature
 - (C) The Parliament and state legislatures, as the power to legislate on same-sex marriage rests with them
 - (D) The National Commission for Human Rights, to advocate for a new directive
80. While same-sex marriage is not legally recognized in India, however, the Supreme Court's verdict did offer some acknowledgments of rights for same-sex couples. Which of the following rights was specifically affirmed by the Court?
- (A) The automatic right to inheritance for same-sex partners
 - (B) The right of same-sex couples to adopt children jointly
 - (C) The right of same-sex couples to cohabit privately
 - (D) The right to maintenance for same-sex partners
81. Ramesh and Suresh, a same-sex couple in India, have lived together for a decade and want to ensure they receive legal benefits equivalent to those of married couples, such as automatic inheritance and pension rights. Based on the Supreme Court's judgment, what is the primary obstacle they face in achieving these benefits?
- (A) They must first register their union with the government panel that was urged to be formed
 - (B) They cannot legally marry and therefore cannot automatically be entitled to these specific legal rights
 - (C) These rights are only available to same-sex couples where one partner is transgender
 - (D) They can receive these benefits if they convert to a religion that recognizes same-sex unions
82. The new acronym that is evolved after LGBTQ+ is an acronym called LGBTQIA+. In this new acronym 'IA' refers to:
- (A) Intersex and Asexual
 - (B) Initialisms and Agender
 - (C) Intersex and Ally
 - (D) Intrasex and Androgynous





SECTION IV

- XVI. In a language laboratory, students were given an interesting puzzle involving the word **“ELECTROCARDIOGRAPH.”** The teacher explained that such exercises not only test logical skills but also sharpen attention to detail. According to the challenge, the word had to undergo a series of transformations. First, the class was asked to take the first half of the letters, reverse their order and make the arrangement of letters look quite different from the original. Next, the students were told to identify the last but one letter of the original word and place it at the very beginning, a step that changed the opening appearance of the sequence completely. Finally, as a finishing touch, they had to add the letter ‘S’ at the end. Following these steps carefully would lead them to the correct transformed word, and only those who adhered to each condition in the exact order could solve the puzzle successfully. (150 words)
83. Which letter will be exactly in the middle?
- (A) L
 - (B) R
 - (C) D
 - (D) E
84. How many vowels will be to the left of the middle letter?
- (A) 2
 - (B) 1
 - (C) 4
 - (D) 3
85. Which of the two vowels will be adjoining each other?
- (A) IE
 - (B) IO
 - (C) AE
 - (D) AO
86. Which vowel will have a consonant to the left but a vowel to the right of it?
- (A) I
 - (B) O
 - (C) A
 - (D) E





87. Name the letter sandwiched between two vowels?

- (A) R and T
- (B) C and L
- (C) R and L
- (D) D and R

88. Which letter is **prefixed** to the word after the first half is reversed?

- (A) G
- (B) P
- (C) H
- (D) S

XVII. On the night of October 12th, the "Sunburst Medallion" was stolen from the highly secured display case in the city museum. The theft occurred sometime between the museum closing at 10:00 PM and the night guard, Mr. Hemant, completing his final round at 1:00 AM. Three primary suspects were identified, all of whom had recently been dismissed from their museum positions: Anjali, the former curator; Bharat, the former security expert; and Chitra, the former exhibits designer.

Here are the established facts and their alibis:

- * The security system logs show that the display case was opened using a specific five-digit code, which only Anjali and the museum director (who was out of the country) knew.
- * Bharat's alibi is that he was at a distant relative's birthday party from 8:00 PM to 1:30 AM. Multiple independent witnesses confirmed his presence throughout the entire period.
- * Chitra's alibi is that she was working late at a downtown graphic design studio. A time-stamped security camera from the studio's entrance shows her entering at 7:00 PM and exiting at 11:45 PM. The studio is a 20-minute drive from the museum.
- * Mr. Hemant, the night guard, stated he checked the medallion at 10:30 PM, and it was still there.

Further investigation revealed that a small, distinctive silver button was found near the display case. Anjali is known to frequently wear a coat with similar unique silver buttons. The security expert, Bharat, had previously boasted that he could remotely disable a certain type of magnetic lock-the same type used on the medallion's case-without needing the code, though the log suggests the code was used. (269 words)

89. Identifying the Most Likely Suspect

Based only on the fact that the five-digit code was used to open the display case, who is the only plausible suspect among the three?

- (A) Anjali
- (B) Bharat
- (C) Chitra
- (D) Both Anjali and Chitra





90. Evaluating Alibis and Time Constraints

The theft occurred between 10:00 PM and 1:00 AM, but the night guard saw the medallion at 10:30 PM. Given Chitra's alibi, what is the earliest time she could have reached the museum?

- (A) 11:45 PM
- (B) 12:05 AM
- (C) 12:45 AM
- (D) 10:50 PM

91. Deduction and Contradictory Evidence

If the theft was committed by Bharat, which established fact must be incorrect, based on the provided information?

- (A) The medallion was present at 10:30 PM
- (B) The security logs indicating the code was used
- (C) The museum closing time of 10:00 PM
- (D) The time frame of his alibi (8:00 PM to 1:30 AM)

92. Analyzing Accessory Evidence

The discovery of the silver button near the display case is the most incriminating evidence against which suspect, and why?

- (A) Bharat, because he had the technical expertise to get close to the case
- (B) Chitra, because she was near the museum late that night
- (C) Anjali, because she is known to wear a coat with similar buttons
- (D) Mr. Hemant, as he was the last person to check the area

93. Identifying the Logical Flaw in the Argument :

A detective argues: "Since Bharat has a confirmed, continuous alibi covering the entire time window of the theft (10:30 PM to 1:00 AM), he cannot be the thief." What principle of logic supports this detective's conclusion?

- (A) Correlation does not imply causation
- (B) If an event requires presence, confirmed absence proves innocence
- (C) The rule of double jeopardy
- (D) The burden of proof lies with the accuser





94. Drawing a Strongest Conclusion

Considering all the facts (the code being used, the silver button, and the confirmed alibis), which is the most reasonable inference?

- (A) Bharat must have had an accomplice who knew the code
- (B) Chitra's alibi is false because she had enough time to commit the crime after leaving the studio
- (C) Anjali is the most likely suspect because the code was used and she has a direct link to the physical evidence (the button)
- (D) Mr. Hemant is secretly the thief and is trying to frame the former employees

95. Assessing Necessary Conditions

What condition is necessary for Chitra to have stolen the medallion?

- (A) She must know the five digit code
- (B) She must have left the graphic design studio before 11.45 pm
- (C) The theft must have occurred after she left the studio and before 1 am
- (D) She must have worked with Anjali to disable the locks

XVIII. In a small town lived a close-knit family where every relation could be expressed through simple symbols. For instance, when they said $A \times B$, it meant A is the father of B, while $A \div B$ meant A is the mother of B. The younger ones were often introduced with $A + B$, meaning A was the daughter of B, and the bond of brotherhood was shown by $A - B$ (A is brother of B). One day, the children in the family turned these symbols into a playful code. Instead of introducing their parents and siblings in words, they spoke only in symbols. "Look," giggled little Meena, " $M + N \div O$!" Everyone laughed, because they knew it meant Meena was the daughter of N, and N was the mother of O, making her O's sister. What started as a code soon became a family game, making the bonds of father, mother, daughter, and brother not just relations, but symbols of love and togetherness. (165 words)

96. If ' $P + Q - R \div T$ ', how is T related to P?

- (A) Aunt
- (B) Father
- (C) Grandmother
- (D) None of these





97. Which of the following means that R is wife of P?

- (A) $P \times R - Q - T$
- (B) $P \div T + R - Q$
- (C) $P \div R - Q + T$
- (D) $P \times T - Q + R$

98. If ' $P \times T \div Q + R$ ' how is R related to P?

- (A) Daughter
- (B) Husband
- (C) Son-in-law
- (D) None of these

99. If ' $P \div R - Q \times T$ ', how is P related to T?

- (A) Grandmother
- (B) Mother-in-law
- (C) Sister
- (D) Grandfather

100. If ' $R \div Q + R \times T$ ', how is T related to Q?

- (A) Aunt
- (B) Sister
- (C) Brother
- (D) Grandson

101. If ' $R - P \div J \times Q$ ', how is J related to R?

- (A) Son
- (B) Nephew
- (C) Niece
- (D) Grandson





XIX. Four teams – Red (R), Blue (B), Green (G), and Yellow (Y) – are competing in the final four rounds of the Inter-School Science Olympiad, labeled Round A, Round B, Round C, and Round D. Each round consists of one match between two teams, and every team plays exactly two matches. No team plays the same opponent more than once.

The final schedule must adhere to the following rules:

- * Rule 1 (Consecutive Play) : The Green team (G) must play their two matches in consecutive rounds.
- * Rule 2 (Fixed Appearance) : The Yellow team (Y) must play in Round B.
- * Rule 3 (Positional Constraint) : The Red team (R) must play against the Blue team (B) in a round that is immediately before a round in which neither R nor B is playing.
- * Rule 4 (Timing) : The Blue team's (B) first match must occur in an earlier round than the Green team's (G) first match.
- * Rule 5 (Opponent Link) : The team that plays against the Red team (R) in the round that is not against the Blue team (B), is the same team that plays in Round D.

(193 words)

102. Determining the Green Team's Schedule

Considering Rules 1 and 2, which of the following pairs of rounds contains the Green team's two matches?

- (A) Round A and Round D
- (B) Round B and Round C
- (C) Round C and Round D
- (D) Round A and Round B

103. Applying the Positional Constraint

Based on all the rules, particularly Rule 3, which of the following matches must be scheduled for Round A?

- (A) Red vs. Green
- (B) Red vs. Yellow
- (C) Red vs. Blue
- (D) Blue vs. Yellow

104. Identifying the Blue Team's First Opponent

Who is the Blue team's first opponent in the tournament?

- (A) Green
- (B) Red
- (C) Yellow
- (D) The opponent cannot be determined





105. Finding the Match in Round C

What is the match scheduled for Round C?

- (A) Red vs. Green
- (B) Green vs. Blue
- (C) Blue vs. Yellow
- (D) Red vs. Yellow

106. Identifying the Teams Excluded from a Round

Which pair of rounds contains matches where the Yellow team does not participate?

- (A) Round A and Round C
- (B) Round A and Round D
- (C) Round B and Round C
- (D) Round C and Round D

107. Team Opponent Check

Which team does the Yellow team NOT play against over the course of the four rounds?

- (A) Red
- (B) Blue
- (C) Green
- (D) The Yellow team plays against all other teams

108. Assessing a Rule Violation

If the match in Round D was (Blue vs. Yellow), which of the original rules would be violated by this schedule change?

- (A) Rule 1 (Consecutive Play)
- (B) Rule 3 (Positional Constraint)
- (C) Rule 4 (Timing)
- (D) Rule 5 (Opponent Link)





SECTION V

XX. Health insurance plays a vital role in ensuring financial protection and access to quality healthcare. In India, however, the extent and nature of health insurance coverage vary significantly between urban and rural areas. While urban populations often have better access to organized insurance schemes, employer-provided coverage, and awareness about health policies, rural populations face challenges such as limited outreach of insurance schemes, inadequate infrastructure, and lower awareness levels. This urban–rural divide in health insurance coverage highlights the broader issue of healthcare inequality, making it essential to analyze the factors contributing to this gap and explore strategies for more inclusive health protection. A state-level health survey was conducted.

The survey covered 1,80,000 adults across urban and rural areas. Urban residents formed 55% of the sample (that is, 99,000 people) while rural residents made up 45% (that is, 81,000 people). In each area, coverage was classified under four heads – Public schemes, Private insurance, Employer-provided coverage, and Uninsured. In urban areas, Public coverage accounted for 28% of the urban population, Private for 22%, Employer for 18%, and the remaining 32% were Uninsured. In rural areas, where formal coverage is generally lower, Public coverage stood at 35%, Private at 10%, Employer at 8%, while 47% were Uninsured. For this survey, “Insured” includes everyone covered by Public + Private + Employer schemes, and “Uninsured” indicates those with no coverage at all. Officials noted that public schemes remain the backbone of rural coverage, while employer and private plans are relatively more prevalent in urban centres. (250 words)

109. The ratio of insured adults in Urban: Rural is:

- (A) 82:65 (B) 748:477
(C) 65:82 (D) 477:748

110. By what percentage is the number of Uninsured in Rural higher than Uninsured in Urban?

- (A) 18.75% (B) 20.17%
(C) 22.50% (D) 25.00%

111. If the total population grows by 5% next year and all percentage shares remain the same (including the Urban-Rural split), how many additional privately insured people will there be (vs. this year)?

- (A) 1,494 (B) 1,560
(C) 1,620 (D) 1,650





112. The total number of Employer-covered adults is:
- (A) 22,800 (B) 23,100
(C) 24,300 (D) 25,200
113. What percentage of all insured adults are Publicly insured?
- (A) 48.50% (B) 49.75%
(C) 50.86% (D) 52.00%
114. What percentage of the total surveyed population was insured?
- (A) 52.15% (B) 56.25%
(C) 61.25% (D) 64%

XXI. A state electricity report serves as an important tool to assess energy production and track progress in the power sector. By providing quarterly data on generation measured in gigawatt hours (GWh), the report highlights the contribution of different energy sources such as coal, gas, hydro, solar, and wind. This not only helps in understanding the overall energy mix and dependence on conventional versus renewable sources but also enables policymakers, planners, and stakeholders to evaluate trends, address gaps, and promote sustainable energy development. A state electricity report provides quarterly generation (in GWh) by source – Coal, Gas, Hydro, Solar, and Wind.

In Q1 Generation from Coal is 2,200 GWh, Gas contributes 800 GWh, Hydro 900 GWh, Solar 700 GWh, and Wind 400 GWh, for a total of 5,000 GWh.

In Q2 Coal rises to 2,400 GWh, while Gas dips to 700 GWh; Hydro improves to 1,000 GWh, Solar to 800 GWh, and Wind to 600 GWh, bringing the quarterly total to 5,500 GWh.

In Q3 Coal moderates to 2,100 GWh, Gas increases to 900 GWh, Hydro softens to 800 GWh, but Solar advances to 1,000 GWh and Wind to 700 GWh, keeping the total at 5,500 GWh.

In Q4 Coal moves to 2,300 GWh, Gas to 850 GWh, Hydro to 1,100 GWh, Solar to 900 GWh, and Wind to 850 GWh, for a total of 6,000 GWh.

For analysis, Renewables are taken as Hydro + Solar + Wind. A carbon policy scenario proposes cutting Q4 Coal by 10%, shifting the entire reduction equally into Solar and Wind. (255 words)

115. The total annual generation (GWh) is :
- (A) 20,500
(B) 21,500
(C) 22,000
(D) 22,500





116. The overall renewable share (as % of annual generation) is closest to:
- (A) 42.5%
 - (B) 43.8%
 - (C) 44.3%
 - (D) 45.0%
117. The quarter with the highest renewable percentage share is:
- (A) Q1
 - (B) Q2
 - (C) Q3
 - (D) Q4
118. A carbon policy reduces Q4 Coal by 10% and shifts the entire reduction equally to Solar and Wind. The new Q4 Solar (GWh) is:
- (A) 975
 - (B) 1,000
 - (C) 1,015
 - (D) 1,030
119. The annual Gas: Hydro generation ratio is:
- (A) 13:15
 - (B) 65:76
 - (C) 5:6
 - (D) 26:31
120. The quarter with the lowest renewable percentage share is:
- (A) Q1
 - (B) Q2
 - (C) Q3
 - (D) Q4
-





SPACE FOR ROUGH WORK





SPACE FOR ROUGH WORK





UG 2026

QUESTION BOOKLET NO.

1. **Name of the Candidate :**

2. **Admit Card Number :**

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Duration of the Test : 2 hours (120 minutes) *

Maximum Marks : 120

1. This Question Booklet (QB) contains 120 (One hundred and Twenty) Multiple Choice Questions across 40 (Forty) pages including 2 (Two) blank pages for rough work. No additional sheet(s) of paper will be supplied for rough work.
2. You have to answer ALL questions in the separate carbonised Optical Mark Reader (OMR) Response Sheet supplied along with this QB. You must READ the detailed instructions provided with the OMR Response Sheet on the reverse side of this packet BEFORE you start the test.
3. No clarification can be sought on the QB from anyone. In case of any discrepancy such as printing error or missing pages, in the QB, request the Invigilator to replace the QB and OMR Response Sheet. Do not use the previous OMR Response sheet with the fresh QB.
4. You should write the QB Number, and the OMR Response Sheet Number, and sign in the space/column provided in the Attendance Sheet.
5. The QB for the Under Graduate Programme is for 120 marks. Every **Right Answer** secures 1 mark. Every **Wrong Answer** results in the deduction of 0.25 mark. There shall be no deductions for Unanswered Questions.
6. You may retain the QB and the Candidate's copy of the OMR Response Sheet after the end of the test.
7. The use of any unfair means shall result in your disqualification. Possession of Electronic Devices such as mobile phones, headphones, digital watches, etc., is/are strictly prohibited in the test premises. Impersonation or any other unlawful practice will lead to your disqualification and possibly, appropriate action under the law.

DO NOT OPEN TILL 2 P.M.

*** Except for PWD Candidates who are eligible for extra time as per the law.**



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SECTION I

- I. US president Donald trump has landed a triple whammy on India by torpedoing the H-1B visa programme, days after revoking sanctions waiver on Chabahar port in Iran and weeks after imposing a 50% tariff on Indian exports to the US. The White House also maintained a conspicuous silence on the Pakistan-Saudi Arabia mutual defence treaty amid reports that neither country informed Washington of the pact, suggesting a growing US indifference to India's concerns. The triple blow has shaken US-India ties to the foundation, mystifying experts who expected a reset after an exchange of friendly messages between Modi and Trump. While some observers see in the crackdown on H-1B a pressure tactic to make India bend on the trade deal, sources familiar with the dynamics of the current White House say the two issues are unrelated and Trump was convinced of the need to "reform" the guest worker visa programme ever since MAGA hardliners persuaded him that American workers were being gamed out of jobs by foreign companies and US big tech acting in tandem. (174 words)

[Extracted from the newspaper, *The Times of India*, September 21, 2025]

1. What percentage tariff did President Trump initially impose on Indian imports in 2025?
(A) 15% (B) 25%
(C) 40% (D) 50%
2. What strategic reason did Donald Trump cite for penalizing India with additional tariffs apart from trade imbalances?
(A) India's IT service exports
(B) Indian Banknote Demonetization
(C) India's immigration policies
(D) India's defense and energy ties with Russia
3. What is the strategic significance of Chabahar Port for India?
(A) Provides trade access to China through Pakistan
(B) Acts as counterbalance to China's presence in nearby Gwadar Port, Pakistan
(C) Serves as the primary naval base for India
(D) Connects India directly to the Mediterranean Sea
4. What is the primary purpose of the H-1B Visa?
(A) Exchange Visitor Visa
(B) Employment Visa
(C) Immigrant visa for permanent residence in the U.S.
(D) Non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to hire foreign professionals in specialized field



5. The acronym 'MAGA' mentioned in the above passage refers to:

- (A) Multilateral Agencies Global Association
- (B) Make America Great Again
- (C) Mutual Agreements for Global Advantage
- (D) Monetary Advantage For Great America

II. Indian Chess recorded yet another great moment on Monday; as Divya Deshmukh won the Women's World Cup in Georgian city of Batumi. In the final, the 19-year-old defeated fellow-Indian Koneru Humpy in the tiebreakers. While Humpy contesting the final wasn't much of a surprise-she is the World No. 5 and has been one of the best female players for the last couple of decades-not many would have anticipated Divya's stunning show. But, given her obvious talent and the way she has been playing for the past two years, it didn't come as a big surprise. By winning the World Cup, one of the biggest events organized by the world chess governing body FIDE, Divya also achieved another significant milestone. She became India's 88th Grandmaster and is only the fourth Indian Woman after Humpy, D. Harika and R. Vaishali to get that coveted title. Last year, Divya won the World junior championship in Ahmedabad with a dominant display. She also played a key role in India's historic gold in the Chess Olympiad at Budapest. India was the top seed there, though. At the World Cup, the Indian women exceeded expectations, with four of them making it to the quarterfinals. (198 words)

[Extracted from the newspaper, *The Hindu* July 29, 2025]

6. Where is the origin of chess believed to be?

- (A) China
- (B) Russia
- (C) India
- (D) Egypt

7. Who was the first Indian to earn the title of chess Grandmaster ?

- (A) D. Gukesh
- (B) Praveen Thipsay
- (C) Dibyendu Barua
- (D) Vishwanathan Anand

8. Who was the first official World Chess Champion?

- (A) Bobby Fischer
- (B) Gary Kasparov
- (C) Vishwanathan Anand
- (D) Wilhelm Steinitz



9. Which of the following computers successfully defeated Garry Kasparov, the reigning world chess champion, in a tournament match?
- (A) Deep AI
 - (B) Deep Thought
 - (C) Deep Blue
 - (D) Deep Water
10. Which of the following cities is the venue for hosting the 11th edition of Chess World Cup 2025?
- (A) Paris, France
 - (B) Baku, Azerbaijan
 - (C) Goa, India
 - (D) Chennai, India

III. I rise to apprise this august House of the foreign policy dimension of our response to the Pahalgam terrorist attack, going into the preparations for Operation Sindoor and how foreign policy was handled during Operation Sindoor. As all the honourable members would appreciate, it was important to send a clear, strong and resolute message after the Pahalgam attack. Our red lines had been crossed and we had to make it very apparent that there would be serious consequences. As a result, the first step which was taken was that a meeting of the Cabinet Committee of Security took place on the 23rd of April, and that meeting decided that:

- One, the Indus Water Treaty of 1960 will be held in abeyance with immediate effect until Pakistan credibly and irrevocably abjures its support for cross-border terrorism.
- Two, the integrated checkpoint Attari would be closed with immediate effect.
- Three, Pakistani nationals who were traveling under SAARC visa exemption scheme would no longer be allowed to do that.
- Four, the Defence, Naval and Air Advisors of the Pakistani High Commission would be declared persona non-grata and,
- Five, the overall strength of the High Commission would be brought down to 30 from the number of 55. (207 words)

(Excerpts from Statement made by Minister of External Affairs Dr. S Jaishankar on special discussion in Lok Sabha on Operation Sindoor dated 28th Jul 2025)

11. Where is Pahalgam situated in India?
- (A) Punjab
 - (B) Himachal Pradesh
 - (C) Jammu & Kashmir
 - (D) Uttarakhand



12. The Checkpost Attari is located in
- (A) Near Amritsar Punjab
 - (B) Near Baramulla in Jammu & Kashmir
 - (C) Near Kutch in Gujrat
 - (D) Near Barmer in Rajasthan
13. Which amongst the following is not a SAARC Nation?
- (A) Afghanistan
 - (B) Maldives
 - (C) Mauritius
 - (D) Bangladesh
14. Expression '*Persona Non Grata*' means:
- (A) An ungrateful person
 - (B) An unwelcome person
 - (C) An untrustworthy person
 - (D) A displaced person
15. The Indus Water Treaty signed in 1960 between India and Pakistan was facilitated by:
- (A) The United Nations General Assembly
 - (B) The United Nations Security Council
 - (C) The World Bank
 - (D) The permanent Indus Commission
16. Which amongst the following is not a tributary of River Indus?
- (A) Ravi
 - (B) Jhelum
 - (C) Tapti
 - (D) Chenab



IV. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi participated in the 25th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), held in Tianjin, China, from 31 August to 1 September 2025. The Summit witnessed productive discussions on SCO Development Strategy, Reform of Global Governance, Counter-Terrorism, Peace and Security, Economic and Financial Cooperation, and Sustainable Development.

Addressing the Summit, Prime Minister highlighted India's approach to strengthening cooperation under the SCO framework. In this regard, he noted that India seeks greater action under three pillars – Security, Connectivity and Opportunity. Emphasising that peace, security and stability remain key to progress and prosperity, he called upon member countries to take firm and decisive action to fight terrorism in all its manifestations. Prime Minister underlined the need for coordinated action against terror financing and radicalization. Thanking member countries for their strong solidarity in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack, he emphasized that there should be no double standards in dealing with terrorism and urged the group to hold countries who perpetrate and support cross-border terrorism accountable.

Highlighting the role of connectivity in fostering development and building trust, Prime Minister stated that India strongly supported projects such as Chabahar port and International North-South Transport Corridor. He also spoke about opportunities in the fields of start-ups, innovation, youth empowerment and shared heritage, which must be pursued under the SCO umbrella. Prime Minister proposed commencing a Civilizational Dialogue Forum within the group to foster greater people-to-people ties and cultural understanding. (246 words)

(Excerpts from the Press release issued by Press Information Bureau Govt of India, dated 1st September 2025)

17. The civilizational dialogue forum (CDF) proposed by the Prime Minister of India at the 25th Meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organization, is intended to promote
- (A) Peace and security
 - (B) Sustainable development
 - (C) Reform of Global governance
 - (D) Cultural Understanding



18. The next Presidency of SCO is taken over by:
- (A) Kyrgyzstan
 - (B) Tajikistan
 - (C) Uzbekistan
 - (D) Kazakhstan
19. Prime Minister of India stated that India strongly supported projects such as Chabahar port. Where is this port located?
- (A) Oman
 - (B) Iran
 - (C) Afghanistan
 - (D) Saudi Arabia
20. Which of the following countries is not a member of SCO?
- (A) Belarus
 - (B) Iran
 - (C) Pakistan
 - (D) Myanmar
21. The Secretariat of SCO is located in:
- (A) Beijing, China
 - (B) Tianjin, China
 - (C) Shanghai, China
 - (D) Wuhan, China
22. At the conclusion of 25th SCO summit, the member countries adopted the:
- (A) Beijing Declaration
 - (B) Tianjin Declaration
 - (C) Shanghai Declaration
 - (D) Wuhan Declaration



V. Air India stands in solidarity with the families and those affected by the AI-171 accident. We continue to mourn their loss and remain fully committed to providing support during this difficult time. Over a month ago, Air India started releasing interim payment of Rs 25 lakh to the affected families, to help them meet their immediate financial needs. The interim payment will be adjusted against any final compensation.

Air India has, so far, released the interim compensation to the families of 147 of the 229 deceased passengers and also the 19 who lost their lives at the accident site. In addition, the requisite documents of 52 others have been verified, to whose families the interim compensation will be released progressively. The Tata Group has also registered 'The AI-171 Memorial and Welfare Trust', dedicated to the victims of the unfortunate accident. The Trust has pledged an ex-gratia payment of Rs 1 crore in respect of each of the deceased, and support for rebuilding the B.J. Medical College Hostel infrastructure, which was damaged in the accident.

The Trust will also provide aid and assistance for alleviation of any trauma or distress suffered by the first responders, medical and disaster relief professionals, social workers, and governmental staff who provided invaluable institutional support and service in the aftermath of the accident. (217 words)

(Excerpts from the Press Release published by Air India, on July 26, 2025)

23. Air India flight AI-171 was operating from Ahmedabad to:

- (A) London Gatwick airport
- (B) Heathrow Airport
- (C) London Luton Airport
- (D) London Stansted Airport

24. Who is the Minister of Civil Aviation of India?

- (A) Shri Piyush Goyal
- (B) Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia
- (C) Shri Ram Mohan Naidu
- (D) Shri Prafulla Patel



25. 'The AI-171 Memorial and Welfare Trust' is registered by Tata Group as a public charitable trust in:
- (A) Ahmedabad
 - (B) Gandhinagar
 - (C) Mumbai
 - (D) Delhi
26. The sole survivor of 'The Air India flight AI-171 accident is:
- (A) British National of Indian Origin
 - (B) Canadian National of Indian origin
 - (C) Portuguese National of Indian Origin
 - (D) Indian National
27. The agency that probes the fatal crash of AI-171 is:
- (A) DGCA
 - (B) AAI
 - (C) AAIB
 - (D) FIP
28. The Air India flight AI-171 was:
- (A) Boeing 737-800 aircraft
 - (B) Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner
 - (C) Boeing 737 Max aircraft
 - (D) Boeing Next Generation 737



SECTION II

- VI. In a language laboratory, students were given an interesting puzzle involving the word **“ELECTROCARDIOGRAPH.”** The teacher explained that such exercises not only test logical skills but also sharpen attention to detail. According to the challenge, the word had to undergo a series of transformations. First, the class was asked to take the first half of the letters, reverse their order and make the arrangement of letters look quite different from the original. Next, the students were told to identify the last but one letter of the original word and place it at the very beginning, a step that changed the opening appearance of the sequence completely. Finally, as a finishing touch, they had to add the letter ‘S’ at the end. Following these steps carefully would lead them to the correct transformed word, and only those who adhered to each condition in the exact order could solve the puzzle successfully. (150 words)
29. Which letter will be exactly in the middle?
- (A) L
 - (B) R
 - (C) D
 - (D) E
30. How many vowels will be to the left of the middle letter?
- (A) 2
 - (B) 1
 - (C) 4
 - (D) 3
31. Which of the two vowels will be adjoining each other?
- (A) IE
 - (B) IO
 - (C) AE
 - (D) AO
32. Which vowel will have a consonant to the left but a vowel to the right of it?
- (A) I
 - (B) O
 - (C) A
 - (D) E



33. Name the letter sandwiched between two vowels?

- (A) R and T
- (B) C and L
- (C) R and L
- (D) D and R

34. Which letter is **prefixed** to the word after the first half is reversed?

- (A) G
- (B) P
- (C) H
- (D) S

VII. On the night of October 12th, the "Sunburst Medallion" was stolen from the highly secured display case in the city museum. The theft occurred sometime between the museum closing at 10:00 PM and the night guard, Mr. Hemant, completing his final round at 1:00 AM. Three primary suspects were identified, all of whom had recently been dismissed from their museum positions: Anjali, the former curator; Bharat, the former security expert; and Chitra, the former exhibits designer.

Here are the established facts and their alibis:

- * The security system logs show that the display case was opened using a specific five-digit code, which only Anjali and the museum director (who was out of the country) knew.
- * Bharat's alibi is that he was at a distant relative's birthday party from 8:00 PM to 1:30 AM. Multiple independent witnesses confirmed his presence throughout the entire period.
- * Chitra's alibi is that she was working late at a downtown graphic design studio. A time-stamped security camera from the studio's entrance shows her entering at 7:00 PM and exiting at 11:45 PM. The studio is a 20-minute drive from the museum.
- * Mr. Hemant, the night guard, stated he checked the medallion at 10:30 PM, and it was still there.

Further investigation revealed that a small, distinctive silver button was found near the display case. Anjali is known to frequently wear a coat with similar unique silver buttons. The security expert, Bharat, had previously boasted that he could remotely disable a certain type of magnetic lock-the same type used on the medallion's case-without needing the code, though the log suggests the code was used. (269 words)

35. Identifying the Most Likely Suspect

Based only on the fact that the five-digit code was used to open the display case, who is the only plausible suspect among the three?

- (A) Anjali
- (B) Bharat
- (C) Chitra
- (D) Both Anjali and Chitra



36. Evaluating Alibis and Time Constraints

The theft occurred between 10:00 PM and 1:00 AM, but the night guard saw the medallion at 10:30 PM. Given Chitra's alibi, what is the earliest time she could have reached the museum?

- (A) 11:45 PM
- (B) 12:05 AM
- (C) 12:45 AM
- (D) 10:50 PM

37. Deduction and Contradictory Evidence

If the theft was committed by Bharat, which established fact must be incorrect, based on the provided information?

- (A) The medallion was present at 10:30 PM
- (B) The security logs indicating the code was used
- (C) The museum closing time of 10:00 PM
- (D) The time frame of his alibi (8:00 PM to 1:30 AM)

38. Analyzing Accessory Evidence

The discovery of the silver button near the display case is the most incriminating evidence against which suspect, and why?

- (A) Bharat, because he had the technical expertise to get close to the case
- (B) Chitra, because she was near the museum late that night
- (C) Anjali, because she is known to wear a coat with similar buttons
- (D) Mr. Hemant, as he was the last person to check the area

39. Identifying the Logical Flaw in the Argument :

A detective argues: "Since Bharat has a confirmed, continuous alibi covering the entire time window of the theft (10:30 PM to 1:00 AM), he cannot be the thief." What principle of logic supports this detective's conclusion?

- (A) Correlation does not imply causation
- (B) If an event requires presence, confirmed absence proves innocence
- (C) The rule of double jeopardy
- (D) The burden of proof lies with the accuser



40. Drawing a Strongest Conclusion

Considering all the facts (the code being used, the silver button, and the confirmed alibis), which is the most reasonable inference?

- (A) Bharat must have had an accomplice who knew the code
- (B) Chitra's alibi is false because she had enough time to commit the crime after leaving the studio
- (C) Anjali is the most likely suspect because the code was used and she has a direct link to the physical evidence (the button)
- (D) Mr. Hemant is secretly the thief and is trying to frame the former employees

41. Assessing Necessary Conditions

What condition is necessary for Chitra to have stolen the medallion?

- (A) She must know the five digit code
- (B) She must have left the graphic design studio before 11.45 pm
- (C) The theft must have occurred after she left the studio and before 1 am
- (D) She must have worked with Anjali to disable the locks

VIII. In a small town lived a close-knit family where every relation could be expressed through simple symbols. For instance, when they said $A \times B$, it meant A is the father of B, while $A \div B$ meant A is the mother of B. The younger ones were often introduced with $A + B$, meaning A was the daughter of B, and the bond of brotherhood was shown by $A - B$ (A is brother of B). One day, the children in the family turned these symbols into a playful code. Instead of introducing their parents and siblings in words, they spoke only in symbols. "Look," giggled little Meena, " $M + N \div O$!" Everyone laughed, because they knew it meant Meena was the daughter of N, and N was the mother of O, making her O's sister. What started as a code soon became a family game, making the bonds of father, mother, daughter, and brother not just relations, but symbols of love and togetherness. (165 words)

42. If ' $P + Q - R \div T$ ', how is T related to P?

- (A) Aunt
- (B) Father
- (C) Grandmother
- (D) None of these



43. Which of the following means that R is wife of P?
- (A) $P \times R - Q - T$
 - (B) $P \div T + R - Q$
 - (C) $P \div R - Q + T$
 - (D) $P \times T - Q + R$
44. If ' $P \times T \div Q + R$ ' how is R related to P?
- (A) Daughter
 - (B) Husband
 - (C) Son-in-law
 - (D) None of these
45. If ' $P \div R - Q \times T$ ', how is P related to T?
- (A) Grandmother
 - (B) Mother-in-law
 - (C) Sister
 - (D) Grandfather
46. If ' $R \div Q + R \times T$ ', how is T related to Q?
- (A) Aunt
 - (B) Sister
 - (C) Brother
 - (D) Grandson
47. If ' $R - P \div J \times Q$ ', how is J related to R?
- (A) Son
 - (B) Nephew
 - (C) Niece
 - (D) Grandson



- IX. Four teams – Red (R), Blue (B), Green (G), and Yellow (Y) – are competing in the final four rounds of the Inter-School Science Olympiad, labeled Round A, Round B, Round C, and Round D. Each round consists of one match between two teams, and every team plays exactly two matches. No team plays the same opponent more than once.

The final schedule must adhere to the following rules:

- * Rule 1 (Consecutive Play) : The Green team (G) must play their two matches in consecutive rounds.
- * Rule 2 (Fixed Appearance) : The Yellow team (Y) must play in Round B.
- * Rule 3 (Positional Constraint) : The Red team (R) must play against the Blue team (B) in a round that is immediately before a round in which neither R nor B is playing.
- * Rule 4 (Timing) : The Blue team's (B) first match must occur in an earlier round than the Green team's (G) first match.
- * Rule 5 (Opponent Link) : The team that plays against the Red team (R) in the round that is not against the Blue team (B), is the same team that plays in Round D.

(193 words)

48. Determining the Green Team's Schedule

Considering Rules 1 and 2, which of the following pairs of rounds contains the Green team's two matches?

- (A) Round A and Round D
- (B) Round B and Round C
- (C) Round C and Round D
- (D) Round A and Round B

49. Applying the Positional Constraint

Based on all the rules, particularly Rule 3, which of the following matches must be scheduled for Round A?

- (A) Red vs. Green
- (B) Red vs. Yellow
- (C) Red vs. Blue
- (D) Blue vs. Yellow

50. Identifying the Blue Team's First Opponent

Who is the Blue team's first opponent in the tournament?

- (A) Green
- (B) Red
- (C) Yellow
- (D) The opponent cannot be determined



51. Finding the Match in Round C

What is the match scheduled for Round C?

- (A) Red vs. Green
- (B) Green vs. Blue
- (C) Blue vs. Yellow
- (D) Red vs. Yellow

52. Identifying the Teams Excluded from a Round

Which pair of rounds contains matches where the Yellow team does not participate?

- (A) Round A and Round C
- (B) Round A and Round D
- (C) Round B and Round C
- (D) Round C and Round D

53. Team Opponent Check

Which team does the Yellow team NOT play against over the course of the four rounds?

- (A) Red
- (B) Blue
- (C) Green
- (D) The Yellow team plays against all other teams

54. Assessing a Rule Violation

If the match in Round D was (Blue vs. Yellow), which of the original rules would be violated by this schedule change?

- (A) Rule 1 (Consecutive Play)
- (B) Rule 3 (Positional Constraint)
- (C) Rule 4 (Timing)
- (D) Rule 5 (Opponent Link)



SECTION III

- X. The adoption of the Non-Cooperation Movement by the Congress gave it a new energy and from January 1921 it began to register considerable success all over the country. Gandhiji undertook a nation-wide tour during which he addressed hundreds of meetings and met a large number of political workers. In the first month, thousands of students left their educational institutions and joined more than 800 national schools and colleges that had sprung up all over the country. Gandhiji had promised Swaraj within a year, if his programme was adopted.

The Non-Cooperation Movement demonstrated that it commanded the support and sympathy of vast sections of the Indian people. Its reach among many sections of Indian peasants, workers, artisans etc, had been demonstrated. The spatial spread of the movement was also nation-wide. Some areas were more active than others, but there were few that showed no signs of activity at all.

The capacity of the 'poor dumb millions' of India to take part in modern nationalist politics was also demonstrated. This was the first time that nationalists from the towns, students from schools and colleges or even the educated and politically aware in the villages had made a serious attempt to bring the ideology and the movement into their midst.

The tremendous participation of different communities in the movement, and the maintenance of communal unity, despite the Malabar developments, was in itself no mean achievement. There is hardly any doubt that it was minority participation that gave the movement its truly mass character in many areas. And it was, indeed, unfortunate that this most positive feature of the movement was not to be repeated in later years once communalism began to take its toll. [324 words]

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from India's Struggle for Independence 1857-1947, by Bipin Chandra and Others, Penguin Books, 1989.]

55. From the passage it is evident that:
- (A) The idea of Swaraj seemed futile
 - (B) The non-cooperation movement was a complete success
 - (C) The non-cooperation movement gained the sympathy of majority of the Indians
 - (D) The Indian National Congress represented microscopic minority
56. The term "poor dumb millions" refer to-
- (A) The vast number of common people who are impoverished
 - (B) Large number of common people who are hearing impaired
 - (C) Large number of people who are vulnerable
 - (D) The vast number of people who are impoverished and uneducated



57. Which of the statements is true?
- (A) The Swaraj movement happened before the non co-operation movement
 - (B) The non co-operation movement failed due to sudden withdrawal
 - (C) There was a fine show of communal unity in the movement
 - (D) The rich and the educated kept themselves away from the non co-operation movement
58. The main idea of the passage is-
- (A) The Non co-operation movement did not give impetus to the future movements
 - (B) The movement made the Indians realize their potential to fight against the mighty British
 - (C) The British became fearful and worried of Gandhiji's leadership and co-operation of Indians
 - (D) That the most positive feature of the movement was that it was repeated in later years
59. The word "Communalism" in the above passage refers to-
- (A) Religious identity
 - (B) Caste identity
 - (C) Regional identity
 - (D) Secularism
- XI. There were humans long before there was history. The archaic humans loved, played, formed close friendships and competed for status and power, but so did chimpanzees, baboons and elephants. There was nothing special about them.
- Nobody, least of all humans themselves, had any inkling that their descendants would one day walk on the moon, split the atom, fathom the genetic code and write history books. The most important thing to know about prehistoric humans is that they were incognisant animals with no more impact on their environment than gorillas, fireflies or jellyfish.
- Biologists classify organisms into species. Animals are said to belong to the same species if they tend to mate with each other, giving birth to fertile offspring. Horses and donkeys have a recent common ancestor and share many physical traits. They will mate if induced to do so - but their offspring, called mules, are sterile. Mutations in donkey DNA can therefore never cross over to horses, or vice versa. The two types of animals are consequently considered two distinct species, moving along separate evolutionary paths. By contrast, a bulldog and a spaniel may look very different, but they are members of the same species, sharing the same DNA pool. [203 words]
- (Extracted from Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind by Yuval Noah Harari)*
60. Which of the following can be inferred as the most significant characteristic of prehistoric humans, as per the passage?
- (A) Their conscious effort to alter and shape their environment for survival
 - (B) Their complex social organization and clear hierarchical structures that set them apart from other species
 - (C) Their evolutionary divergence was marked by warfare and the pursuit of dominance over rival species
 - (D) Their inability to distinguish themselves from other species in terms of environmental impact



61. In the context of the passage, the term ‘incognisant’ most likely means:
- (A) Lacking intelligence
 - (B) Unaware of their future potential
 - (C) Incapable of social interaction
 - (D) Disinterested in the environment
62. Which of the following best explains why humans did not initially stand out among other organisms?
- (A) They had fewer offspring than other species
 - (B) Their behaviours were not unique compared to other animals
 - (C) They did not yet evolve the ability to use tools
 - (D) They lacked the genetic capacity to develop language
63. According to the passage, what determines whether two animals belong to the same species?
- (A) Their ability to produce fertile offspring
 - (B) Their physical appearance and size
 - (C) Their shared evolutionary ancestor
 - (D) Their capacity to adapt to the environment
64. The passage explains the concept of species classification by
- (A) Highlighting the behavioural differences between species like horses, donkeys, bulldogs and spaniels
 - (B) Focusing on the DNA pool they share
 - (C) Contrasting horses and bulldogs with donkeys and spaniels to explain reproductive compatibility
 - (D) Discussing the environmental impact of different species like horses and donkeys, and bulldogs and spaniels



XII. In 1973, only 45 of the world's 151 countries were counted as 'free' by Freedom House, a nongovernmental organization that produces quantitative measures of civil and political rights for countries around the world. The following generation saw momentous political change, with democracies and market-oriented economies spreading in virtually every part of the world except for the Arab Middle East. This transformation was Samuel Huntington's third wave of democratization; liberal democracy as the default form of government became part of the accepted political landscape at the beginning of the twenty-first century.

Underlying these changes in political systems was a massive social transformation as well. The shift to democracy was a result of millions of formerly passive individuals around the world organizing themselves and participating in the political life of their societies. This social mobilization was driven by a host of factors: greatly expanded access to education that made people more aware of themselves and the political world around them; information technology, which facilitated the rapid spread of ideas and knowledge; cheap travel and communications that allowed people to vote with their feet if they didn't like their government; and greater prosperity, which induced people to demand better protection of their rights.

The third wave crested after the late 1990s, however, a 'democratic recession' emerged in the first decade of the twenty-first century. Approximately one in five countries that had been part of the third wave either reverted to authoritarianism or saw a significant erosion of democratic institutions. Freedom house noted that 2009 marked the fourth consecutive year in which freedom had declined around the world, the first time this had happened since it established its measures of freedom in 1973. [279 words]

(Extracted from The Origins of Political Order by Francis Fukuyama)

65. Which of the following aspects is most critical in understanding Freedom House's evaluation process?
- (A) The methodology by which it quantifies the relative freedoms in different political systems
 - (B) Its emphasis on electoral participation and voter turnout in measuring democracy
 - (C) Its role in advising governments on democratic reforms based on its rankings
 - (D) Its primary focus on economic disparities within democracies
66. What does the phrase 'vote with their feet' imply in the context of the passage?
- (A) Engaging in electoral processes to demand political change
 - (B) Demonstrating political preferences through public protests
 - (C) Migrating to countries with better governance or conditions
 - (D) Participating in local government initiatives and reforms
67. The term 'third wave of democratization' as used in the passage refers to:
- (A) The rise of communism in Eastern Europe
 - (B) The spread of democracy and market-oriented economies
 - (C) The decline of authoritarian regimes in the 1960s
 - (D) The global movement for civil rights



68. Which of the following was not mentioned as a factor contributing to social mobilization and the shift to democracy?
- (A) Increased access to education
 - (B) Expanding information technology
 - (C) Heightened global military presence
 - (D) Greater prosperity
69. According to this passage, when was the first time the freedom had declined around the world
- (A) 1973
 - (B) 1990
 - (C) 2006
 - (D) 2009

XIII. My kinsman and I were returning to Calcutta from our Puja trip when we encountered an unusual man on the train. At first, judging from his dress and bearing, we mistook him for an up-country boorish man. But as soon as he began to speak, our impression changed. He discoursed on every subject with such confidence that one might think the ‘Disposer of All Things’ sought his counsel in every decision. Until then, we had been perfectly content, unaware of hidden forces shaping the world—that the Russians were advancing, that the English were pursuing secret policies, and that confusion among native chiefs had reached its peak. Our new acquaintance, however, hinted at such matters with a sly smile, remarking:

“There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are reported in your newspapers.”

Having never before travelled beyond our homes, we were struck dumb with wonder at his manner. No matter how trivial the topic, he could quote science, comment on the Vedas, or recite quatrains from Persian poets. Since we possessed no real knowledge of science, the Vedas, or Persian literature, our admiration for him only grew. My kinsman, a theosophist, became convinced that our fellow passenger was inspired by some strange magnetism, occult power, or astral body. He listened with devotional rapture even to the most common place remarks and secretly noted down his words. I suspect our extraordinary companion noticed this and was quietly pleased. When the train reached the junction, we gathered in the waiting room to await our connection. It was 10 p.m., and as the train was expected to be delayed owing to some fault in the lines, I spread my bed on the table and prepared to sleep. But just then, the extraordinary man began spinning a tale, and of course, I could not close my eyes all night. (307 words)

[Extracted with edits from Rabindranath Tagore’s “The Hungry Stones”]

70. The narrator and his kinsman’s initial impression of the “unusual man” highlights which theme most strongly?
- (A) The deceptive nature of appearances
 - (B) The superiority of Western education
 - (C) The danger of blind faith
 - (D) The reliability of cultural stereotypes



71. Which literary device is most evident in the narrator's line: "*one might think the Disposer of All Things sought his counsel in every decision*"?
- (A) Irony
 - (B) Euphemism
 - (C) Allegory
 - (D) Hyperbole
72. The word "theosophist" means:
- (A) Skeptic
 - (B) Mystic
 - (C) Agnostic
 - (D) Materialist
73. The word "Boorish" mean:
- (A) Discourteous
 - (B) Genteel
 - (C) Well-bred
 - (D) Courtly
74. The narrator's suspicion that the extraordinary man was "quietly pleased" suggests:
- (A) The man was genuinely humble and embarrassed by the attention
 - (B) The man wished to avoid any recognition of his authority
 - (C) The man was indifferent to how others perceived him
 - (D) The man derived satisfaction from impressing and influencing others

XIV. Man is the only creature that consumes without producing. He does not give milk, he does not lay eggs, he is too weak to pull the plough, and he cannot run fast enough to catch rabbits. Yet he claims dominion over all animals. He sets us to work, returns only the bare minimum to keep us from starving, and keeps the rest for himself. Our labour tills the soil, our dung fertilizes it, and still, not one of us owns more than our bare skin. You cows, look at yourselves—how many thousands of gallons of milk have you produced this past year? And what has become of it, milk that should have nurtured strong calves? Every drop has gone down the throats of our enemies. And you hens, how many eggs have you laid, and how many of those ever hatched into chicks? The rest have gone to market to bring in money for Jones and his men. And you, Clover, where are the four foals you bore, who should have supported and comforted you in your old age? Each was sold at just a year old—you will never see them again. For all your labour in the fields and your four confinements, what have you gained except bare rations and a stall?



Even the lives we do live are cut short, denied their natural span. I do not grumble, for I am among the fortunate. I am twelve years old and have borne over four hundred children. Such is the natural life of a pig. But no animal escapes the cruel knife in the end. You young porkers sitting before me, each of you will scream your lives out at the block within a year. This is the fate that awaits all of us—cows, pigs, hens, sheep, everyone. Even horses and dogs share no better end. Boxer, the very day your great muscles fail you, Jones will sell you to the knacker, who will slit your throat and boil you down for the foxhounds. And the dogs, when old and toothless, are tied with a brick and drowned in the nearest pond. (356 words)

[*Extracted with edits from George Orwell's "Animal Farm"*]

75. Which of the following best describes the tone of the passage?
- (A) Detached and neutral
 - (B) Critical, somber, and resentful, evoking both awareness and outrage
 - (C) Humorous and light-hearted
 - (D) Admiring and celebratory
76. The speaker frequently contrasts animals' work with human gain. This literary technique is best classified as:
- (A) Allegory of class exploitation
 - (B) Hyperbole for comic effect
 - (C) Irony about farm management
 - (D) Metaphor for animal biology
77. Who is 'knacker'?
- (A) A slaughterer
 - (B) A trader whose business is disposal of dead and unwanted animals
 - (C) A person whose business is disposal of dead or unwanted animals especially those whose flesh is not fit for human consumption
 - (D) Harness-maker
78. The repeated reference to slaughter, drowning, and the knacker in the passage primarily implies to:
- (A) Provide a detailed account of animal husbandry
 - (B) Evoke emotional outrage and highlight the brutality of exploitation
 - (C) Suggest that animals are naturally subservient
 - (D) Indicate that humans value animals



SECTION IV

XV. Health insurance plays a vital role in ensuring financial protection and access to quality healthcare. In India, however, the extent and nature of health insurance coverage vary significantly between urban and rural areas. While urban populations often have better access to organized insurance schemes, employer-provided coverage, and awareness about health policies, rural populations face challenges such as limited outreach of insurance schemes, inadequate infrastructure, and lower awareness levels. This urban–rural divide in health insurance coverage highlights the broader issue of healthcare inequality, making it essential to analyze the factors contributing to this gap and explore strategies for more inclusive health protection. A state-level health survey was conducted.

The survey covered 1,80,000 adults across urban and rural areas. Urban residents formed 55% of the sample (that is, 99,000 people) while rural residents made up 45% (that is, 81,000 people). In each area, coverage was classified under four heads – Public schemes, Private insurance, Employer-provided coverage, and Uninsured. In urban areas, Public coverage accounted for 28% of the urban population, Private for 22%, Employer for 18%, and the remaining 32% were Uninsured. In rural areas, where formal coverage is generally lower, Public coverage stood at 35%, Private at 10%, Employer at 8%, while 47% were Uninsured. For this survey, “Insured” includes everyone covered by Public + Private + Employer schemes, and “Uninsured” indicates those with no coverage at all. Officials noted that public schemes remain the backbone of rural coverage, while employer and private plans are relatively more prevalent in urban centres. (250 words)

79. The ratio of insured adults in Urban: Rural is:
- (A) 82:65 (B) 748:477
(C) 65:82 (D) 477:748
80. By what percentage is the number of Uninsured in Rural higher than Uninsured in Urban?
- (A) 18.75% (B) 20.17%
(C) 22.50% (D) 25.00%
81. If the total population grows by 5% next year and all percentage shares remain the same (including the Urban-Rural split), how many additional privately insured people will there be (vs. this year)?
- (A) 1,494 (B) 1,560
(C) 1,620 (D) 1,650



82. The total number of Employer-covered adults is:
- (A) 22,800 (B) 23,100
(C) 24,300 (D) 25,200
83. What percentage of all insured adults are Publicly insured?
- (A) 48.50% (B) 49.75%
(C) 50.86% (D) 52.00%
84. What percentage of the total surveyed population was insured?
- (A) 52.15% (B) 56.25%
(C) 61.25% (D) 64%

XVI. A state electricity report serves as an important tool to assess energy production and track progress in the power sector. By providing quarterly data on generation measured in gigawatt hours (GWh), the report highlights the contribution of different energy sources such as coal, gas, hydro, solar, and wind. This not only helps in understanding the overall energy mix and dependence on conventional versus renewable sources but also enables policymakers, planners, and stakeholders to evaluate trends, address gaps, and promote sustainable energy development. A state electricity report provides quarterly generation (in GWh) by source – Coal, Gas, Hydro, Solar, and Wind.

In Q1 Generation from Coal is 2,200 GWh, Gas contributes 800 GWh, Hydro 900 GWh, Solar 700 GWh, and Wind 400 GWh, for a total of 5,000 GWh.

In Q2 Coal rises to 2,400 GWh, while Gas dips to 700 GWh; Hydro improves to 1,000 GWh, Solar to 800 GWh, and Wind to 600 GWh, bringing the quarterly total to 5,500 GWh.

In Q3 Coal moderates to 2,100 GWh, Gas increases to 900 GWh, Hydro softens to 800 GWh, but Solar advances to 1,000 GWh and Wind to 700 GWh, keeping the total at 5,500 GWh.

In Q4 Coal moves to 2,300 GWh, Gas to 850 GWh, Hydro to 1,100 GWh, Solar to 900 GWh, and Wind to 850 GWh, for a total of 6,000 GWh.

For analysis, Renewables are taken as Hydro + Solar + Wind. A carbon policy scenario proposes cutting Q4 Coal by 10%, shifting the entire reduction equally into Solar and Wind. (255 words)

85. The total annual generation (GWh) is :
- (A) 20,500
(B) 21,500
(C) 22,000
(D) 22,500



86. The overall renewable share (as % of annual generation) is closest to:
- (A) 42.5%
 - (B) 43.8%
 - (C) 44.3%
 - (D) 45.0%
87. The quarter with the highest renewable percentage share is:
- (A) Q1
 - (B) Q2
 - (C) Q3
 - (D) Q4
88. A carbon policy reduces Q4 Coal by 10% and shifts the entire reduction equally to Solar and Wind. The new Q4 Solar (GWh) is:
- (A) 975
 - (B) 1,000
 - (C) 1,015
 - (D) 1,030
89. The annual Gas: Hydro generation ratio is:
- (A) 13:15
 - (B) 65:76
 - (C) 5:6
 - (D) 26:31
90. The quarter with the lowest renewable percentage share is:
- (A) Q1
 - (B) Q2
 - (C) Q3
 - (D) Q4



SECTION V

XVII. One of the central motifs of the past decade of governance under Indian Prime Minister has been the embrace of policy measures that seek to apply uniform solutions to disparate policy dilemmas facing the country. These measures, often termed One Nation policies, are motivated by a desire to replace the existing patchwork of state-specific policies, regulations, and regimes with measures that are identical across the length and breadth of India.

There are numerous examples of such One Nation policies being propagated and, in several cases, implemented in the eleven years since this Government came to power. For instance, in 2016, Parliament passed a series of constitutional amendments to introduce a new Goods and Services Tax (GST), which introduced a unified value-added tax in place of state-specific levies. This reform, known informally as One Nation, One Tax, had been debated and discussed for nearly two decades and was widely touted as an important precursor to forging a common market across India's twenty-eight states.

In a similar vein, the government rolled out a new initiative to allow Indian citizens to take advantage of subsidized food rations irrespective of their state of residence. This scheme, commonly termed One Nation, One Ration Card, was intended to increase access to welfare benefits, especially for the millions of internal migrants in India without a fixed place of residence.

Earlier this year, the government announced the launch of a new online portal that will provide students, faculty, and researchers across the country's public higher education institutions with open access to international scholarly journals and articles under a scheme it has dubbed One Nation, One Subscription.

Most notably, the government recently signalled its intention to pursue a monumental One Nation policy that has been long discussed but only recently outlined in detail. This measure, known as One Nation, One Election, would do away with India's current system of staggered elections for state and national assemblies, replacing it with a framework of simultaneous elections. The proposal, which has featured in many of PM's speeches in the past, was advanced by a high-level committee (HLC) established by the government in 2023. (351 words)

[Excerpts from Does "One Nation, One Election" Make Sense for India? by Milan Vaishnav, Caroline Mallory, and Annabel Richter Published on July 28, 2025]

91. What is the underlying idea behind the "One Nation" policies of the government?
- (A) To strengthen federalism by empowering states with greater autonomy
 - (B) To apply uniform solutions across India, replacing state-specific variations
 - (C) To decentralize governance to local self-government institutions
 - (D) To promote diversity by encouraging state-specific policies



92. Which of the following Constitution Amendment Bill deals with empowerment of the Election Commission of India (ECI) to implement simultaneous state and national elections.
- (A) One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment
 - (B) One Hundred and Twenty-Eighth Amendment
 - (C) One Hundred and Twenty-Seventh Amendment
 - (D) One Hundred and Twenty-Sixth Amendment
93. Which committee or report has discussed the feasibility of simultaneous elections in India?
- (A) Justice Verma Committee 2013
 - (B) Law Commission of India Report 2018
 - (C) Sarkaria Commission Report 1988
 - (D) Punchhi Commission Report 2010
94. A High-Level Committee was constituted by the government to examine the policy of One Nation One Election. The Committee was led by:
- (A) Shri Ram Nath Kovind
 - (B) Shri Jagdish Dhankar
 - (C) Shri Pranab Mukherjee
 - (D) Smt. Draupadi Murmu
95. As per the new GST reforms introduced in September 2025, the structure of new GST rates are as follows
- (A) 5%, 12%, 18% and 28%
 - (B) 5%, 12% and 18%
 - (C) 5%, 12% and 40%
 - (D) 5%, 18% and 40%
96. The object of One Nation, One Ration Card scheme is to benefit:
- (A) The rural population
 - (B) The Farmers
 - (C) The Migrant labourers
 - (D) The ration shopkeepers



XVIII. I may here trace the history of the shaping of the Preamble because this would show that the Preamble was in conformity with the Constitution as it was finally accepted. Not only was the Constitution framed in the light of the Preamble but the Preamble was ultimately settled in the light of the Constitution. In the earliest draft the Preamble was something formal and read: "We, the people of India, seeking to promote the common good, do hereby, through our chosen representatives, enact, adopt and give to ourselves this Constitution.

After the plan of June 3, 1947, which led to the decision to partition the country and to set up two independent Dominions of India and Pakistan, on June 8, 1947, a joint sub-committee of the Union Constitution and Provincial Constitution Committees, took note that the objective resolution would require amendment in view of the latest announcement of the British Government. The announcement of June 3 had made it clear that full independence, in the form of Dominion Status, would be conferred on India as from August 15, 1947. After examining the implications of partition the sub-committee thought that the question of making changes in the Objectives Resolution could appropriately be considered only when effect had actually been given to the June 3 Plan. Later on July 12, 1947, the special sub-committee again postponed consideration of the matter. The Union Constitution Committee provisionally accepted the Preamble as drafted by B.N. Rao and reproduced it in its report of July 4, 1947 without any change, with the tacit recognition at that stage that the Preamble would be finally based on the Objectives Resolution. In a statement circulated to members of the Assembly on July 18, 1947 Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru inter alia, observed that the Preamble was covered more or less by the Objectives Resolution which it was intended to incorporate in the final Constitution, subject to some modification on account of the political changes resulting from partition. (327 words)

(Extracted with edits and revision from B Shiva Rao's-Framing of India's Constitution)

97. According to the passage, the relationship between the Constitution and the Preamble can best be described as:
- (A) The Preamble was drafted in isolation
 - (B) The Constitution and the Preamble were framed independent of each other
 - (C) Both the Constitution and the Preamble were shaped in light of each other
 - (D) The Preamble had no relevance to the Constitution



98. What did the earliest draft of the Preamble emphasize?
- (A) Liberty, equality, and fraternity
 - (B) Sovereign, socialist, secular democratic republic
 - (C) Formal enactment by the people through representatives
 - (D) Unity and integrity of the nation
99. Which of the following is not enshrined in the Preamble of the Constitution of India?
- (A) Equality of status and of opportunity
 - (B) Liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship
 - (C) Justice –moral, ethical and legal
 - (D) Fraternity assuring the dignity of the individual
100. Which has been rightly arranged according to the Preamble of the Constitution of India-
- (A) Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic
 - (B) Sovereign Secular Socialist Democratic Republic
 - (C) Sovereign Socialist Democratic Secular Republic
 - (D) Secular, Socialist, Sovereign and Democratic Republic
101. The Preamble of the Constitution of India is finally based on:
- (A) The Objectives Resolution
 - (B) The Report of the Union Constitution Committee
 - (C) The June 3 plan of the British Government
 - (D) The Report of special Sub-committee of the Constituent Assembly
102. What was the role of Sir B. N. Rau in the making of the Indian Constitution?
- (A) Chairman of the Drafting Committee
 - (B) Constitutional Advisor to the Constituent Assembly
 - (C) President of the Constituent Assembly
 - (D) Member of the Union Powers Committee



XIX. Good governance is only in the hands of good men. No doubt, what is good or bad is not for the court to decide: but the court can always indicate the constitutional ethos on goodness, good governance and purity in administration remind the constitutional functionaries to preserve, protect and promote the same. That ethos are the unwritten words in our Constitution. However, as the Constitution makers stated, there is a presumption that the Prime Minister/Chief Minister would be well advised and guided by such unwritten yet constitutional principles as well. According to Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, such things were only to be left to the good sense of the Prime Minister, and for that matter, the Chief Minister of State, since it was expected that the two great constitutional functionaries would not dare to do any infamous thing by inducting an otherwise unfit person to the Council of Ministers. It appears, over a period of time, at least in some cases, it was only a story of great expectations. Some of the instances pointed out in the writ petition indicate that Dr. Ambedkar and other great visionaries in the Constituent Assembly have been bailed out. Qualification has been wrongly understood as the mere absence of prescribed disqualification. Hence, it has become the bounden duty of the court to remind the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister of the State of their duty to act in accordance with the constitutional aspirations.

No doubt, it is not for the court to issue any direction to the Prime Minister or the Chief Minister, as the case may be, as to the manner in which they should exercise their power while selecting the colleagues in the Council of Ministers. That is the constitutional prerogative of those functionaries who are called upon to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution. But it is the prophetic duty of this Court to remind the key duty holders about their role in working the Constitution. Hence, I am of the firm view, that the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister of the State, who themselves have taken oath to bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India and to discharge their duties faithfully and conscientiously, will be well advised to consider avoiding any person in the Council of Ministers, against whom charges have been framed by a criminal court in respect of offences involving moral turpitude and also offences specifically referred to in Chapter III of The Representation of the People Act, 1951. (416 words)

[Extract from the Supreme Court Judgement Manoj Narula v. Union of India]

103. According to the passage, the Court cannot decide what is “good” or “bad” governance, but it can:
- (A) Disqualify Ministers from holding office
 - (B) Indicate constitutional ethos on governance and remind functionaries of their duty
 - (C) Frame rules on qualifications of Ministers
 - (D) Amend the Constitution to insert explicit standards of morality



104. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar believed that the working of the Constitution ultimately depends on:
- (A) The rigidity of the constitutional text
 - (B) The good sense and integrity of those who are going to administer this constitution
 - (C) The presence of a strong opposition
 - (D) Judicial intervention in governance
105. The Court, while respecting the prerogative of the Prime Minister and Chief Minister to select Ministers emphasized that:
- (A) They should avoid appointing persons against whom criminal charges involving moral turpitude are framed
 - (B) They must appoint Ministers strictly from the ruling party only
 - (C) They should consult the Supreme Court before finalizing appointments
 - (D) They are bound to appoint only members of the Lok Sabha/Legislative Assembly
106. What role does the Court assume, as described in the passage, regarding governance and appointments to the Council of Ministers?
- (A) Judicial review of all ministerial appointments
 - (B) Prophetic duty to remind key functionaries of their constitutional role
 - (C) Power to veto ministerial selections made by the Prime Minister
 - (D) Directing Parliament to amend the law on disqualification
107. Who are the constitutional functionaries, this passage primarily refers to?
- (A) Council of Ministers
 - (B) Prime Minister and Council of Ministers
 - (C) Chief Minister and Council of Ministers
 - (D) Prime Minister and Chief Minister
108. Who, according to the above passage shall not be appointed as a Minister?
- (A) Against whom charges have been framed in a court of law
 - (B) Against whom charges involving moral turpitude have been framed in a court of law
 - (C) Against whom charges have been proved in a court of law
 - (D) Against whom case is pending in a court of law



XX. The recent Supreme Court judgment in *State of Tamil Nadu v. Governor of Tamil Nadu* (2025) affirmed that a Governor cannot exercise an absolute or "pocket" veto on bills, holding that if assent is withheld, the bill must be returned to the legislature "as soon as possible" for reconsideration, with the Governor having no discretion to withhold assent again. The court established that inaction or indefinite delay is illegal and unconstitutional, prescribing timelines for the Governor's decision and even "deeming assent" on pending bills in the Tamil Nadu case, establishing a critical precedent for judicial review of gubernatorial powers. The Supreme Court explicitly rejected the Governor's power to an absolute or "pocket" veto, which allows for bills to be indefinitely delayed. If a Governor withholds assent to a bill, they are constitutionally obligated to return it to the State Assembly for reconsideration, according to the proviso in Article 200 of the Constitution. If the State Assembly re-enacts a bill after it has been returned by the Governor, the Governor has no choice but to give assent to it and cannot withhold it for a second time. The Court held that indefinitely delaying or remaining silent on bills is unconstitutional and that Governors must act "as soon as possible" on bills. The judgment expanded the scope of judicial review by setting timelines for the Governor's actions on bills, allowing state governments to approach courts if these timelines are breached. In the case of the Tamil Nadu, the Court used its powers under Article 142 to "deem assent" on the long-pending bills, which had the effect of making any subsequent decision by the President on those bills void. (276 words)

[Extracted with edits & revisions from "The Hindu", dated 8th April 2025]

109. The Legislative Assembly of State X passes a controversial bill and sends it to the Governor for assent. The Governor, strongly disagreeing with the bill's provisions, decides to neither give assent nor return the bill, hoping it will be forgotten over the time. Which of the following statements accurately describes the legal position of the Governor's action?
- (A) The Governor's action is a legitimate exercise of a "pocket veto", allowing for indefinite delay of bills
 - (B) The Governor's inaction is unconstitutional, as the Supreme Court has explicitly rejected the power to an absolute or "pocket" veto, and they are obligated to return the bill "as soon as possible" if assent is withheld
 - (C) The Governor is within their rights to delay the bill indefinitely as long as they do not explicitly reject it, reflecting the true spirit of gubernatorial discretion
 - (D) The bill will automatically lapse after six months of gubernatorial inaction, making the delay a *de facto rejection*



110. Governor Y receives a bill from the State Assembly and, after careful consideration, decides to withhold assent, promptly returning it with a message for reconsideration. The State Assembly then re-enacts the bill without any change and sends it back to Governor Y. What is the constitutional obligation of Governor Y at this point?
- (A) Governor Y has no choice but to give assent to the re-enacted bill, as the Supreme Court has ruled that the Governor cannot withhold assent for a second time
 - (B) Governor Y can again withhold assent if they continue to disagree with the bill's content, sending it back for further reconsideration
 - (C) Governor Y can refer the bill to the President of India for a final decision, exercising a higher discretionary power
 - (D) Governor Y can dissolve the State Assembly for consistently passing erroneous bills
111. After the Supreme Court's judgment in *State of Tamil Nadu v. Governor of Tamil Nadu* (2025), a State Governor holds a bill for eight months without taking any action—neither assenting nor returning it. The State Government believes that this delay is unconstitutional. Based on the precedent set by the judgment, what recourse is available to the State Government?
- (A) The State Government must wait for a full year before any action can be taken, as gubernatorial delays are typically permitted for this duration
 - (B) The bill automatically lapses after six months of inaction, making any further action by the State Government unnecessary
 - (C) The State Government's only recourse is to re-enact the bill, which would then compel the Governor to act
 - (D) The State Government can approach the courts, as the judgment had prescribed timelines for the Governor's actions on bills since indefinite delay was construed unconstitutional
112. In a situation mirroring the Tamil Nadu case, a Supreme Court bench is reviewing several instances where a particular Governor has indefinitely delayed assent on multiple bills passed by the State Assembly, despite Constitutional obligations. If the Supreme Court decides to follow the precedent established in *State of Tamil Nadu v. Governor of Tamil Nadu* (2025) regarding pending bills, what would be a likely outcome for these delayed bills?
- (A) The Supreme Court would order the Governor to explicitly reject all the delayed bills
 - (B) The Supreme Court would direct the State Assembly to conduct a public referendum on each delayed bill
 - (C) The Supreme Court could deem assent on the pending bills, establishing a critical precedent for judicial review of gubernatorial powers in such cases, as it did in the Tamil Nadu case
 - (D) The Supreme Court would advise the Governor to seek legal counsel and then re-evaluate each bill individually without a set timeline



113. A newly appointed Governor publicly declares that he intend to use his discretion to permanently halt any legislation he deems inappropriate, by simply not acting on the bills, citing an inherent gubernatorial power. How does this declaration align with the constitutional interpretation provided by the Supreme Court of India?
- (A) The Governor's declaration is consistent with the broad discretionary powers traditionally afforded to Governors, allowing them significant influence over state legislation
 - (B) The Governor's declaration is valid only for non-money bills, as money bills have different Constitutional protocols
 - (C) The Governor's declaration is partially valid, as indefinite delay is permissible only if the State Assembly is not in session
 - (D) The Governor's declaration is unconstitutional; the Supreme Court explicitly rejected the Governor's power to an absolute or "pocket" veto
114. What are the three primary courses of action for a Governor when a Bill is enacted by the State Assembly and sent to him/her for his/her assent. Which option correctly lists these three courses?
- (A) (i) Give assent, (ii) Veto absolutely, or (iii) Refer to the Supreme Court
 - (B) (i) Give assent, (ii) Withhold assent (allowing the Bill to fail, unless the proviso is followed), or (iii) Recommend amendments
 - (C) (i) Give assent, (ii) Withhold assent (with the option to return for reconsideration), or (iii) Reserve for the consideration of the President
 - (D) (i) Give assent, (ii) Return for reconsideration, or (iii) Refer to the Union Government
- XXI. Same-sex marriage has no legal recognition in India as per the recent Supreme Court's judgment, where it was decided that this is an issue for Parliament to address. While Hindu marriages between transgender persons and cisgender men are permissible, and the Court acknowledged systemic discrimination and the right to choose a partner, it held that there is no fundamental right to marry. The government has been urged to form a panel to consider granting more legal rights to same-sex couples, but the legal status of marriage remains unchanged for now. The five-judge bench of the Supreme Court of India in *Supriyo @ Supriya Chakraborty & Anr. v. Union of India* (2023), in a majority verdict, ruled that there is no fundamental right to marry under the Indian Constitution, making it beyond the court's scope to legislate on same-sex marriage.



The Court stated that the power to legislate on same-sex marriage rests with the Parliament and state legislatures. The judgment affirmed constitutional rights for LGBTQ+ citizens and the right to choose a partner. The government agreed to set up a panel to explore legal rights and benefits for same-sex couples, though these benefits are not the same as those conferred by marriage. Same-sex couples cannot legally marry and do not receive the same legal rights, such as automatic inheritance, pension, or adoption rights, that legally married couples do. Despite the ruling, LGBTQ+ couples continue to face legal discrimination and have no social recognition of marriage. The Court affirmed the right of same-sex couples to cohabit privately. While the Supreme Court's verdict brought limited benefits and acknowledgments, it has not legalized same-sex marriage in India, deferring the ultimate decision to the Parliament. (279 words)

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from "The Hindu", dated 27th October 2023]

115. In October 2023, two individuals in India, Ramesh and Sameer, who identify as a same-sex couple, sought to legally solemnize their marriage. Based on the Supreme Court's ruling, what is the current legal standing of their ability to marry?
- (A) Their marriage is legally recognized nationwide under a new constitutional right
 - (B) Their marriage is not legally recognized, as the Supreme Court ruled that this issue is for Parliament to address
 - (C) Their marriage is recognized only if both of them identify as transgender
 - (D) Their marriage is temporarily recognized until Parliament decides otherwise
116. During a legal proceeding in India, an advocate argues that the Supreme Court should directly legislate on same-sex marriage because the right to choose a partner inherently implies a fundamental right to marry for all citizens. How would the Supreme Court's judgment likely to counter this argument?
- (A) The Court acknowledged the right to choose a partner, therefore it would agree to legislate on marriage
 - (B) The Court held that there is no fundamental right to marry under the Indian Constitution, and such a policy can be made only by the Parliament
 - (C) The Court has held that it will set up a panel to look into the fundamental right to marry
 - (D) The Court upheld the fundamental right to marry, but declined to recognise same sex marriage



117. Following the Supreme Court's decision, an LGBTQ+ advocacy group in India aims to achieve legal recognition for same-sex marriage. To which governmental body or bodies should this group primarily direct its lobbying efforts to secure the necessary legislation?
- (A) The Supreme Court of India, as they are ultimately responsible for interpreting constitutional rights
 - (B) The President of India as head of the Union legislature
 - (C) The Parliament and state legislatures, as the power to legislate on same-sex marriage rests with them
 - (D) The National Commission for Human Rights, to advocate for a new directive
118. While same-sex marriage is not legally recognized in India, however, the Supreme Court's verdict did offer some acknowledgments of rights for same-sex couples. Which of the following rights was specifically affirmed by the Court?
- (A) The automatic right to inheritance for same-sex partners
 - (B) The right of same-sex couples to adopt children jointly
 - (C) The right of same-sex couples to cohabit privately
 - (D) The right to maintenance for same-sex partners
119. Ramesh and Suresh, a same-sex couple in India, have lived together for a decade and want to ensure they receive legal benefits equivalent to those of married couples, such as automatic inheritance and pension rights. Based on the Supreme Court's judgment, what is the primary obstacle they face in achieving these benefits?
- (A) They must first register their union with the government panel that was urged to be formed
 - (B) They cannot legally marry and therefore cannot automatically be entitled to these specific legal rights
 - (C) These rights are only available to same-sex couples where one partner is transgender
 - (D) They can receive these benefits if they convert to a religion that recognizes same-sex unions
120. The new acronym that is evolved after LGBTQ+ is an acronym called LGBTQIA+. In this new acronym 'IA' refers to:
- (A) Intersex and Asexual
 - (B) Initialisms and Agender
 - (C) Intersex and Ally
 - (D) Intrasex and Androgynous
-



SPACE FOR ROUGH WORK



SPACE FOR ROUGH WORK



UG 2026

QUESTION BOOKLET NO.

1. **Name of the Candidate :**

2. **Admit Card Number :**

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Duration of the Test : 2 hours (120 minutes) *

Maximum Marks : 120

1. This Question Booklet (QB) contains 120 (One hundred and Twenty) Multiple Choice Questions across 40 (Forty) pages including 2 (Two) blank pages for rough work. No additional sheet(s) of paper will be supplied for rough work.
2. You have to answer ALL questions in the separate carbonised Optical Mark Reader (OMR) Response Sheet supplied along with this QB. You must READ the detailed instructions provided with the OMR Response Sheet on the reverse side of this packet BEFORE you start the test.
3. No clarification can be sought on the QB from anyone. In case of any discrepancy such as printing error or missing pages, in the QB, request the Invigilator to replace the QB and OMR Response Sheet. Do not use the previous OMR Response sheet with the fresh QB.
4. You should write the QB Number, and the OMR Response Sheet Number, and sign in the space/column provided in the Attendance Sheet.
5. The QB for the Under Graduate Programme is for 120 marks. Every **Right Answer** secures 1 mark. Every **Wrong Answer** results in the deduction of 0.25 mark. There shall be no deductions for Unanswered Questions.
6. You may retain the QB and the Candidate's copy of the OMR Response Sheet after the end of the test.
7. The use of any unfair means shall result in your disqualification. Possession of Electronic Devices such as mobile phones, headphones, digital watches, etc., is/are strictly prohibited in the test premises. Impersonation or any other unlawful practice will lead to your disqualification and possibly, appropriate action under the law.

DO NOT OPEN TILL 2 P.M.

*** Except for PWD Candidates who are eligible for extra time as per the law.**





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SECTION I

- I. In a language laboratory, students were given an interesting puzzle involving the word **“ELECTROCARDIOGRAPH.”** The teacher explained that such exercises not only test logical skills but also sharpen attention to detail. According to the challenge, the word had to undergo a series of transformations. First, the class was asked to take the first half of the letters, reverse their order and make the arrangement of letters look quite different from the original. Next, the students were told to identify the last but one letter of the original word and place it at the very beginning, a step that changed the opening appearance of the sequence completely. Finally, as a finishing touch, they had to add the letter ‘S’ at the end. Following these steps carefully would lead them to the correct transformed word, and only those who adhered to each condition in the exact order could solve the puzzle successfully. (150 words)
1. Which letter will be exactly in the middle?
 - (A) L
 - (B) R
 - (C) D
 - (D) E
 2. How many vowels will be to the left of the middle letter?
 - (A) 2
 - (B) 1
 - (C) 4
 - (D) 3
 3. Which of the two vowels will be adjoining each other?
 - (A) IE
 - (B) IO
 - (C) AE
 - (D) AO
 4. Which vowel will have a consonant to the left but a vowel to the right of it?
 - (A) I
 - (B) O
 - (C) A
 - (D) E





5. Name the letter sandwiched between two vowels?

- (A) R and T
- (B) C and L
- (C) R and L
- (D) D and R

6. Which letter is **prefixed** to the word after the first half is reversed?

- (A) G
- (B) P
- (C) H
- (D) S

II. On the night of October 12th, the "Sunburst Medallion" was stolen from the highly secured display case in the city museum. The theft occurred sometime between the museum closing at 10:00 PM and the night guard, Mr. Hemant, completing his final round at 1:00 AM. Three primary suspects were identified, all of whom had recently been dismissed from their museum positions: Anjali, the former curator; Bharat, the former security expert; and Chitra, the former exhibits designer.

Here are the established facts and their alibis:

- * The security system logs show that the display case was opened using a specific five-digit code, which only Anjali and the museum director (who was out of the country) knew.
- * Bharat's alibi is that he was at a distant relative's birthday party from 8:00 PM to 1:30 AM. Multiple independent witnesses confirmed his presence throughout the entire period.
- * Chitra's alibi is that she was working late at a downtown graphic design studio. A time-stamped security camera from the studio's entrance shows her entering at 7:00 PM and exiting at 11:45 PM. The studio is a 20-minute drive from the museum.
- * Mr. Hemant, the night guard, stated he checked the medallion at 10:30 PM, and it was still there.

Further investigation revealed that a small, distinctive silver button was found near the display case. Anjali is known to frequently wear a coat with similar unique silver buttons. The security expert, Bharat, had previously boasted that he could remotely disable a certain type of magnetic lock-the same type used on the medallion's case-without needing the code, though the log suggests the code was used. (269 words)

7. Identifying the Most Likely Suspect

Based only on the fact that the five-digit code was used to open the display case, who is the only plausible suspect among the three?

- (A) Anjali
- (B) Bharat
- (C) Chitra
- (D) Both Anjali and Chitra





8. Evaluating Alibis and Time Constraints

The theft occurred between 10:00 PM and 1:00 AM, but the night guard saw the medallion at 10:30 PM. Given Chitra's alibi, what is the earliest time she could have reached the museum?

- (A) 11:45 PM
- (B) 12:05 AM
- (C) 12:45 AM
- (D) 10:50 PM

9. Deduction and Contradictory Evidence

If the theft was committed by Bharat, which established fact must be incorrect, based on the provided information?

- (A) The medallion was present at 10:30 PM
- (B) The security logs indicating the code was used
- (C) The museum closing time of 10:00 PM
- (D) The time frame of his alibi (8:00 PM to 1:30 AM)

10. Analyzing Accessory Evidence

The discovery of the silver button near the display case is the most incriminating evidence against which suspect, and why?

- (A) Bharat, because he had the technical expertise to get close to the case
- (B) Chitra, because she was near the museum late that night
- (C) Anjali, because she is known to wear a coat with similar buttons
- (D) Mr. Hemant, as he was the last person to check the area

11. Identifying the Logical Flaw in the Argument :

A detective argues: "Since Bharat has a confirmed, continuous alibi covering the entire time window of the theft (10:30 PM to 1:00 AM), he cannot be the thief." What principle of logic supports this detective's conclusion?

- (A) Correlation does not imply causation
- (B) If an event requires presence, confirmed absence proves innocence
- (C) The rule of double jeopardy
- (D) The burden of proof lies with the accuser





12. Drawing a Strongest Conclusion

Considering all the facts (the code being used, the silver button, and the confirmed alibis), which is the most reasonable inference?

- (A) Bharat must have had an accomplice who knew the code
- (B) Chitra's alibi is false because she had enough time to commit the crime after leaving the studio
- (C) Anjali is the most likely suspect because the code was used and she has a direct link to the physical evidence (the button)
- (D) Mr. Hemant is secretly the thief and is trying to frame the former employees

13. Assessing Necessary Conditions

What condition is necessary for Chitra to have stolen the medallion?

- (A) She must know the five digit code
- (B) She must have left the graphic design studio before 11.45 pm
- (C) The theft must have occurred after she left the studio and before 1 am
- (D) She must have worked with Anjali to disable the locks

III. In a small town lived a close-knit family where every relation could be expressed through simple symbols. For instance, when they said $A \times B$, it meant A is the father of B, while $A \div B$ meant A is the mother of B. The younger ones were often introduced with $A + B$, meaning A was the daughter of B, and the bond of brotherhood was shown by $A - B$ (A is brother of B). One day, the children in the family turned these symbols into a playful code. Instead of introducing their parents and siblings in words, they spoke only in symbols. "Look," giggled little Meena, " $M + N \div O$!" Everyone laughed, because they knew it meant Meena was the daughter of N, and N was the mother of O, making her O's sister. What started as a code soon became a family game, making the bonds of father, mother, daughter, and brother not just relations, but symbols of love and togetherness. (165 words)

14. If ' $P + Q - R \div T$ ', how is T related to P?

- (A) Aunt
- (B) Father
- (C) Grandmother
- (D) None of these





15. Which of the following means that R is wife of P?
- (A) $P \times R - Q - T$
 - (B) $P \div T + R - Q$
 - (C) $P \div R - Q + T$
 - (D) $P \times T - Q + R$
16. If ' $P \times T \div Q + R$ ' how is R related to P?
- (A) Daughter
 - (B) Husband
 - (C) Son-in-law
 - (D) None of these
17. If ' $P \div R - Q \times T$ ', how is P related to T?
- (A) Grandmother
 - (B) Mother-in-law
 - (C) Sister
 - (D) Grandfather
18. If ' $R \div Q + R \times T$ ', how is T related to Q?
- (A) Aunt
 - (B) Sister
 - (C) Brother
 - (D) Grandson
19. If ' $R - P \div J \times Q$ ', how is J related to R?
- (A) Son
 - (B) Nephew
 - (C) Niece
 - (D) Grandson





IV. Four teams – Red (R), Blue (B), Green (G), and Yellow (Y) – are competing in the final four rounds of the Inter-School Science Olympiad, labeled Round A, Round B, Round C, and Round D. Each round consists of one match between two teams, and every team plays exactly two matches. No team plays the same opponent more than once.

The final schedule must adhere to the following rules:

- * Rule 1 (Consecutive Play) : The Green team (G) must play their two matches in consecutive rounds.
- * Rule 2 (Fixed Appearance) : The Yellow team (Y) must play in Round B.
- * Rule 3 (Positional Constraint) : The Red team (R) must play against the Blue team (B) in a round that is immediately before a round in which neither R nor B is playing.
- * Rule 4 (Timing) : The Blue team's (B) first match must occur in an earlier round than the Green team's (G) first match.
- * Rule 5 (Opponent Link) : The team that plays against the Red team (R) in the round that is not against the Blue team (B), is the same team that plays in Round D.

(193 words)

20. Determining the Green Team's Schedule

Considering Rules 1 and 2, which of the following pairs of rounds contains the Green team's two matches?

- (A) Round A and Round D
- (B) Round B and Round C
- (C) Round C and Round D
- (D) Round A and Round B

21. Applying the Positional Constraint

Based on all the rules, particularly Rule 3, which of the following matches must be scheduled for Round A?

- (A) Red vs. Green
- (B) Red vs. Yellow
- (C) Red vs. Blue
- (D) Blue vs. Yellow

22. Identifying the Blue Team's First Opponent

Who is the Blue team's first opponent in the tournament?

- (A) Green
- (B) Red
- (C) Yellow
- (D) The opponent cannot be determined





23. Finding the Match in Round C

What is the match scheduled for Round C?

- (A) Red vs. Green
- (B) Green vs. Blue
- (C) Blue vs. Yellow
- (D) Red vs. Yellow

24. Identifying the Teams Excluded from a Round

Which pair of rounds contains matches where the Yellow team does not participate?

- (A) Round A and Round C
- (B) Round A and Round D
- (C) Round B and Round C
- (D) Round C and Round D

25. Team Opponent Check

Which team does the Yellow team NOT play against over the course of the four rounds?

- (A) Red
- (B) Blue
- (C) Green
- (D) The Yellow team plays against all other teams

26. Assessing a Rule Violation

If the match in Round D was (Blue vs. Yellow), which of the original rules would be violated by this schedule change?

- (A) Rule 1 (Consecutive Play)
- (B) Rule 3 (Positional Constraint)
- (C) Rule 4 (Timing)
- (D) Rule 5 (Opponent Link)





SECTION II

- V. Health insurance plays a vital role in ensuring financial protection and access to quality healthcare. In India, however, the extent and nature of health insurance coverage vary significantly between urban and rural areas. While urban populations often have better access to organized insurance schemes, employer-provided coverage, and awareness about health policies, rural populations face challenges such as limited outreach of insurance schemes, inadequate infrastructure, and lower awareness levels. This urban–rural divide in health insurance coverage highlights the broader issue of healthcare inequality, making it essential to analyze the factors contributing to this gap and explore strategies for more inclusive health protection. A state-level health survey was conducted.

The survey covered 1,80,000 adults across urban and rural areas. Urban residents formed 55% of the sample (that is, 99,000 people) while rural residents made up 45% (that is, 81,000 people). In each area, coverage was classified under four heads – Public schemes, Private insurance, Employer-provided coverage, and Uninsured. In urban areas, Public coverage accounted for 28% of the urban population, Private for 22%, Employer for 18%, and the remaining 32% were Uninsured. In rural areas, where formal coverage is generally lower, Public coverage stood at 35%, Private at 10%, Employer at 8%, while 47% were Uninsured. For this survey, “Insured” includes everyone covered by Public + Private + Employer schemes, and “Uninsured” indicates those with no coverage at all. Officials noted that public schemes remain the backbone of rural coverage, while employer and private plans are relatively more prevalent in urban centres. (250 words)

27. The ratio of insured adults in Urban: Rural is:
- (A) 82:65 (B) 748:477
(C) 65:82 (D) 477:748
28. By what percentage is the number of Uninsured in Rural higher than Uninsured in Urban?
- (A) 18.75% (B) 20.17%
(C) 22.50% (D) 25.00%
29. If the total population grows by 5% next year and all percentage shares remain the same (including the Urban-Rural split), how many additional privately insured people will there be (vs. this year)?
- (A) 1,494 (B) 1,560
(C) 1,620 (D) 1,650





30. The total number of Employer-covered adults is:
- (A) 22,800 (B) 23,100
(C) 24,300 (D) 25,200
31. What percentage of all insured adults are Publicly insured?
- (A) 48.50% (B) 49.75%
(C) 50.86% (D) 52.00%
32. What percentage of the total surveyed population was insured?
- (A) 52.15% (B) 56.25%
(C) 61.25% (D) 64%

VI. A state electricity report serves as an important tool to assess energy production and track progress in the power sector. By providing quarterly data on generation measured in gigawatt hours (GWh), the report highlights the contribution of different energy sources such as coal, gas, hydro, solar, and wind. This not only helps in understanding the overall energy mix and dependence on conventional versus renewable sources but also enables policymakers, planners, and stakeholders to evaluate trends, address gaps, and promote sustainable energy development. A state electricity report provides quarterly generation (in GWh) by source – Coal, Gas, Hydro, Solar, and Wind.

In Q1 Generation from Coal is 2,200 GWh, Gas contributes 800 GWh, Hydro 900 GWh, Solar 700 GWh, and Wind 400 GWh, for a total of 5,000 GWh.

In Q2 Coal rises to 2,400 GWh, while Gas dips to 700 GWh; Hydro improves to 1,000 GWh, Solar to 800 GWh, and Wind to 600 GWh, bringing the quarterly total to 5,500 GWh.

In Q3 Coal moderates to 2,100 GWh, Gas increases to 900 GWh, Hydro softens to 800 GWh, but Solar advances to 1,000 GWh and Wind to 700 GWh, keeping the total at 5,500 GWh.

In Q4 Coal moves to 2,300 GWh, Gas to 850 GWh, Hydro to 1,100 GWh, Solar to 900 GWh, and Wind to 850 GWh, for a total of 6,000 GWh.

For analysis, Renewables are taken as Hydro + Solar + Wind. A carbon policy scenario proposes cutting Q4 Coal by 10%, shifting the entire reduction equally into Solar and Wind. (255 words)

33. The total annual generation (GWh) is :
- (A) 20,500
(B) 21,500
(C) 22,000
(D) 22,500





34. The overall renewable share (as % of annual generation) is closest to:
- (A) 42.5%
 - (B) 43.8%
 - (C) 44.3%
 - (D) 45.0%
35. The quarter with the highest renewable percentage share is:
- (A) Q1
 - (B) Q2
 - (C) Q3
 - (D) Q4
36. A carbon policy reduces Q4 Coal by 10% and shifts the entire reduction equally to Solar and Wind. The new Q4 Solar (GWh) is:
- (A) 975
 - (B) 1,000
 - (C) 1,015
 - (D) 1,030
37. The annual Gas: Hydro generation ratio is:
- (A) 13:15
 - (B) 65:76
 - (C) 5:6
 - (D) 26:31
38. The quarter with the lowest renewable percentage share is:
- (A) Q1
 - (B) Q2
 - (C) Q3
 - (D) Q4





SECTION III

VII. US president Donald trump has landed a triple whammy on India by torpedoing the H-1B visa programme, days after revoking sanctions waiver on Chabahar port in Iran and weeks after imposing a 50% tariff on Indian exports to the US. The White House also maintained a conspicuous silence on the Pakistan-Saudi Arabia mutual defence treaty amid reports that neither country informed Washington of the pact, suggesting a growing US indifference to India's concerns. The triple blow has shaken US-India ties to the foundation, mystifying experts who expected a reset after an exchange of friendly messages between Modi and Trump. While some observers see in the crackdown on H-1B a pressure tactic to make India bend on the trade deal, sources familiar with the dynamics of the current White House say the two issues are unrelated and Trump was convinced of the need to "reform" the guest worker visa programme ever since MAGA hardliners persuaded him that American workers were being gamed out of jobs by foreign companies and US big tech acting in tandem. (174 words)

[Extracted from the newspaper, *The Times of India*, September 21, 2025]

39. What percentage tariff did President Trump initially impose on Indian imports in 2025?
- (A) 15% (B) 25%
(C) 40% (D) 50%
40. What strategic reason did Donald Trump cite for penalizing India with additional tariffs apart from trade imbalances?
- (A) India's IT service exports
(B) Indian Banknote Demonetization
(C) India's immigration policies
(D) India's defense and energy ties with Russia
41. What is the strategic significance of Chabahar Port for India?
- (A) Provides trade access to China through Pakistan
(B) Acts as counterbalance to China's presence in nearby Gwadar Port, Pakistan
(C) Serves as the primary naval base for India
(D) Connects India directly to the Mediterranean Sea
42. What is the primary purpose of the H-1B Visa?
- (A) Exchange Visitor Visa
(B) Employment Visa
(C) Immigrant visa for permanent residence in the U.S.
(D) Non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to hire foreign professionals in specialized field





43. The acronym 'MAGA' mentioned in the above passage refers to:
- (A) Multilateral Agencies Global Association
 - (B) Make America Great Again
 - (C) Mutual Agreements for Global Advantage
 - (D) Monetary Advantage For Great America

VIII. Indian Chess recorded yet another great moment on Monday; as Divya Deshmukh won the Women's World Cup in Georgian city of Batumi. In the final, the 19-year-old defeated fellow-Indian Koneru Humpy in the tiebreakers. While Humpy contesting the final wasn't much of a surprise-she is the World No. 5 and has been one of the best female players for the last couple of decades-not many would have anticipated Divya's stunning show. But, given her obvious talent and the way she has been playing for the past two years, it didn't come as a big surprise. By winning the World Cup, one of the biggest events organized by the world chess governing body FIDE, Divya also achieved another significant milestone. She became India's 88th Grandmaster and is only the fourth Indian Woman after Humpy, D. Harika and R. Vaishali to get that coveted title. Last year, Divya won the World junior championship in Ahmedabad with a dominant display. She also played a key role in India's historic gold in the Chess Olympiad at Budapest. India was the top seed there, though. At the World Cup, the Indian women exceeded expectations, with four of them making it to the quarterfinals. (198 words)

[Extracted from the newspaper, *The Hindu* July 29, 2025]

44. Where is the origin of chess believed to be?
- (A) China
 - (B) Russia
 - (C) India
 - (D) Egypt
45. Who was the first Indian to earn the title of chess Grandmaster ?
- (A) D. Gukesh
 - (B) Praveen Thipsay
 - (C) Dibyendu Barua
 - (D) Vishwanathan Anand
46. Who was the first official World Chess Champion?
- (A) Bobby Fischer
 - (B) Gary Kasparov
 - (C) Vishwanathan Anand
 - (D) Wilhelm Steinitz





47. Which of the following computers successfully defeated Garry Kasparov, the reigning world chess champion, in a tournament match?
- (A) Deep AI
 - (B) Deep Thought
 - (C) Deep Blue
 - (D) Deep Water
48. Which of the following cities is the venue for hosting the 11th edition of Chess World Cup 2025?
- (A) Paris, France
 - (B) Baku, Azerbaijan
 - (C) Goa, India
 - (D) Chennai, India

IX. I rise to apprise this august House of the foreign policy dimension of our response to the Pahalgam terrorist attack, going into the preparations for Operation Sindoor and how foreign policy was handled during Operation Sindoor. As all the honourable members would appreciate, it was important to send a clear, strong and resolute message after the Pahalgam attack. Our red lines had been crossed and we had to make it very apparent that there would be serious consequences. As a result, the first step which was taken was that a meeting of the Cabinet Committee of Security took place on the 23rd of April, and that meeting decided that:

- One, the Indus Water Treaty of 1960 will be held in abeyance with immediate effect until Pakistan credibly and irrevocably abjures its support for cross-border terrorism.
- Two, the integrated checkpoint Attari would be closed with immediate effect.
- Three, Pakistani nationals who were traveling under SAARC visa exemption scheme would no longer be allowed to do that.
- Four, the Defence, Naval and Air Advisors of the Pakistani High Commission would be declared persona non-grata and,
- Five, the overall strength of the High Commission would be brought down to 30 from the number of 55. (207 words)

(Excerpts from Statement made by Minister of External Affairs Dr. S Jaishankar on special discussion in Lok Sabha on Operation Sindoor dated 28th Jul 2025)

49. Where is Pahalgam situated in India?
- (A) Punjab
 - (B) Himachal Pradesh
 - (C) Jammu & Kashmir
 - (D) Uttarakhand





50. The Checkpost Attari is located in
- (A) Near Amritsar Punjab
 - (B) Near Baramulla in Jammu & Kashmir
 - (C) Near Kutch in Gujrat
 - (D) Near Barmer in Rajasthan
51. Which amongst the following is not a SAARC Nation?
- (A) Afghanistan
 - (B) Maldives
 - (C) Mauritius
 - (D) Bangladesh
52. Expression '*Persona Non Grata*' means:
- (A) An ungrateful person
 - (B) An unwelcome person
 - (C) An untrustworthy person
 - (D) A displaced person
53. The Indus Water Treaty signed in 1960 between India and Pakistan was facilitated by:
- (A) The United Nations General Assembly
 - (B) The United Nations Security Council
 - (C) The World Bank
 - (D) The permanent Indus Commission
54. Which amongst the following is not a tributary of River Indus?
- (A) Ravi
 - (B) Jhelum
 - (C) Tapti
 - (D) Chenab





X. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi participated in the 25th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), held in Tianjin, China, from 31 August to 1 September 2025. The Summit witnessed productive discussions on SCO Development Strategy, Reform of Global Governance, Counter-Terrorism, Peace and Security, Economic and Financial Cooperation, and Sustainable Development.

Addressing the Summit, Prime Minister highlighted India's approach to strengthening cooperation under the SCO framework. In this regard, he noted that India seeks greater action under three pillars – Security, Connectivity and Opportunity. Emphasising that peace, security and stability remain key to progress and prosperity, he called upon member countries to take firm and decisive action to fight terrorism in all its manifestations. Prime Minister underlined the need for coordinated action against terror financing and radicalization. Thanking member countries for their strong solidarity in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack, he emphasized that there should be no double standards in dealing with terrorism and urged the group to hold countries who perpetrate and support cross-border terrorism accountable.

Highlighting the role of connectivity in fostering development and building trust, Prime Minister stated that India strongly supported projects such as Chabahar port and International North-South Transport Corridor. He also spoke about opportunities in the fields of start-ups, innovation, youth empowerment and shared heritage, which must be pursued under the SCO umbrella. Prime Minister proposed commencing a Civilizational Dialogue Forum within the group to foster greater people-to-people ties and cultural understanding. (246 words)

(Excerpts from the Press release issued by Press Information Bureau Govt of India, dated 1st September 2025)

55. The civilizational dialogue forum (CDF) proposed by the Prime Minister of India at the 25th Meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organization, is intended to promote
- (A) Peace and security
 - (B) Sustainable development
 - (C) Reform of Global governance
 - (D) Cultural Understanding





56. The next Presidency of SCO is taken over by:
- (A) Kyrgyzstan
 - (B) Tajikistan
 - (C) Uzbekistan
 - (D) Kazakhstan
57. Prime Minister of India stated that India strongly supported projects such as Chabahar port. Where is this port located?
- (A) Oman
 - (B) Iran
 - (C) Afghanistan
 - (D) Saudi Arabia
58. Which of the following countries is not a member of SCO?
- (A) Belarus
 - (B) Iran
 - (C) Pakistan
 - (D) Myanmar
59. The Secretariat of SCO is located in:
- (A) Beijing, China
 - (B) Tianjin, China
 - (C) Shanghai, China
 - (D) Wuhan, China
60. At the conclusion of 25th SCO summit, the member countries adopted the:
- (A) Beijing Declaration
 - (B) Tianjin Declaration
 - (C) Shanghai Declaration
 - (D) Wuhan Declaration





XI. Air India stands in solidarity with the families and those affected by the AI-171 accident. We continue to mourn their loss and remain fully committed to providing support during this difficult time. Over a month ago, Air India started releasing interim payment of Rs 25 lakh to the affected families, to help them meet their immediate financial needs. The interim payment will be adjusted against any final compensation.

Air India has, so far, released the interim compensation to the families of 147 of the 229 deceased passengers and also the 19 who lost their lives at the accident site. In addition, the requisite documents of 52 others have been verified, to whose families the interim compensation will be released progressively. The Tata Group has also registered 'The AI-171 Memorial and Welfare Trust', dedicated to the victims of the unfortunate accident. The Trust has pledged an ex-gratia payment of Rs 1 crore in respect of each of the deceased, and support for rebuilding the B.J. Medical College Hostel infrastructure, which was damaged in the accident.

The Trust will also provide aid and assistance for alleviation of any trauma or distress suffered by the first responders, medical and disaster relief professionals, social workers, and governmental staff who provided invaluable institutional support and service in the aftermath of the accident. (217 words)

(Excerpts from the Press Release published by Air India, on July 26, 2025)

61. Air India flight AI-171 was operating from Ahmedabad to:

- (A) London Gatwick airport
- (B) Heathrow Airport
- (C) London Luton Airport
- (D) London Stansted Airport

62. Who is the Minister of Civil Aviation of India?

- (A) Shri Piyush Goyal
- (B) Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia
- (C) Shri Ram Mohan Naidu
- (D) Shri Prafulla Patel



63. 'The AI-171 Memorial and Welfare Trust' is registered by Tata Group as a public charitable trust in:
- (A) Ahmedabad
 - (B) Gandhinagar
 - (C) Mumbai
 - (D) Delhi
64. The sole survivor of 'The Air India flight AI-171 accident is:
- (A) British National of Indian Origin
 - (B) Canadian National of Indian origin
 - (C) Portuguese National of Indian Origin
 - (D) Indian National
65. The agency that probes the fatal crash of AI-171 is:
- (A) DGCA
 - (B) AAI
 - (C) AAIB
 - (D) FIP
66. The Air India flight AI-171 was:
- (A) Boeing 737-800 aircraft
 - (B) Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner
 - (C) Boeing 737 Max aircraft
 - (D) Boeing Next Generation 737





SECTION IV

XII. One of the central motifs of the past decade of governance under Indian Prime Minister has been the embrace of policy measures that seek to apply uniform solutions to disparate policy dilemmas facing the country. These measures, often termed One Nation policies, are motivated by a desire to replace the existing patchwork of state-specific policies, regulations, and regimes with measures that are identical across the length and breadth of India.

There are numerous examples of such One Nation policies being propagated and, in several cases, implemented in the eleven years since this Government came to power. For instance, in 2016, Parliament passed a series of constitutional amendments to introduce a new Goods and Services Tax (GST), which introduced a unified value-added tax in place of state-specific levies. This reform, known informally as One Nation, One Tax, had been debated and discussed for nearly two decades and was widely touted as an important precursor to forging a common market across India's twenty-eight states.

In a similar vein, the government rolled out a new initiative to allow Indian citizens to take advantage of subsidized food rations irrespective of their state of residence. This scheme, commonly termed One Nation, One Ration Card, was intended to increase access to welfare benefits, especially for the millions of internal migrants in India without a fixed place of residence.

Earlier this year, the government announced the launch of a new online portal that will provide students, faculty, and researchers across the country's public higher education institutions with open access to international scholarly journals and articles under a scheme it has dubbed One Nation, One Subscription.

Most notably, the government recently signalled its intention to pursue a monumental One Nation policy that has been long discussed but only recently outlined in detail. This measure, known as One Nation, One Election, would do away with India's current system of staggered elections for state and national assemblies, replacing it with a framework of simultaneous elections. The proposal, which has featured in many of PM's speeches in the past, was advanced by a high-level committee (HLC) established by the government in 2023. (351 words)

[Excerpts from Does "One Nation, One Election" Make Sense for India? by Milan Vaishnav, Caroline Mallory, and Annabel Richter Published on July 28, 2025]

67. What is the underlying idea behind the "One Nation" policies of the government?
- (A) To strengthen federalism by empowering states with greater autonomy
 - (B) To apply uniform solutions across India, replacing state-specific variations
 - (C) To decentralize governance to local self-government institutions
 - (D) To promote diversity by encouraging state-specific policies





68. Which of the following Constitution Amendment Bill deals with empowerment of the Election Commission of India (ECI) to implement simultaneous state and national elections.
- (A) One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment
 - (B) One Hundred and Twenty-Eighth Amendment
 - (C) One Hundred and Twenty-Seventh Amendment
 - (D) One Hundred and Twenty-Sixth Amendment
69. Which committee or report has discussed the feasibility of simultaneous elections in India?
- (A) Justice Verma Committee 2013
 - (B) Law Commission of India Report 2018
 - (C) Sarkaria Commission Report 1988
 - (D) Punchhi Commission Report 2010
70. A High-Level Committee was constituted by the government to examine the policy of One Nation One Election. The Committee was led by:
- (A) Shri Ram Nath Kovind
 - (B) Shri JagdipDhankar
 - (C) Shri Pranab Mukherjee
 - (D) Smt. Draupadi Murmu
71. As per the new GST reforms introduced in September 2025, the structure of new GST rates are as follows
- (A) 5%, 12%, 18% and 28%
 - (B) 5%, 12% and 18%
 - (C) 5%, 12% and 40%
 - (D) 5%, 18% and 40%
72. The object of One Nation, One Ration Card scheme is to benefit:
- (A) The rural population
 - (B) The Farmers
 - (C) The Migrant labourers
 - (D) The ration shopkeepers





XIII. I may here trace the history of the shaping of the Preamble because this would show that the Preamble was in conformity with the Constitution as it was finally accepted. Not only was the Constitution framed in the light of the Preamble but the Preamble was ultimately settled in the light of the Constitution. In the earliest draft the Preamble was something formal and read: "We, the people of India, seeking to promote the common good, do hereby, through our chosen representatives, enact, adopt and give to ourselves this Constitution.

After the plan of June 3, 1947, which led to the decision to partition the country and to set up two independent Dominions of India and Pakistan, on June 8, 1947, a joint sub-committee of the Union Constitution and Provincial Constitution Committees, took note that the objective resolution would require amendment in view of the latest announcement of the British Government. The announcement of June 3 had made it clear that full independence, in the form of Dominion Status, would be conferred on India as from August 15, 1947. After examining the implications of partition the sub-committee thought that the question of making changes in the Objectives Resolution could appropriately be considered only when effect had actually been given to the June 3 Plan. Later on July 12, 1947, the special sub-committee again postponed consideration of the matter. The Union Constitution Committee provisionally accepted the Preamble as drafted by B.N. Rao and reproduced it in its report of July 4, 1947 without any change, with the tacit recognition at that stage that the Preamble would be finally based on the Objectives Resolution. In a statement circulated to members of the Assembly on July 18, 1947 Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru inter alia, observed that the Preamble was covered more or less by the Objectives Resolution which it was intended to incorporate in the final Constitution, subject to some modification on account of the political changes resulting from partition. (327 words)

(Extracted with edits and revision from B Shiva Rao's-Framing of India's Constitution)

73. According to the passage, the relationship between the Constitution and the Preamble can best be described as:
- (A) The Preamble was drafted in isolation
 - (B) The Constitution and the Preamble were framed independent of each other
 - (C) Both the Constitution and the Preamble were shaped in light of each other
 - (D) The Preamble had no relevance to the Constitution





74. What did the earliest draft of the Preamble emphasize?
- (A) Liberty, equality, and fraternity
 - (B) Sovereign, socialist, secular democratic republic
 - (C) Formal enactment by the people through representatives
 - (D) Unity and integrity of the nation
75. Which of the following is not enshrined in the Preamble of the Constitution of India?
- (A) Equality of status and of opportunity
 - (B) Liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship
 - (C) Justice –moral, ethical and legal
 - (D) Fraternity assuring the dignity of the individual
76. Which has been rightly arranged according to the Preamble of the Constitution of India-
- (A) Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic
 - (B) Sovereign Secular Socialist Democratic Republic
 - (C) Sovereign Socialist Democratic Secular Republic
 - (D) Secular, Socialist, Sovereign and Democratic Republic
77. The Preamble of the Constitution of India is finally based on:
- (A) The Objectives Resolution
 - (B) The Report of the Union Constitution Committee
 - (C) The June 3 plan of the British Government
 - (D) The Report of special Sub-committee of the Constituent Assembly
78. What was the role of Sir B. N. Rau in the making of the Indian Constitution?
- (A) Chairman of the Drafting Committee
 - (B) Constitutional Advisor to the Constituent Assembly
 - (C) President of the Constituent Assembly
 - (D) Member of the Union Powers Committee





XIV. Good governance is only in the hands of good men. No doubt, what is good or bad is not for the court to decide: but the court can always indicate the constitutional ethos on goodness, good governance and purity in administration remind the constitutional functionaries to preserve, protect and promote the same. That ethos are the unwritten words in our Constitution. However, as the Constitution makers stated, there is a presumption that the Prime Minister/Chief Minister would be well advised and guided by such unwritten yet constitutional principles as well. According to Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, such things were only to be left to the good sense of the Prime Minister, and for that matter, the Chief Minister of State, since it was expected that the two great constitutional functionaries would not dare to do any infamous thing by inducting an otherwise unfit person to the Council of Ministers. It appears, over a period of time, at least in some cases, it was only a story of great expectations. Some of the instances pointed out in the writ petition indicate that Dr. Ambedkar and other great visionaries in the Constituent Assembly have been bailed out. Qualification has been wrongly understood as the mere absence of prescribed disqualification. Hence, it has become the bounden duty of the court to remind the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister of the State of their duty to act in accordance with the constitutional aspirations.

No doubt, it is not for the court to issue any direction to the Prime Minister or the Chief Minister, as the case may be, as to the manner in which they should exercise their power while selecting the colleagues in the Council of Ministers. That is the constitutional prerogative of those functionaries who are called upon to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution. But it is the prophetic duty of this Court to remind the key duty holders about their role in working the Constitution. Hence, I am of the firm view, that the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister of the State, who themselves have taken oath to bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India and to discharge their duties faithfully and conscientiously, will be well advised to consider avoiding any person in the Council of Ministers, against whom charges have been framed by a criminal court in respect of offences involving moral turpitude and also offences specifically referred to in Chapter III of The Representation of the People Act, 1951. (416 words)

[Extract from the Supreme Court Judgement Manoj Narula v. Union of India]

79. According to the passage, the Court cannot decide what is “good” or “bad” governance, but it can:
- (A) Disqualify Ministers from holding office
 - (B) Indicate constitutional ethos on governance and remind functionaries of their duty
 - (C) Frame rules on qualifications of Ministers
 - (D) Amend the Constitution to insert explicit standards of morality





80. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar believed that the working of the Constitution ultimately depends on:
- (A) The rigidity of the constitutional text
 - (B) The good sense and integrity of those who are going to administer this constitution
 - (C) The presence of a strong opposition
 - (D) Judicial intervention in governance
81. The Court, while respecting the prerogative of the Prime Minister and Chief Minister to select Ministers emphasized that:
- (A) They should avoid appointing persons against whom criminal charges involving moral turpitude are framed
 - (B) They must appoint Ministers strictly from the ruling party only
 - (C) They should consult the Supreme Court before finalizing appointments
 - (D) They are bound to appoint only members of the Lok Sabha/Legislative Assembly
82. What role does the Court assume, as described in the passage, regarding governance and appointments to the Council of Ministers?
- (A) Judicial review of all ministerial appointments
 - (B) Prophetic duty to remind key functionaries of their constitutional role
 - (C) Power to veto ministerial selections made by the Prime Minister
 - (D) Directing Parliament to amend the law on disqualification
83. Who are the constitutional functionaries, this passage primarily refers to?
- (A) Council of Ministers
 - (B) Prime Minister and Council of Ministers
 - (C) Chief Minister and Council of Ministers
 - (D) Prime Minister and Chief Minister
84. Who, according to the above passage shall not be appointed as a Minister?
- (A) Against whom charges have been framed in a court of law
 - (B) Against whom charges involving moral turpitude have been framed in a court of law
 - (C) Against whom charges have been proved in a court of law
 - (D) Against whom case is pending in a court of law





XV. The recent Supreme Court judgment in *State of Tamil Nadu v. Governor of Tamil Nadu* (2025) affirmed that a Governor cannot exercise an absolute or "pocket" veto on bills, holding that if assent is withheld, the bill must be returned to the legislature "as soon as possible" for reconsideration, with the Governor having no discretion to withhold assent again. The court established that inaction or indefinite delay is illegal and unconstitutional, prescribing timelines for the Governor's decision and even "deeming assent" on pending bills in the Tamil Nadu case, establishing a critical precedent for judicial review of gubernatorial powers. The Supreme Court explicitly rejected the Governor's power to an absolute or "pocket" veto, which allows for bills to be indefinitely delayed. If a Governor withholds assent to a bill, they are constitutionally obligated to return it to the State Assembly for reconsideration, according to the proviso in Article 200 of the Constitution. If the State Assembly re-enacts a bill after it has been returned by the Governor, the Governor has no choice but to give assent to it and cannot withhold it for a second time. The Court held that indefinitely delaying or remaining silent on bills is unconstitutional and that Governors must act "as soon as possible" on bills. The judgment expanded the scope of judicial review by setting timelines for the Governor's actions on bills, allowing state governments to approach courts if these timelines are breached. In the case of the Tamil Nadu, the Court used its powers under Article 142 to "deem assent" on the long-pending bills, which had the effect of making any subsequent decision by the President on those bills void. (276 words)

[Extracted with edits & revisions from "The Hindu", dated 8th April 2025]

85. The Legislative Assembly of State X passes a controversial bill and sends it to the Governor for assent. The Governor, strongly disagreeing with the bill's provisions, decides to neither give assent nor return the bill, hoping it will be forgotten over the time. Which of the following statements accurately describes the legal position of the Governor's action?
- (A) The Governor's action is a legitimate exercise of a "pocket veto", allowing for indefinite delay of bills
 - (B) The Governor's inaction is unconstitutional, as the Supreme Court has explicitly rejected the power to an absolute or "pocket" veto, and they are obligated to return the bill "as soon as possible" if assent is withheld
 - (C) The Governor is within their rights to delay the bill indefinitely as long as they do not explicitly reject it, reflecting the true spirit of gubernatorial discretion
 - (D) The bill will automatically lapse after six months of gubernatorial inaction, making the delay a *de facto rejection*





86. Governor Y receives a bill from the State Assembly and, after careful consideration, decides to withhold assent, promptly returning it with a message for reconsideration. The State Assembly then re-enacts the bill without any change and sends it back to Governor Y. What is the constitutional obligation of Governor Y at this point?
- (A) Governor Y has no choice but to give assent to the re-enacted bill, as the Supreme Court has ruled that the Governor cannot withhold assent for a second time
 - (B) Governor Y can again withhold assent if they continue to disagree with the bill's content, sending it back for further reconsideration
 - (C) Governor Y can refer the bill to the President of India for a final decision, exercising a higher discretionary power
 - (D) Governor Y can dissolve the State Assembly for consistently passing erroneous bills
87. After the Supreme Court's judgment in *State of Tamil Nadu v. Governor of Tamil Nadu* (2025), a State Governor holds a bill for eight months without taking any action—neither assenting nor returning it. The State Government believes that this delay is unconstitutional. Based on the precedent set by the judgment, what recourse is available to the State Government?
- (A) The State Government must wait for a full year before any action can be taken, as gubernatorial delays are typically permitted for this duration
 - (B) The bill automatically lapses after six months of inaction, making any further action by the State Government unnecessary
 - (C) The State Government's only recourse is to re-enact the bill, which would then compel the Governor to act
 - (D) The State Government can approach the courts, as the judgment had prescribed timelines for the Governor's actions on bills since indefinite delay was construed unconstitutional
88. In a situation mirroring the Tamil Nadu case, a Supreme Court bench is reviewing several instances where a particular Governor has indefinitely delayed assent on multiple bills passed by the State Assembly, despite Constitutional obligations. If the Supreme Court decides to follow the precedent established in *State of Tamil Nadu v. Governor of Tamil Nadu* (2025) regarding pending bills, what would be a likely outcome for these delayed bills?
- (A) The Supreme Court would order the Governor to explicitly reject all the delayed bills
 - (B) The Supreme Court would direct the State Assembly to conduct a public referendum on each delayed bill
 - (C) The Supreme Court could deem assent on the pending bills, establishing a critical precedent for judicial review of gubernatorial powers in such cases, as it did in the Tamil Nadu case
 - (D) The Supreme Court would advise the Governor to seek legal counsel and then re-evaluate each bill individually without a set timeline





89. A newly appointed Governor publicly declares that he intend to use his discretion to permanently halt any legislation he deems inappropriate, by simply not acting on the bills, citing an inherent gubernatorial power. How does this declaration align with the constitutional interpretation provided by the Supreme Court of India?
- (A) The Governor's declaration is consistent with the broad discretionary powers traditionally afforded to Governors, allowing them significant influence over state legislation
 - (B) The Governor's declaration is valid only for non-money bills, as money bills have different Constitutional protocols
 - (C) The Governor's declaration is partially valid, as indefinite delay is permissible only if the State Assembly is not in session
 - (D) The Governor's declaration is unconstitutional; the Supreme Court explicitly rejected the Governor's power to an absolute or "pocket" veto
90. What are the three primary courses of action for a Governor when a Bill is enacted by the State Assembly and sent to him/her for his/her assent. Which option correctly lists these three courses?
- (A) (i) Give assent, (ii) Veto absolutely, or (iii) Refer to the Supreme Court
 - (B) (i) Give assent, (ii) Withhold assent (allowing the Bill to fail, unless the proviso is followed), or (iii) Recommend amendments
 - (C) (i) Give assent, (ii) Withhold assent (with the option to return for reconsideration), or (iii) Reserve for the consideration of the President
 - (D) (i) Give assent, (ii) Return for reconsideration, or (iii) Refer to the Union Government

XVI. Same-sex marriage has no legal recognition in India as per the recent Supreme Court's judgment, where it was decided that this is an issue for Parliament to address. While Hindu marriages between transgender persons and cisgender men are permissible, and the Court acknowledged systemic discrimination and the right to choose a partner, it held that there is no fundamental right to marry. The government has been urged to form a panel to consider granting more legal rights to same-sex couples, but the legal status of marriage remains unchanged for now. The five-judge bench of the Supreme Court of India in *Supriyo @ Supriya Chakraborty & Anr. v. Union of India* (2023), in a majority verdict, ruled that there is no fundamental right to marry under the Indian Constitution, making it beyond the court's scope to legislate on same-sex marriage.





The Court stated that the power to legislate on same-sex marriage rests with the Parliament and state legislatures. The judgment affirmed constitutional rights for LGBTQ+ citizens and the right to choose a partner. The government agreed to set up a panel to explore legal rights and benefits for same-sex couples, though these benefits are not the same as those conferred by marriage. Same-sex couples cannot legally marry and do not receive the same legal rights, such as automatic inheritance, pension, or adoption rights, that legally married couples do. Despite the ruling, LGBTQ+ couples continue to face legal discrimination and have no social recognition of marriage. The Court affirmed the right of same-sex couples to cohabit privately. While the Supreme Court's verdict brought limited benefits and acknowledgments, it has not legalized same-sex marriage in India, deferring the ultimate decision to the Parliament. (279 words)

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from "The Hindu", dated 27th October 2023]

91. In October 2023, two individuals in India, Ramesh and Sameer, who identify as a same-sex couple, sought to legally solemnize their marriage. Based on the Supreme Court's ruling, what is the current legal standing of their ability to marry?
- (A) Their marriage is legally recognized nationwide under a new constitutional right
 - (B) Their marriage is not legally recognized, as the Supreme Court ruled that this issue is for Parliament to address
 - (C) Their marriage is recognized only if both of them identify as transgender
 - (D) Their marriage is temporarily recognized until Parliament decides otherwise
92. During a legal proceeding in India, an advocate argues that the Supreme Court should directly legislate on same-sex marriage because the right to choose a partner inherently implies a fundamental right to marry for all citizens. How would the Supreme Court's judgment likely to counter this argument?
- (A) The Court acknowledged the right to choose a partner, therefore it would agree to legislate on marriage
 - (B) The Court held that there is no fundamental right to marry under the Indian Constitution, and such a policy can be made only by the Parliament
 - (C) The Court has held that it will set up a panel to look into the fundamental right to marry
 - (D) The Court upheld the fundamental right to marry, but declined to recognise same sex marriage





93. Following the Supreme Court's decision, an LGBTQ+ advocacy group in India aims to achieve legal recognition for same-sex marriage. To which governmental body or bodies should this group primarily direct its lobbying efforts to secure the necessary legislation?
- (A) The Supreme Court of India, as they are ultimately responsible for interpreting constitutional rights
 - (B) The President of India as head of the Union legislature
 - (C) The Parliament and state legislatures, as the power to legislate on same-sex marriage rests with them
 - (D) The National Commission for Human Rights, to advocate for a new directive
94. While same-sex marriage is not legally recognized in India, however, the Supreme Court's verdict did offer some acknowledgments of rights for same-sex couples. Which of the following rights was specifically affirmed by the Court?
- (A) The automatic right to inheritance for same-sex partners
 - (B) The right of same-sex couples to adopt children jointly
 - (C) The right of same-sex couples to cohabit privately
 - (D) The right to maintenance for same-sex partners
95. Ramesh and Suresh, a same-sex couple in India, have lived together for a decade and want to ensure they receive legal benefits equivalent to those of married couples, such as automatic inheritance and pension rights. Based on the Supreme Court's judgment, what is the primary obstacle they face in achieving these benefits?
- (A) They must first register their union with the government panel that was urged to be formed
 - (B) They cannot legally marry and therefore cannot automatically be entitled to these specific legal rights
 - (C) These rights are only available to same-sex couples where one partner is transgender
 - (D) They can receive these benefits if they convert to a religion that recognizes same-sex unions
96. The new acronym that is evolved after LGBTQ+ is an acronym called LGBTQIA+. In this new acronym 'IA' refers to:
- (A) Intersex and Asexual
 - (B) Initialisms and Agender
 - (C) Intersex and Ally
 - (D) Intrasex and Androgynous





SECTION V

XVII. The adoption of the Non-Cooperation Movement by the Congress gave it a new energy and from January 1921 it began to register considerable success all over the country. Gandhiji undertook a nation-wide tour during which he addressed hundreds of meetings and met a large number of political workers. In the first month, thousands of students left their educational institutions and joined more than 800 national schools and colleges that had sprung up all over the country. Gandhiji had promised Swaraj within a year, if his programme was adopted.

The Non-Cooperation Movement demonstrated that it commanded the support and sympathy of vast sections of the Indian people. Its reach among many sections of Indian peasants, workers, artisans etc, had been demonstrated. The spatial spread of the movement was also nation-wide. Some areas were more active than others, but there were few that showed no signs of activity at all.

The capacity of the 'poor dumb millions' of India to take part in modern nationalist politics was also demonstrated. This was the first time that nationalists from the towns, students from schools and colleges or even the educated and politically aware in the villages had made a serious attempt to bring the ideology and the movement into their midst.

The tremendous participation of different communities in the movement, and the maintenance of communal unity, despite the Malabar developments, was in itself no mean achievement. There is hardly any doubt that it was minority participation that gave the movement its truly mass character in many areas. And it was, indeed, unfortunate that this most positive feature of the movement was not to be repeated in later years once communalism began to take its toll. [324 words]

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from India's Struggle for Independence 1857-1947, by Bipin Chandra and Others, Penguin Books, 1989.]

97. From the passage it is evident that:
- (A) The idea of Swaraj seemed futile
 - (B) The non-cooperation movement was a complete success
 - (C) The non-cooperation movement gained the sympathy of majority of the Indians
 - (D) The Indian National Congress represented microscopic minority
98. The term "poor dumb millions" refer to-
- (A) The vast number of common people who are impoverished
 - (B) Large number of common people who are hearing impaired
 - (C) Large number of people who are vulnerable
 - (D) The vast number of people who are impoverished and uneducated





99. Which of the statements is true?
- (A) The Swaraj movement happened before the non co-operation movement
 - (B) The non co-operation movement failed due to sudden withdrawal
 - (C) There was a fine show of communal unity in the movement
 - (D) The rich and the educated kept themselves away from the non co-operation movement
100. The main idea of the passage is-
- (A) The Non co-operation movement did not give impetus to the future movements
 - (B) The movement made the Indians realize their potential to fight against the mighty British
 - (C) The British became fearful and worried of Gandhiji's leadership and co-operation of Indians
 - (D) That the most positive feature of the movement was that it was repeated in later years
101. The word "Communalism" in the above passage refers to-
- (A) Religious identity
 - (B) Caste identity
 - (C) Regional identity
 - (D) Secularism

XVIII. There were humans long before there was history. The archaic humans loved, played, formed close friendships and competed for status and power, but so did chimpanzees, baboons and elephants. There was nothing special about them.

Nobody, least of all humans themselves, had any inkling that their descendants would one day walk on the moon, split the atom, fathom the genetic code and write history books. The most important thing to know about prehistoric humans is that they were incognisant animals with no more impact on their environment than gorillas, fireflies or jellyfish.

Biologists classify organisms into species. Animals are said to belong to the same species if they tend to mate with each other, giving birth to fertile offspring. Horses and donkeys have a recent common ancestor and share many physical traits. They will mate if induced to do so - but their offspring, called mules, are sterile. Mutations in donkey DNA can therefore never cross over to horses, or vice versa. The two types of animals are consequently considered two distinct species, moving along separate evolutionary paths. By contrast, a bulldog and a spaniel may look very different, but they are members of the same species, sharing the same DNA pool. [203 words]

(Extracted from Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind by Yuval Noah Harari)

102. Which of the following can be inferred as the most significant characteristic of prehistoric humans, as per the passage?
- (A) Their conscious effort to alter and shape their environment for survival
 - (B) Their complex social organization and clear hierarchical structures that set them apart from other species
 - (C) Their evolutionary divergence was marked by warfare and the pursuit of dominance over rival species
 - (D) Their inability to distinguish themselves from other species in terms of environmental impact





103. In the context of the passage, the term ‘incognisant’ most likely means:
- (A) Lacking intelligence
 - (B) Unaware of their future potential
 - (C) Incapable of social interaction
 - (D) Disinterested in the environment
104. Which of the following best explains why humans did not initially stand out among other organisms?
- (A) They had fewer offspring than other species
 - (B) Their behaviours were not unique compared to other animals
 - (C) They did not yet evolve the ability to use tools
 - (D) They lacked the genetic capacity to develop language
105. According to the passage, what determines whether two animals belong to the same species?
- (A) Their ability to produce fertile offspring
 - (B) Their physical appearance and size
 - (C) Their shared evolutionary ancestor
 - (D) Their capacity to adapt to the environment
106. The passage explains the concept of species classification by
- (A) Highlighting the behavioural differences between species like horses, donkeys, bulldogs and spaniels
 - (B) Focusing on the DNA pool they share
 - (C) Contrasting horses and bulldogs with donkeys and spaniels to explain reproductive compatibility
 - (D) Discussing the environmental impact of different species like horses and donkeys, and bulldogs and spaniels





XIX. In 1973, only 45 of the world's 151 countries were counted as 'free' by Freedom House, a nongovernmental organization that produces quantitative measures of civil and political rights for countries around the world. The following generation saw momentous political change, with democracies and market-oriented economies spreading in virtually every part of the world except for the Arab Middle East. This transformation was Samuel Huntington's third wave of democratization; liberal democracy as the default form of government became part of the accepted political landscape at the beginning of the twenty-first century.

Underlying these changes in political systems was a massive social transformation as well. The shift to democracy was a result of millions of formerly passive individuals around the world organizing themselves and participating in the political life of their societies. This social mobilization was driven by a host of factors: greatly expanded access to education that made people more aware of themselves and the political world around them; information technology, which facilitated the rapid spread of ideas and knowledge; cheap travel and communications that allowed people to vote with their feet if they didn't like their government; and greater prosperity, which induced people to demand better protection of their rights.

The third wave crested after the late 1990s, however, a 'democratic recession' emerged in the first decade of the twenty-first century. Approximately one in five countries that had been part of the third wave either reverted to authoritarianism or saw a significant erosion of democratic institutions. Freedom house noted that 2009 marked the fourth consecutive year in which freedom had declined around the world, the first time this had happened since it established its measures of freedom in 1973. [279 words]

(Extracted from The Origins of Political Order by Francis Fukuyama)

107. Which of the following aspects is most critical in understanding Freedom House's evaluation process?
- (A) The methodology by which it quantifies the relative freedoms in different political systems
 - (B) Its emphasis on electoral participation and voter turnout in measuring democracy
 - (C) Its role in advising governments on democratic reforms based on its rankings
 - (D) Its primary focus on economic disparities within democracies
108. What does the phrase 'vote with their feet' imply in the context of the passage?
- (A) Engaging in electoral processes to demand political change
 - (B) Demonstrating political preferences through public protests
 - (C) Migrating to countries with better governance or conditions
 - (D) Participating in local government initiatives and reforms
109. The term 'third wave of democratization' as used in the passage refers to:
- (A) The rise of communism in Eastern Europe
 - (B) The spread of democracy and market-oriented economies
 - (C) The decline of authoritarian regimes in the 1960s
 - (D) The global movement for civil rights





110. Which of the following was not mentioned as a factor contributing to social mobilization and the shift to democracy?
- (A) Increased access to education
 - (B) Expanding information technology
 - (C) Heightened global military presence
 - (D) Greater prosperity
111. According to this passage, when was the first time the freedom had declined around the world
- (A) 1973
 - (B) 1990
 - (C) 2006
 - (D) 2009

XX. My kinsman and I were returning to Calcutta from our Puja trip when we encountered an unusual man on the train. At first, judging from his dress and bearing, we mistook him for an up-country boorish man. But as soon as he began to speak, our impression changed. He discoursed on every subject with such confidence that one might think the ‘Disposer of All Things’ sought his counsel in every decision. Until then, we had been perfectly content, unaware of hidden forces shaping the world—that the Russians were advancing, that the English were pursuing secret policies, and that confusion among native chiefs had reached its peak. Our new acquaintance, however, hinted at such matters with a sly smile, remarking:

“There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are reported in your newspapers.”

Having never before travelled beyond our homes, we were struck dumb with wonder at his manner. No matter how trivial the topic, he could quote science, comment on the Vedas, or recite quatrains from Persian poets. Since we possessed no real knowledge of science, the Vedas, or Persian literature, our admiration for him only grew. My kinsman, a theosophist, became convinced that our fellow passenger was inspired by some strange magnetism, occult power, or astral body. He listened with devotional rapture even to the most common place remarks and secretly noted down his words. I suspect our extraordinary companion noticed this and was quietly pleased. When the train reached the junction, we gathered in the waiting room to await our connection. It was 10 p.m., and as the train was expected to be delayed owing to some fault in the lines, I spread my bed on the table and prepared to sleep. But just then, the extraordinary man began spinning a tale, and of course, I could not close my eyes all night. (307 words)

[Extracted with edits from Rabindranath Tagore’s “The Hungry Stones”]

112. The narrator and his kinsman’s initial impression of the “unusual man” highlights which theme most strongly?
- (A) The deceptive nature of appearances
 - (B) The superiority of Western education
 - (C) The danger of blind faith
 - (D) The reliability of cultural stereotypes





113. Which literary device is most evident in the narrator's line: "*one might think the Disposer of All Things sought his counsel in every decision*"?
- (A) Irony
 - (B) Euphemism
 - (C) Allegory
 - (D) Hyperbole
114. The word "theosophist" means:
- (A) Skeptic
 - (B) Mystic
 - (C) Agnostic
 - (D) Materialist
115. The word "Boorish" mean:
- (A) Discourteous
 - (B) Genteel
 - (C) Well-bred
 - (D) Courtly
116. The narrator's suspicion that the extraordinary man was "quietly pleased" suggests:
- (A) The man was genuinely humble and embarrassed by the attention
 - (B) The man wished to avoid any recognition of his authority
 - (C) The man was indifferent to how others perceived him
 - (D) The man derived satisfaction from impressing and influencing others
- XXI. Man is the only creature that consumes without producing. He does not give milk, he does not lay eggs, he is too weak to pull the plough, and he cannot run fast enough to catch rabbits. Yet he claims dominion over all animals. He sets us to work, returns only the bare minimum to keep us from starving, and keeps the rest for himself. Our labour tills the soil, our dung fertilizes it, and still, not one of us owns more than our bare skin. You cows, look at yourselves—how many thousands of gallons of milk have you produced this past year? And what has become of it, milk that should have nurtured strong calves? Every drop has gone down the throats of our enemies. And you hens, how many eggs have you laid, and how many of those ever hatched into chicks? The rest have gone to market to bring in money for Jones and his men. And you, Clover, where are the four foals you bore, who should have supported and comforted you in your old age? Each was sold at just a year old—you will never see them again. For all your labour in the fields and your four confinements, what have you gained except bare rations and a stall?





Even the lives we do live are cut short, denied their natural span. I do not grumble, for I am among the fortunate. I am twelve years old and have borne over four hundred children. Such is the natural life of a pig. But no animal escapes the cruel knife in the end. You young porkers sitting before me, each of you will scream your lives out at the block within a year. This is the fate that awaits all of us—cows, pigs, hens, sheep, everyone. Even horses and dogs share no better end. Boxer, the very day your great muscles fail you, Jones will sell you to the knacker, who will slit your throat and boil you down for the foxhounds. And the dogs, when old and toothless, are tied with a brick and drowned in the nearest pond. (356 words)

[*Extracted with edits from George Orwell's "Animal Farm"*]

117. Which of the following best describes the tone of the passage?
- (A) Detached and neutral
 - (B) Critical, somber, and resentful, evoking both awareness and outrage
 - (C) Humorous and light-hearted
 - (D) Admiring and celebratory
118. The speaker frequently contrasts animals' work with human gain. This literary technique is best classified as:
- (A) Allegory of class exploitation
 - (B) Hyperbole for comic effect
 - (C) Irony about farm management
 - (D) Metaphor for animal biology
119. Who is 'knacker'?
- (A) A slaughterer
 - (B) A trader whose business is disposal of dead and unwanted animals
 - (C) A person whose business is disposal of dead or unwanted animals especially those whose flesh is not fit for human consumption
 - (D) Harness-maker
120. The repeated reference to slaughter, drowning, and the knacker in the passage primarily implies to:
- (A) Provide a detailed account of animal husbandry
 - (B) Evoke emotional outrage and highlight the brutality of exploitation
 - (C) Suggest that animals are naturally subservient
 - (D) Indicate that humans value animals



SPACE FOR ROUGH WORK





SPACE FOR ROUGH WORK





UG 2026

QUESTION BOOKLET NO.

1. **Name of the Candidate :**

2. **Admit Card Number :**

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Duration of the Test : 2 hours (120 minutes) *

Maximum Marks : 120

1. This Question Booklet (QB) contains 120 (One hundred and Twenty) Multiple Choice Questions across 40 (Forty) pages including 2 (Two) blank pages for rough work. No additional sheet(s) of paper will be supplied for rough work.
2. You have to answer ALL questions in the separate carbonised Optical Mark Reader (OMR) Response Sheet supplied along with this QB. You must READ the detailed instructions provided with the OMR Response Sheet on the reverse side of this packet BEFORE you start the test.
3. No clarification can be sought on the QB from anyone. In case of any discrepancy such as printing error or missing pages, in the QB, request the Invigilator to replace the QB and OMR Response Sheet. Do not use the previous OMR Response sheet with the fresh QB.
4. You should write the QB Number, and the OMR Response Sheet Number, and sign in the space/column provided in the Attendance Sheet.
5. The QB for the Under Graduate Programme is for 120 marks. Every **Right Answer** secures 1 mark. Every **Wrong Answer** results in the deduction of 0.25 mark. There shall be no deductions for Unanswered Questions.
6. You may retain the QB and the Candidate's copy of the OMR Response Sheet after the end of the test.
7. The use of any unfair means shall result in your disqualification. Possession of Electronic Devices such as mobile phones, headphones, digital watches, etc., is/are strictly prohibited in the test premises. Impersonation or any other unlawful practice will lead to your disqualification and possibly, appropriate action under the law.

DO NOT OPEN TILL 2 P.M.

*** Except for PWD Candidates who are eligible for extra time as per the law.**



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SECTION I

- I. Health insurance plays a vital role in ensuring financial protection and access to quality healthcare. In India, however, the extent and nature of health insurance coverage vary significantly between urban and rural areas. While urban populations often have better access to organized insurance schemes, employer-provided coverage, and awareness about health policies, rural populations face challenges such as limited outreach of insurance schemes, inadequate infrastructure, and lower awareness levels. This urban–rural divide in health insurance coverage highlights the broader issue of healthcare inequality, making it essential to analyze the factors contributing to this gap and explore strategies for more inclusive health protection. A state-level health survey was conducted.

The survey covered 1,80,000 adults across urban and rural areas. Urban residents formed 55% of the sample (that is, 99,000 people) while rural residents made up 45% (that is, 81,000 people). In each area, coverage was classified under four heads – Public schemes, Private insurance, Employer-provided coverage, and Uninsured. In urban areas, Public coverage accounted for 28% of the urban population, Private for 22%, Employer for 18%, and the remaining 32% were Uninsured. In rural areas, where formal coverage is generally lower, Public coverage stood at 35%, Private at 10%, Employer at 8%, while 47% were Uninsured. For this survey, “Insured” includes everyone covered by Public + Private + Employer schemes, and “Uninsured” indicates those with no coverage at all. Officials noted that public schemes remain the backbone of rural coverage, while employer and private plans are relatively more prevalent in urban centres. (250 words)

- The ratio of insured adults in Urban: Rural is:
(A) 82:65 (B) 748:477
(C) 65:82 (D) 477:748
- By what percentage is the number of Uninsured in Rural higher than Uninsured in Urban?
(A) 18.75% (B) 20.17%
(C) 22.50% (D) 25.00%
- If the total population grows by 5% next year and all percentage shares remain the same (including the Urban-Rural split), how many additional privately insured people will there be (vs. this year)?
(A) 1,494 (B) 1,560
(C) 1,620 (D) 1,650



4. The total number of Employer-covered adults is:
- (A) 22,800 (B) 23,100
(C) 24,300 (D) 25,200
5. What percentage of all insured adults are Publicly insured?
- (A) 48.50% (B) 49.75%
(C) 50.86% (D) 52.00%
6. What percentage of the total surveyed population was insured?
- (A) 52.15% (B) 56.25%
(C) 61.25% (D) 64%

II. A state electricity report serves as an important tool to assess energy production and track progress in the power sector. By providing quarterly data on generation measured in gigawatt hours (GWh), the report highlights the contribution of different energy sources such as coal, gas, hydro, solar, and wind. This not only helps in understanding the overall energy mix and dependence on conventional versus renewable sources but also enables policymakers, planners, and stakeholders to evaluate trends, address gaps, and promote sustainable energy development. A state electricity report provides quarterly generation (in GWh) by source – Coal, Gas, Hydro, Solar, and Wind.

In Q1 Generation from Coal is 2,200 GWh, Gas contributes 800 GWh, Hydro 900 GWh, Solar 700 GWh, and Wind 400 GWh, for a total of 5,000 GWh.

In Q2 Coal rises to 2,400 GWh, while Gas dips to 700 GWh; Hydro improves to 1,000 GWh, Solar to 800 GWh, and Wind to 600 GWh, bringing the quarterly total to 5,500 GWh.

In Q3 Coal moderates to 2,100 GWh, Gas increases to 900 GWh, Hydro softens to 800 GWh, but Solar advances to 1,000 GWh and Wind to 700 GWh, keeping the total at 5,500 GWh.

In Q4 Coal moves to 2,300 GWh, Gas to 850 GWh, Hydro to 1,100 GWh, Solar to 900 GWh, and Wind to 850 GWh, for a total of 6,000 GWh.

For analysis, Renewables are taken as Hydro + Solar + Wind. A carbon policy scenario proposes cutting Q4 Coal by 10%, shifting the entire reduction equally into Solar and Wind. (255 words)

7. The total annual generation (GWh) is :
- (A) 20,500
(B) 21,500
(C) 22,000
(D) 22,500



8. The overall renewable share (as % of annual generation) is closest to:
- (A) 42.5%
 - (B) 43.8%
 - (C) 44.3%
 - (D) 45.0%
9. The quarter with the highest renewable percentage share is:
- (A) Q1
 - (B) Q2
 - (C) Q3
 - (D) Q4
10. A carbon policy reduces Q4 Coal by 10% and shifts the entire reduction equally to Solar and Wind. The new Q4 Solar (GWh) is:
- (A) 975
 - (B) 1,000
 - (C) 1,015
 - (D) 1,030
11. The annual Gas: Hydro generation ratio is:
- (A) 13:15
 - (B) 65:76
 - (C) 5:6
 - (D) 26:31
12. The quarter with the lowest renewable percentage share is:
- (A) Q1
 - (B) Q2
 - (C) Q3
 - (D) Q4



SECTION II

- III. One of the central motifs of the past decade of governance under Indian Prime Minister has been the embrace of policy measures that seek to apply uniform solutions to disparate policy dilemmas facing the country. These measures, often termed One Nation policies, are motivated by a desire to replace the existing patchwork of state-specific policies, regulations, and regimes with measures that are identical across the length and breadth of India.

There are numerous examples of such One Nation policies being propagated and, in several cases, implemented in the eleven years since this Government came to power. For instance, in 2016, Parliament passed a series of constitutional amendments to introduce a new Goods and Services Tax (GST), which introduced a unified value-added tax in place of state-specific levies. This reform, known informally as One Nation, One Tax, had been debated and discussed for nearly two decades and was widely touted as an important precursor to forging a common market across India's twenty-eight states.

In a similar vein, the government rolled out a new initiative to allow Indian citizens to take advantage of subsidized food rations irrespective of their state of residence. This scheme, commonly termed One Nation, One Ration Card, was intended to increase access to welfare benefits, especially for the millions of internal migrants in India without a fixed place of residence.

Earlier this year, the government announced the launch of a new online portal that will provide students, faculty, and researchers across the country's public higher education institutions with open access to international scholarly journals and articles under a scheme it has dubbed One Nation, One Subscription.

Most notably, the government recently signalled its intention to pursue a monumental One Nation policy that has been long discussed but only recently outlined in detail. This measure, known as One Nation, One Election, would do away with India's current system of staggered elections for state and national assemblies, replacing it with a framework of simultaneous elections. The proposal, which has featured in many of PM's speeches in the past, was advanced by a high-level committee (HLC) established by the government in 2023. (351 words)

[Excerpts from Does "One Nation, One Election" Make Sense for India? by Milan Vaishnav, Caroline Mallory, and Annabel Richter Published on July 28, 2025]

13. What is the underlying idea behind the "One Nation" policies of the government?
- (A) To strengthen federalism by empowering states with greater autonomy
 - (B) To apply uniform solutions across India, replacing state-specific variations
 - (C) To decentralize governance to local self-government institutions
 - (D) To promote diversity by encouraging state-specific policies



14. Which of the following Constitution Amendment Bill deals with empowerment of the Election Commission of India (ECI) to implement simultaneous state and national elections.
- (A) One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment
 - (B) One Hundred and Twenty-Eighth Amendment
 - (C) One Hundred and Twenty-Seventh Amendment
 - (D) One Hundred and Twenty-Sixth Amendment
15. Which committee or report has discussed the feasibility of simultaneous elections in India?
- (A) Justice Verma Committee 2013
 - (B) Law Commission of India Report 2018
 - (C) Sarkaria Commission Report 1988
 - (D) Punchhi Commission Report 2010
16. A High-Level Committee was constituted by the government to examine the policy of One Nation One Election. The Committee was led by:
- (A) Shri Ram Nath Kovind
 - (B) Shri Jagdish Dhankar
 - (C) Shri Pranab Mukherjee
 - (D) Smt. Draupadi Murmu
17. As per the new GST reforms introduced in September 2025, the structure of new GST rates are as follows
- (A) 5%, 12%, 18% and 28%
 - (B) 5%, 12% and 18%
 - (C) 5%, 12% and 40%
 - (D) 5%, 18% and 40%
18. The object of One Nation, One Ration Card scheme is to benefit:
- (A) The rural population
 - (B) The Farmers
 - (C) The Migrant labourers
 - (D) The ration shopkeepers



IV. I may here trace the history of the shaping of the Preamble because this would show that the Preamble was in conformity with the Constitution as it was finally accepted. Not only was the Constitution framed in the light of the Preamble but the Preamble was ultimately settled in the light of the Constitution. In the earliest draft the Preamble was something formal and read: "We, the people of India, seeking to promote the common good, do hereby, through our chosen representatives, enact, adopt and give to ourselves this Constitution.

After the plan of June 3, 1947, which led to the decision to partition the country and to set up two independent Dominions of India and Pakistan, on June 8, 1947, a joint sub-committee of the Union Constitution and Provincial Constitution Committees, took note that the objective resolution would require amendment in view of the latest announcement of the British Government. The announcement of June 3 had made it clear that full independence, in the form of Dominion Status, would be conferred on India as from August 15, 1947. After examining the implications of partition the sub-committee thought that the question of making changes in the Objectives Resolution could appropriately be considered only when effect had actually been given to the June 3 Plan. Later on July 12, 1947, the special sub-committee again postponed consideration of the matter. The Union Constitution Committee provisionally accepted the Preamble as drafted by B.N. Rao and reproduced it in its report of July 4, 1947 without any change, with the tacit recognition at that stage that the Preamble would be finally based on the Objectives Resolution. In a statement circulated to members of the Assembly on July 18, 1947 Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru inter alia, observed that the Preamble was covered more or less by the Objectives Resolution which it was intended to incorporate in the final Constitution, subject to some modification on account of the political changes resulting from partition. (327 words)

(Extracted with edits and revision from B Shiva Rao's-Framing of India's Constitution)

19. According to the passage, the relationship between the Constitution and the Preamble can best be described as:
- (A) The Preamble was drafted in isolation
 - (B) The Constitution and the Preamble were framed independent of each other
 - (C) Both the Constitution and the Preamble were shaped in light of each other
 - (D) The Preamble had no relevance to the Constitution



20. What did the earliest draft of the Preamble emphasize?
- (A) Liberty, equality, and fraternity
 - (B) Sovereign, socialist, secular democratic republic
 - (C) Formal enactment by the people through representatives
 - (D) Unity and integrity of the nation
21. Which of the following is not enshrined in the Preamble of the Constitution of India?
- (A) Equality of status and of opportunity
 - (B) Liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship
 - (C) Justice –moral, ethical and legal
 - (D) Fraternity assuring the dignity of the individual
22. Which has been rightly arranged according to the Preamble of the Constitution of India-
- (A) Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic
 - (B) Sovereign Secular Socialist Democratic Republic
 - (C) Sovereign Socialist Democratic Secular Republic
 - (D) Secular, Socialist, Sovereign and Democratic Republic
23. The Preamble of the Constitution of India is finally based on:
- (A) The Objectives Resolution
 - (B) The Report of the Union Constitution Committee
 - (C) The June 3 plan of the British Government
 - (D) The Report of special Sub-committee of the Constituent Assembly
24. What was the role of Sir B. N. Rau in the making of the Indian Constitution?
- (A) Chairman of the Drafting Committee
 - (B) Constitutional Advisor to the Constituent Assembly
 - (C) President of the Constituent Assembly
 - (D) Member of the Union Powers Committee



- V. Good governance is only in the hands of good men. No doubt, what is good or bad is not for the court to decide: but the court can always indicate the constitutional ethos on goodness, good governance and purity in administration remind the constitutional functionaries to preserve, protect and promote the same. That ethos are the unwritten words in our Constitution. However, as the Constitution makers stated, there is a presumption that the Prime Minister/Chief Minister would be well advised and guided by such unwritten yet constitutional principles as well. According to Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, such things were only to be left to the good sense of the Prime Minister, and for that matter, the Chief Minister of State, since it was expected that the two great constitutional functionaries would not dare to do any infamous thing by inducting an otherwise unfit person to the Council of Ministers. It appears, over a period of time, at least in some cases, it was only a story of great expectations. Some of the instances pointed out in the writ petition indicate that Dr. Ambedkar and other great visionaries in the Constituent Assembly have been bailed out. Qualification has been wrongly understood as the mere absence of prescribed disqualification. Hence, it has become the bounden duty of the court to remind the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister of the State of their duty to act in accordance with the constitutional aspirations.

No doubt, it is not for the court to issue any direction to the Prime Minister or the Chief Minister, as the case may be, as to the manner in which they should exercise their power while selecting the colleagues in the Council of Ministers. That is the constitutional prerogative of those functionaries who are called upon to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution. But it is the prophetic duty of this Court to remind the key duty holders about their role in working the Constitution. Hence, I am of the firm view, that the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister of the State, who themselves have taken oath to bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India and to discharge their duties faithfully and conscientiously, will be well advised to consider avoiding any person in the Council of Ministers, against whom charges have been framed by a criminal court in respect of offences involving moral turpitude and also offences specifically referred to in Chapter III of The Representation of the People Act, 1951. (416 words)

[Extract from the Supreme Court Judgement Manoj Narula v. Union of India]

25. According to the passage, the Court cannot decide what is “good” or “bad” governance, but it can:
- (A) Disqualify Ministers from holding office
 - (B) Indicate constitutional ethos on governance and remind functionaries of their duty
 - (C) Frame rules on qualifications of Ministers
 - (D) Amend the Constitution to insert explicit standards of morality



26. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar believed that the working of the Constitution ultimately depends on:
- (A) The rigidity of the constitutional text
 - (B) The good sense and integrity of those who are going to administer this constitution
 - (C) The presence of a strong opposition
 - (D) Judicial intervention in governance
27. The Court, while respecting the prerogative of the Prime Minister and Chief Minister to select Ministers emphasized that:
- (A) They should avoid appointing persons against whom criminal charges involving moral turpitude are framed
 - (B) They must appoint Ministers strictly from the ruling party only
 - (C) They should consult the Supreme Court before finalizing appointments
 - (D) They are bound to appoint only members of the Lok Sabha/Legislative Assembly
28. What role does the Court assume, as described in the passage, regarding governance and appointments to the Council of Ministers?
- (A) Judicial review of all ministerial appointments
 - (B) Prophetic duty to remind key functionaries of their constitutional role
 - (C) Power to veto ministerial selections made by the Prime Minister
 - (D) Directing Parliament to amend the law on disqualification
29. Who are the constitutional functionaries, this passage primarily refers to?
- (A) Council of Ministers
 - (B) Prime Minister and Council of Ministers
 - (C) Chief Minister and Council of Ministers
 - (D) Prime Minister and Chief Minister
30. Who, according to the above passage shall not be appointed as a Minister?
- (A) Against whom charges have been framed in a court of law
 - (B) Against whom charges involving moral turpitude have been framed in a court of law
 - (C) Against whom charges have been proved in a court of law
 - (D) Against whom case is pending in a court of law



VI. The recent Supreme Court judgment in *State of Tamil Nadu v. Governor of Tamil Nadu* (2025) affirmed that a Governor cannot exercise an absolute or "pocket" veto on bills, holding that if assent is withheld, the bill must be returned to the legislature "as soon as possible" for reconsideration, with the Governor having no discretion to withhold assent again. The court established that inaction or indefinite delay is illegal and unconstitutional, prescribing timelines for the Governor's decision and even "deeming assent" on pending bills in the Tamil Nadu case, establishing a critical precedent for judicial review of gubernatorial powers. The Supreme Court explicitly rejected the Governor's power to an absolute or "pocket" veto, which allows for bills to be indefinitely delayed. If a Governor withholds assent to a bill, they are constitutionally obligated to return it to the State Assembly for reconsideration, according to the proviso in Article 200 of the Constitution. If the State Assembly re-enacts a bill after it has been returned by the Governor, the Governor has no choice but to give assent to it and cannot withhold it for a second time. The Court held that indefinitely delaying or remaining silent on bills is unconstitutional and that Governors must act "as soon as possible" on bills. The judgment expanded the scope of judicial review by setting timelines for the Governor's actions on bills, allowing state governments to approach courts if these timelines are breached. In the case of the Tamil Nadu, the Court used its powers under Article 142 to "deem assent" on the long-pending bills, which had the effect of making any subsequent decision by the President on those bills void. (276 words)

[Extracted with edits & revisions from "The Hindu", dated 8th April 2025]

31. The Legislative Assembly of State X passes a controversial bill and sends it to the Governor for assent. The Governor, strongly disagreeing with the bill's provisions, decides to neither give assent nor return the bill, hoping it will be forgotten over the time. Which of the following statements accurately describes the legal position of the Governor's action?
- (A) The Governor's action is a legitimate exercise of a "pocket veto", allowing for indefinite delay of bills
 - (B) The Governor's inaction is unconstitutional, as the Supreme Court has explicitly rejected the power to an absolute or "pocket" veto, and they are obligated to return the bill "as soon as possible" if assent is withheld
 - (C) The Governor is within their rights to delay the bill indefinitely as long as they do not explicitly reject it, reflecting the true spirit of gubernatorial discretion
 - (D) The bill will automatically lapse after six months of gubernatorial inaction, making the delay a *de facto rejection*



32. Governor Y receives a bill from the State Assembly and, after careful consideration, decides to withhold assent, promptly returning it with a message for reconsideration. The State Assembly then re-enacts the bill without any change and sends it back to Governor Y. What is the constitutional obligation of Governor Y at this point?
- (A) Governor Y has no choice but to give assent to the re-enacted bill, as the Supreme Court has ruled that the Governor cannot withhold assent for a second time
 - (B) Governor Y can again withhold assent if they continue to disagree with the bill's content, sending it back for further reconsideration
 - (C) Governor Y can refer the bill to the President of India for a final decision, exercising a higher discretionary power
 - (D) Governor Y can dissolve the State Assembly for consistently passing erroneous bills
33. After the Supreme Court's judgment in *State of Tamil Nadu v. Governor of Tamil Nadu* (2025), a State Governor holds a bill for eight months without taking any action—neither assenting nor returning it. The State Government believes that this delay is unconstitutional. Based on the precedent set by the judgment, what recourse is available to the State Government?
- (A) The State Government must wait for a full year before any action can be taken, as gubernatorial delays are typically permitted for this duration
 - (B) The bill automatically lapses after six months of inaction, making any further action by the State Government unnecessary
 - (C) The State Government's only recourse is to re-enact the bill, which would then compel the Governor to act
 - (D) The State Government can approach the courts, as the judgment had prescribed timelines for the Governor's actions on bills since indefinite delay was construed unconstitutional
34. In a situation mirroring the Tamil Nadu case, a Supreme Court bench is reviewing several instances where a particular Governor has indefinitely delayed assent on multiple bills passed by the State Assembly, despite Constitutional obligations. If the Supreme Court decides to follow the precedent established in *State of Tamil Nadu v. Governor of Tamil Nadu* (2025) regarding pending bills, what would be a likely outcome for these delayed bills?
- (A) The Supreme Court would order the Governor to explicitly reject all the delayed bills
 - (B) The Supreme Court would direct the State Assembly to conduct a public referendum on each delayed bill
 - (C) The Supreme Court could deem assent on the pending bills, establishing a critical precedent for judicial review of gubernatorial powers in such cases, as it did in the Tamil Nadu case
 - (D) The Supreme Court would advise the Governor to seek legal counsel and then re-evaluate each bill individually without a set timeline



35. A newly appointed Governor publicly declares that he intend to use his discretion to permanently halt any legislation he deems inappropriate, by simply not acting on the bills, citing an inherent gubernatorial power. How does this declaration align with the constitutional interpretation provided by the Supreme Court of India?
- (A) The Governor's declaration is consistent with the broad discretionary powers traditionally afforded to Governors, allowing them significant influence over state legislation
 - (B) The Governor's declaration is valid only for non-money bills, as money bills have different Constitutional protocols
 - (C) The Governor's declaration is partially valid, as indefinite delay is permissible only if the State Assembly is not in session
 - (D) The Governor's declaration is unconstitutional; the Supreme Court explicitly rejected the Governor's power to an absolute or "pocket" veto
36. What are the three primary courses of action for a Governor when a Bill is enacted by the State Assembly and sent to him/her for his/her assent. Which option correctly lists these three courses?
- (A) (i) Give assent, (ii) Veto absolutely, or (iii) Refer to the Supreme Court
 - (B) (i) Give assent, (ii) Withhold assent (allowing the Bill to fail, unless the proviso is followed), or (iii) Recommend amendments
 - (C) (i) Give assent, (ii) Withhold assent (with the option to return for reconsideration), or (iii) Reserve for the consideration of the President
 - (D) (i) Give assent, (ii) Return for reconsideration, or (iii) Refer to the Union Government
- VII. Same-sex marriage has no legal recognition in India as per the recent Supreme Court's judgment, where it was decided that this is an issue for Parliament to address. While Hindu marriages between transgender persons and cisgender men are permissible, and the Court acknowledged systemic discrimination and the right to choose a partner, it held that there is no fundamental right to marry. The government has been urged to form a panel to consider granting more legal rights to same-sex couples, but the legal status of marriage remains unchanged for now. The five-judge bench of the Supreme Court of India in *Supriyo @ Supriya Chakraborty & Anr. v. Union of India* (2023), in a majority verdict, ruled that there is no fundamental right to marry under the Indian Constitution, making it beyond the court's scope to legislate on same-sex marriage.



The Court stated that the power to legislate on same-sex marriage rests with the Parliament and state legislatures. The judgment affirmed constitutional rights for LGBTQ+ citizens and the right to choose a partner. The government agreed to set up a panel to explore legal rights and benefits for same-sex couples, though these benefits are not the same as those conferred by marriage. Same-sex couples cannot legally marry and do not receive the same legal rights, such as automatic inheritance, pension, or adoption rights, that legally married couples do. Despite the ruling, LGBTQ+ couples continue to face legal discrimination and have no social recognition of marriage. The Court affirmed the right of same-sex couples to cohabit privately. While the Supreme Court's verdict brought limited benefits and acknowledgments, it has not legalized same-sex marriage in India, deferring the ultimate decision to the Parliament. (279 words)

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from "The Hindu", dated 27th October 2023]

37. In October 2023, two individuals in India, Ramesh and Sameer, who identify as a same-sex couple, sought to legally solemnize their marriage. Based on the Supreme Court's ruling, what is the current legal standing of their ability to marry?
- (A) Their marriage is legally recognized nationwide under a new constitutional right
 - (B) Their marriage is not legally recognized, as the Supreme Court ruled that this issue is for Parliament to address
 - (C) Their marriage is recognized only if both of them identify as transgender
 - (D) Their marriage is temporarily recognized until Parliament decides otherwise
38. During a legal proceeding in India, an advocate argues that the Supreme Court should directly legislate on same-sex marriage because the right to choose a partner inherently implies a fundamental right to marry for all citizens. How would the Supreme Court's judgment likely to counter this argument?
- (A) The Court acknowledged the right to choose a partner, therefore it would agree to legislate on marriage
 - (B) The Court held that there is no fundamental right to marry under the Indian Constitution, and such a policy can be made only by the Parliament
 - (C) The Court has held that it will set up a panel to look into the fundamental right to marry
 - (D) The Court upheld the fundamental right to marry, but declined to recognise same sex marriage



39. Following the Supreme Court's decision, an LGBTQ+ advocacy group in India aims to achieve legal recognition for same-sex marriage. To which governmental body or bodies should this group primarily direct its lobbying efforts to secure the necessary legislation?
- (A) The Supreme Court of India, as they are ultimately responsible for interpreting constitutional rights
 - (B) The President of India as head of the Union legislature
 - (C) The Parliament and state legislatures, as the power to legislate on same-sex marriage rests with them
 - (D) The National Commission for Human Rights, to advocate for a new directive
40. While same-sex marriage is not legally recognized in India, however, the Supreme Court's verdict did offer some acknowledgments of rights for same-sex couples. Which of the following rights was specifically affirmed by the Court?
- (A) The automatic right to inheritance for same-sex partners
 - (B) The right of same-sex couples to adopt children jointly
 - (C) The right of same-sex couples to cohabit privately
 - (D) The right to maintenance for same-sex partners
41. Ramesh and Suresh, a same-sex couple in India, have lived together for a decade and want to ensure they receive legal benefits equivalent to those of married couples, such as automatic inheritance and pension rights. Based on the Supreme Court's judgment, what is the primary obstacle they face in achieving these benefits?
- (A) They must first register their union with the government panel that was urged to be formed
 - (B) They cannot legally marry and therefore cannot automatically be entitled to these specific legal rights
 - (C) These rights are only available to same-sex couples where one partner is transgender
 - (D) They can receive these benefits if they convert to a religion that recognizes same-sex unions
42. The new acronym that is evolved after LGBTQ+ is an acronym called LGBTQIA+. In this new acronym 'IA' refers to:
- (A) Intersex and Asexual
 - (B) Initialisms and Agender
 - (C) Intersex and Ally
 - (D) Intrasex and Androgynous



SECTION III

VIII. In a language laboratory, students were given an interesting puzzle involving the word **“ELECTROCARDIOGRAPH.”** The teacher explained that such exercises not only test logical skills but also sharpen attention to detail. According to the challenge, the word had to undergo a series of transformations. First, the class was asked to take the first half of the letters, reverse their order and make the arrangement of letters look quite different from the original. Next, the students were told to identify the last but one letter of the original word and place it at the very beginning, a step that changed the opening appearance of the sequence completely. Finally, as a finishing touch, they had to add the letter ‘S’ at the end. Following these steps carefully would lead them to the correct transformed word, and only those who adhered to each condition in the exact order could solve the puzzle successfully. (150 words)

43. Which letter will be exactly in the middle?
- (A) L
 - (B) R
 - (C) D
 - (D) E
44. How many vowels will be to the left of the middle letter?
- (A) 2
 - (B) 1
 - (C) 4
 - (D) 3
45. Which of the two vowels will be adjoining each other?
- (A) IE
 - (B) IO
 - (C) AE
 - (D) AO
46. Which vowel will have a consonant to the left but a vowel to the right of it?
- (A) I
 - (B) O
 - (C) A
 - (D) E



47. Name the letter sandwiched between two vowels?

- (A) R and T
- (B) C and L
- (C) R and L
- (D) D and R

48. Which letter is **prefixed** to the word after the first half is reversed?

- (A) G
- (B) P
- (C) H
- (D) S

IX. On the night of October 12th, the "Sunburst Medallion" was stolen from the highly secured display case in the city museum. The theft occurred sometime between the museum closing at 10:00 PM and the night guard, Mr. Hemant, completing his final round at 1:00 AM. Three primary suspects were identified, all of whom had recently been dismissed from their museum positions: Anjali, the former curator; Bharat, the former security expert; and Chitra, the former exhibits designer.

Here are the established facts and their alibis:

- * The security system logs show that the display case was opened using a specific five-digit code, which only Anjali and the museum director (who was out of the country) knew.
- * Bharat's alibi is that he was at a distant relative's birthday party from 8:00 PM to 1:30 AM. Multiple independent witnesses confirmed his presence throughout the entire period.
- * Chitra's alibi is that she was working late at a downtown graphic design studio. A time-stamped security camera from the studio's entrance shows her entering at 7:00 PM and exiting at 11:45 PM. The studio is a 20-minute drive from the museum.
- * Mr. Hemant, the night guard, stated he checked the medallion at 10:30 PM, and it was still there.

Further investigation revealed that a small, distinctive silver button was found near the display case. Anjali is known to frequently wear a coat with similar unique silver buttons. The security expert, Bharat, had previously boasted that he could remotely disable a certain type of magnetic lock-the same type used on the medallion's case-without needing the code, though the log suggests the code was used. (269 words)

49. Identifying the Most Likely Suspect

Based only on the fact that the five-digit code was used to open the display case, who is the only plausible suspect among the three?

- (A) Anjali
- (B) Bharat
- (C) Chitra
- (D) Both Anjali and Chitra



50. Evaluating Alibis and Time Constraints

The theft occurred between 10:00 PM and 1:00 AM, but the night guard saw the medallion at 10:30 PM. Given Chitra's alibi, what is the earliest time she could have reached the museum?

- (A) 11:45 PM
- (B) 12:05 AM
- (C) 12:45 AM
- (D) 10:50 PM

51. Deduction and Contradictory Evidence

If the theft was committed by Bharat, which established fact must be incorrect, based on the provided information?

- (A) The medallion was present at 10:30 PM
- (B) The security logs indicating the code was used
- (C) The museum closing time of 10:00 PM
- (D) The time frame of his alibi (8:00 PM to 1:30 AM)

52. Analyzing Accessory Evidence

The discovery of the silver button near the display case is the most incriminating evidence against which suspect, and why?

- (A) Bharat, because he had the technical expertise to get close to the case
- (B) Chitra, because she was near the museum late that night
- (C) Anjali, because she is known to wear a coat with similar buttons
- (D) Mr. Hemant, as he was the last person to check the area

53. Identifying the Logical Flaw in the Argument :

A detective argues: "Since Bharat has a confirmed, continuous alibi covering the entire time window of the theft (10:30 PM to 1:00 AM), he cannot be the thief." What principle of logic supports this detective's conclusion?

- (A) Correlation does not imply causation
- (B) If an event requires presence, confirmed absence proves innocence
- (C) The rule of double jeopardy
- (D) The burden of proof lies with the accuser



54. Drawing a Strongest Conclusion

Considering all the facts (the code being used, the silver button, and the confirmed alibis), which is the most reasonable inference?

- (A) Bharat must have had an accomplice who knew the code
- (B) Chitra's alibi is false because she had enough time to commit the crime after leaving the studio
- (C) Anjali is the most likely suspect because the code was used and she has a direct link to the physical evidence (the button)
- (D) Mr. Hemant is secretly the thief and is trying to frame the former employees

55. Assessing Necessary Conditions

What condition is necessary for Chitra to have stolen the medallion?

- (A) She must know the five digit code
- (B) She must have left the graphic design studio before 11.45 pm
- (C) The theft must have occurred after she left the studio and before 1 am
- (D) She must have worked with Anjali to disable the locks

X. In a small town lived a close-knit family where every relation could be expressed through simple symbols. For instance, when they said $A \times B$, it meant A is the father of B, while $A \div B$ meant A is the mother of B. The younger ones were often introduced with $A + B$, meaning A was the daughter of B, and the bond of brotherhood was shown by $A - B$ (A is brother of B). One day, the children in the family turned these symbols into a playful code. Instead of introducing their parents and siblings in words, they spoke only in symbols. "Look," giggled little Meena, " $M + N \div O$!" Everyone laughed, because they knew it meant Meena was the daughter of N, and N was the mother of O, making her O's sister. What started as a code soon became a family game, making the bonds of father, mother, daughter, and brother not just relations, but symbols of love and togetherness. (165 words)

56. If ' $P + Q - R \div T$ ', how is T related to P?

- (A) Aunt
- (B) Father
- (C) Grandmother
- (D) None of these



57. Which of the following means that R is wife of P?

- (A) $P \times R - Q - T$
- (B) $P \div T + R - Q$
- (C) $P \div R - Q + T$
- (D) $P \times T - Q + R$

58. If ' $P \times T \div Q + R$ ' how is R related to P?

- (A) Daughter
- (B) Husband
- (C) Son-in-law
- (D) None of these

59. If ' $P \div R - Q \times T$ ', how is P related to T?

- (A) Grandmother
- (B) Mother-in-law
- (C) Sister
- (D) Grandfather

60. If ' $R \div Q + R \times T$ ', how is T related to Q?

- (A) Aunt
- (B) Sister
- (C) Brother
- (D) Grandson

61. If ' $R - P \div J \times Q$ ', how is J related to R?

- (A) Son
- (B) Nephew
- (C) Niece
- (D) Grandson



- XI. Four teams – Red (R), Blue (B), Green (G), and Yellow (Y) – are competing in the final four rounds of the Inter-School Science Olympiad, labeled Round A, Round B, Round C, and Round D. Each round consists of one match between two teams, and every team plays exactly two matches. No team plays the same opponent more than once.

The final schedule must adhere to the following rules:

- * Rule 1 (Consecutive Play) : The Green team (G) must play their two matches in consecutive rounds.
- * Rule 2 (Fixed Appearance) : The Yellow team (Y) must play in Round B.
- * Rule 3 (Positional Constraint) : The Red team (R) must play against the Blue team (B) in a round that is immediately before a round in which neither R nor B is playing.
- * Rule 4 (Timing) : The Blue team's (B) first match must occur in an earlier round than the Green team's (G) first match.
- * Rule 5 (Opponent Link) : The team that plays against the Red team (R) in the round that is not against the Blue team (B), is the same team that plays in Round D.

(193 words)

62. Determining the Green Team's Schedule

Considering Rules 1 and 2, which of the following pairs of rounds contains the Green team's two matches?

- (A) Round A and Round D
- (B) Round B and Round C
- (C) Round C and Round D
- (D) Round A and Round B

63. Applying the Positional Constraint

Based on all the rules, particularly Rule 3, which of the following matches must be scheduled for Round A?

- (A) Red vs. Green
- (B) Red vs. Yellow
- (C) Red vs. Blue
- (D) Blue vs. Yellow

64. Identifying the Blue Team's First Opponent

Who is the Blue team's first opponent in the tournament?

- (A) Green
- (B) Red
- (C) Yellow
- (D) The opponent cannot be determined



65. Finding the Match in Round C

What is the match scheduled for Round C?

- (A) Red vs. Green
- (B) Green vs. Blue
- (C) Blue vs. Yellow
- (D) Red vs. Yellow

66. Identifying the Teams Excluded from a Round

Which pair of rounds contains matches where the Yellow team does not participate?

- (A) Round A and Round C
- (B) Round A and Round D
- (C) Round B and Round C
- (D) Round C and Round D

67. Team Opponent Check

Which team does the Yellow team NOT play against over the course of the four rounds?

- (A) Red
- (B) Blue
- (C) Green
- (D) The Yellow team plays against all other teams

68. Assessing a Rule Violation

If the match in Round D was (Blue vs. Yellow), which of the original rules would be violated by this schedule change?

- (A) Rule 1 (Consecutive Play)
- (B) Rule 3 (Positional Constraint)
- (C) Rule 4 (Timing)
- (D) Rule 5 (Opponent Link)



SECTION IV

XII. The adoption of the Non-Cooperation Movement by the Congress gave it a new energy and from January 1921 it began to register considerable success all over the country. Gandhiji undertook a nation-wide tour during which he addressed hundreds of meetings and met a large number of political workers. In the first month, thousands of students left their educational institutions and joined more than 800 national schools and colleges that had sprung up all over the country. Gandhiji had promised Swaraj within a year, if his programme was adopted.

The Non-Cooperation Movement demonstrated that it commanded the support and sympathy of vast sections of the Indian people. Its reach among many sections of Indian peasants, workers, artisans etc, had been demonstrated. The spatial spread of the movement was also nation-wide. Some areas were more active than others, but there were few that showed no signs of activity at all.

The capacity of the 'poor dumb millions' of India to take part in modern nationalist politics was also demonstrated. This was the first time that nationalists from the towns, students from schools and colleges or even the educated and politically aware in the villages had made a serious attempt to bring the ideology and the movement into their midst.

The tremendous participation of different communities in the movement, and the maintenance of communal unity, despite the Malabar developments, was in itself no mean achievement. There is hardly any doubt that it was minority participation that gave the movement its truly mass character in many areas. And it was, indeed, unfortunate that this most positive feature of the movement was not to be repeated in later years once communalism began to take its toll. [324 words]

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from India's Struggle for Independence 1857-1947, by Bipin Chandra and Others, Penguin Books, 1989.]

69. From the passage it is evident that:
- (A) The idea of Swaraj seemed futile
 - (B) The non-cooperation movement was a complete success
 - (C) The non-cooperation movement gained the sympathy of majority of the Indians
 - (D) The Indian National Congress represented microscopic minority
70. The term "poor dumb millions" refer to-
- (A) The vast number of common people who are impoverished
 - (B) Large number of common people who are hearing impaired
 - (C) Large number of people who are vulnerable
 - (D) The vast number of people who are impoverished and uneducated



71. Which of the statements is true?
- (A) The Swaraj movement happened before the non co-operation movement
 - (B) The non co-operation movement failed due to sudden withdrawal
 - (C) There was a fine show of communal unity in the movement
 - (D) The rich and the educated kept themselves away from the non co-operation movement
72. The main idea of the passage is-
- (A) The Non co-operation movement did not give impetus to the future movements
 - (B) The movement made the Indians realize their potential to fight against the mighty British
 - (C) The British became fearful and worried of Gandhiji's leadership and co-operation of Indians
 - (D) That the most positive feature of the movement was that it was repeated in later years
73. The word "Communalism" in the above passage refers to-
- (A) Religious identity
 - (B) Caste identity
 - (C) Regional identity
 - (D) Secularism

XIII. There were humans long before there was history. The archaic humans loved, played, formed close friendships and competed for status and power, but so did chimpanzees, baboons and elephants. There was nothing special about them.

Nobody, least of all humans themselves, had any inkling that their descendants would one day walk on the moon, split the atom, fathom the genetic code and write history books. The most important thing to know about prehistoric humans is that they were incognisant animals with no more impact on their environment than gorillas, fireflies or jellyfish.

Biologists classify organisms into species. Animals are said to belong to the same species if they tend to mate with each other, giving birth to fertile offspring. Horses and donkeys have a recent common ancestor and share many physical traits. They will mate if induced to do so - but their offspring, called mules, are sterile. Mutations in donkey DNA can therefore never cross over to horses, or vice versa. The two types of animals are consequently considered two distinct species, moving along separate evolutionary paths. By contrast, a bulldog and a spaniel may look very different, but they are members of the same species, sharing the same DNA pool. [203 words]

(Extracted from Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind by Yuval Noah Harari)

74. Which of the following can be inferred as the most significant characteristic of prehistoric humans, as per the passage?
- (A) Their conscious effort to alter and shape their environment for survival
 - (B) Their complex social organization and clear hierarchical structures that set them apart from other species
 - (C) Their evolutionary divergence was marked by warfare and the pursuit of dominance over rival species
 - (D) Their inability to distinguish themselves from other species in terms of environmental impact



75. In the context of the passage, the term ‘incognisant’ most likely means:
- (A) Lacking intelligence
 - (B) Unaware of their future potential
 - (C) Incapable of social interaction
 - (D) Disinterested in the environment
76. Which of the following best explains why humans did not initially stand out among other organisms?
- (A) They had fewer offspring than other species
 - (B) Their behaviours were not unique compared to other animals
 - (C) They did not yet evolve the ability to use tools
 - (D) They lacked the genetic capacity to develop language
77. According to the passage, what determines whether two animals belong to the same species?
- (A) Their ability to produce fertile offspring
 - (B) Their physical appearance and size
 - (C) Their shared evolutionary ancestor
 - (D) Their capacity to adapt to the environment
78. The passage explains the concept of species classification by
- (A) Highlighting the behavioural differences between species like horses, donkeys, bulldogs and spaniels
 - (B) Focusing on the DNA pool they share
 - (C) Contrasting horses and bulldogs with donkeys and spaniels to explain reproductive compatibility
 - (D) Discussing the environmental impact of different species like horses and donkeys, and bulldogs and spaniels



XIV. In 1973, only 45 of the world's 151 countries were counted as 'free' by Freedom House, a nongovernmental organization that produces quantitative measures of civil and political rights for countries around the world. The following generation saw momentous political change, with democracies and market-oriented economies spreading in virtually every part of the world except for the Arab Middle East. This transformation was Samuel Huntington's third wave of democratization; liberal democracy as the default form of government became part of the accepted political landscape at the beginning of the twenty-first century.

Underlying these changes in political systems was a massive social transformation as well. The shift to democracy was a result of millions of formerly passive individuals around the world organizing themselves and participating in the political life of their societies. This social mobilization was driven by a host of factors: greatly expanded access to education that made people more aware of themselves and the political world around them; information technology, which facilitated the rapid spread of ideas and knowledge; cheap travel and communications that allowed people to vote with their feet if they didn't like their government; and greater prosperity, which induced people to demand better protection of their rights.

The third wave crested after the late 1990s, however, a 'democratic recession' emerged in the first decade of the twenty-first century. Approximately one in five countries that had been part of the third wave either reverted to authoritarianism or saw a significant erosion of democratic institutions. Freedom house noted that 2009 marked the fourth consecutive year in which freedom had declined around the world, the first time this had happened since it established its measures of freedom in 1973. [279 words]

(Extracted from The Origins of Political Order by Francis Fukuyama)

79. Which of the following aspects is most critical in understanding Freedom House's evaluation process?
- (A) The methodology by which it quantifies the relative freedoms in different political systems
 - (B) Its emphasis on electoral participation and voter turnout in measuring democracy
 - (C) Its role in advising governments on democratic reforms based on its rankings
 - (D) Its primary focus on economic disparities within democracies
80. What does the phrase 'vote with their feet' imply in the context of the passage?
- (A) Engaging in electoral processes to demand political change
 - (B) Demonstrating political preferences through public protests
 - (C) Migrating to countries with better governance or conditions
 - (D) Participating in local government initiatives and reforms
81. The term 'third wave of democratization' as used in the passage refers to:
- (A) The rise of communism in Eastern Europe
 - (B) The spread of democracy and market-oriented economies
 - (C) The decline of authoritarian regimes in the 1960s
 - (D) The global movement for civil rights



82. Which of the following was not mentioned as a factor contributing to social mobilization and the shift to democracy?
- (A) Increased access to education
 - (B) Expanding information technology
 - (C) Heightened global military presence
 - (D) Greater prosperity
83. According to this passage, when was the first time the freedom had declined around the world
- (A) 1973
 - (B) 1990
 - (C) 2006
 - (D) 2009

XV. My kinsman and I were returning to Calcutta from our Puja trip when we encountered an unusual man on the train. At first, judging from his dress and bearing, we mistook him for an up-country boorish man. But as soon as he began to speak, our impression changed. He discoursed on every subject with such confidence that one might think the ‘Disposer of All Things’ sought his counsel in every decision. Until then, we had been perfectly content, unaware of hidden forces shaping the world—that the Russians were advancing, that the English were pursuing secret policies, and that confusion among native chiefs had reached its peak. Our new acquaintance, however, hinted at such matters with a sly smile, remarking:

“There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are reported in your newspapers.”

Having never before travelled beyond our homes, we were struck dumb with wonder at his manner. No matter how trivial the topic, he could quote science, comment on the Vedas, or recite quatrains from Persian poets. Since we possessed no real knowledge of science, the Vedas, or Persian literature, our admiration for him only grew. My kinsman, a theosophist, became convinced that our fellow passenger was inspired by some strange magnetism, occult power, or astral body. He listened with devotional rapture even to the most common place remarks and secretly noted down his words. I suspect our extraordinary companion noticed this and was quietly pleased. When the train reached the junction, we gathered in the waiting room to await our connection. It was 10 p.m., and as the train was expected to be delayed owing to some fault in the lines, I spread my bed on the table and prepared to sleep. But just then, the extraordinary man began spinning a tale, and of course, I could not close my eyes all night. (307 words)

[Extracted with edits from Rabindranath Tagore’s “The Hungry Stones”]

84. The narrator and his kinsman’s initial impression of the “unusual man” highlights which theme most strongly?
- (A) The deceptive nature of appearances
 - (B) The superiority of Western education
 - (C) The danger of blind faith
 - (D) The reliability of cultural stereotypes



85. Which literary device is most evident in the narrator's line: "*one might think the Disposer of All Things sought his counsel in every decision*"?
- (A) Irony
 - (B) Euphemism
 - (C) Allegory
 - (D) Hyperbole
86. The word "theosophist" means:
- (A) Skeptic
 - (B) Mystic
 - (C) Agnostic
 - (D) Materialist
87. The word "Boorish" mean:
- (A) Discourteous
 - (B) Genteel
 - (C) Well-bred
 - (D) Courtly
88. The narrator's suspicion that the extraordinary man was "quietly pleased" suggests:
- (A) The man was genuinely humble and embarrassed by the attention
 - (B) The man wished to avoid any recognition of his authority
 - (C) The man was indifferent to how others perceived him
 - (D) The man derived satisfaction from impressing and influencing others

XVI. Man is the only creature that consumes without producing. He does not give milk, he does not lay eggs, he is too weak to pull the plough, and he cannot run fast enough to catch rabbits. Yet he claims dominion over all animals. He sets us to work, returns only the bare minimum to keep us from starving, and keeps the rest for himself. Our labour tills the soil, our dung fertilizes it, and still, not one of us owns more than our bare skin. You cows, look at yourselves—how many thousands of gallons of milk have you produced this past year? And what has become of it, milk that should have nurtured strong calves? Every drop has gone down the throats of our enemies. And you hens, how many eggs have you laid, and how many of those ever hatched into chicks? The rest have gone to market to bring in money for Jones and his men. And you, Clover, where are the four foals you bore, who should have supported and comforted you in your old age? Each was sold at just a year old—you will never see them again. For all your labour in the fields and your four confinements, what have you gained except bare rations and a stall?



Even the lives we do live are cut short, denied their natural span. I do not grumble, for I am among the fortunate. I am twelve years old and have borne over four hundred children. Such is the natural life of a pig. But no animal escapes the cruel knife in the end. You young porkers sitting before me, each of you will scream your lives out at the block within a year. This is the fate that awaits all of us—cows, pigs, hens, sheep, everyone. Even horses and dogs share no better end. Boxer, the very day your great muscles fail you, Jones will sell you to the knacker, who will slit your throat and boil you down for the foxhounds. And the dogs, when old and toothless, are tied with a brick and drowned in the nearest pond. (356 words)

[*Extracted with edits from George Orwell's "Animal Farm"*]

89. Which of the following best describes the tone of the passage?
- (A) Detached and neutral
 - (B) Critical, somber, and resentful, evoking both awareness and outrage
 - (C) Humorous and light-hearted
 - (D) Admiring and celebratory
90. The speaker frequently contrasts animals' work with human gain. This literary technique is best classified as:
- (A) Allegory of class exploitation
 - (B) Hyperbole for comic effect
 - (C) Irony about farm management
 - (D) Metaphor for animal biology
91. Who is 'knacker'?
- (A) A slaughterer
 - (B) A trader whose business is disposal of dead and unwanted animals
 - (C) A person whose business is disposal of dead or unwanted animals especially those whose flesh is not fit for human consumption
 - (D) Harness-maker
92. The repeated reference to slaughter, drowning, and the knacker in the passage primarily implies to:
- (A) Provide a detailed account of animal husbandry
 - (B) Evoke emotional outrage and highlight the brutality of exploitation
 - (C) Suggest that animals are naturally subservient
 - (D) Indicate that humans value animals



SECTION V

XVII. US president Donald trump has landed a triple whammy on India by torpedoing the H-1B visa programme, days after revoking sanctions waiver on Chabahar port in Iran and weeks after imposing a 50% tariff on Indian exports to the US. The White House also maintained a conspicuous silence on the Pakistan-Saudi Arabia mutual defence treaty amid reports that neither country informed Washington of the pact, suggesting a growing US indifference to India's concerns. The triple blow has shaken US-India ties to the foundation, mystifying experts who expected a reset after an exchange of friendly messages between Modi and Trump. While some observers see in the crackdown on H-1B a pressure tactic to make India bend on the trade deal, sources familiar with the dynamics of the current White House say the two issues are unrelated and Trump was convinced of the need to "reform" the guest worker visa programme ever since MAGA hardliners persuaded him that American workers were being gamed out of jobs by foreign companies and US big tech acting in tandem. (174 words)

[Extracted from the newspaper, *The Times of India*, September 21, 2025]

93. What percentage tariff did President Trump initially impose on Indian imports in 2025?
- (A) 15% (B) 25%
(C) 40% (D) 50%
94. What strategic reason did Donald Trump cite for penalizing India with additional tariffs apart from trade imbalances?
- (A) India's IT service exports
(B) Indian Banknote Demonetization
(C) India's immigration policies
(D) India's defense and energy ties with Russia
95. What is the strategic significance of Chabahar Port for India?
- (A) Provides trade access to China through Pakistan
(B) Acts as counterbalance to China's presence in nearby Gwadar Port, Pakistan
(C) Serves as the primary naval base for India
(D) Connects India directly to the Mediterranean Sea
96. What is the primary purpose of the H-1B Visa?
- (A) Exchange Visitor Visa
(B) Employment Visa
(C) Immigrant visa for permanent residence in the U.S.
(D) Non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to hire foreign professionals in specialized field



97. The acronym 'MAGA' mentioned in the above passage refers to:

- (A) Multilateral Agencies Global Association
- (B) Make America Great Again
- (C) Mutual Agreements for Global Advantage
- (D) Monetary Advantage For Great America

XVIII. Indian Chess recorded yet another great moment on Monday; as Divya Deshmukh won the Women's World Cup in Georgian city of Batumi. In the final, the 19-year-old defeated fellow-Indian Koneru Humpy in the tiebreakers. While Humpy contesting the final wasn't much of a surprise-she is the World No. 5 and has been one of the best female players for the last couple of decades-not many would have anticipated Divya's stunning show. But, given her obvious talent and the way she has been playing for the past two years, it didn't come as a big surprise. By winning the World Cup, one of the biggest events organized by the world chess governing body FIDE, Divya also achieved another significant milestone. She became India's 88th Grandmaster and is only the fourth Indian Woman after Humpy, D. Harika and R. Vaishali to get that coveted title. Last year, Divya won the World junior championship in Ahmedabad with a dominant display. She also played a key role in India's historic gold in the Chess Olympiad at Budapest. India was the top seed there, though. At the World Cup, the Indian women exceeded expectations, with four of them making it to the quarterfinals. (198 words)

[Extracted from the newspaper, *The Hindu* July 29, 2025]

98. Where is the origin of chess believed to be?

- (A) China
- (B) Russia
- (C) India
- (D) Egypt

99. Who was the first Indian to earn the title of chess Grandmaster ?

- (A) D. Gukesh
- (B) Praveen Thipsay
- (C) Dibyendu Barua
- (D) Vishwanathan Anand

100. Who was the first official World Chess Champion?

- (A) Bobby Fischer
- (B) Gary Kasparov
- (C) Vishwanathan Anand
- (D) Wilhelm Steinitz



101. Which of the following computers successfully defeated Garry Kasparov, the reigning world chess champion, in a tournament match?
- (A) Deep AI
 - (B) Deep Thought
 - (C) Deep Blue
 - (D) Deep Water
102. Which of the following cities is the venue for hosting the 11th edition of Chess World Cup 2025?
- (A) Paris, France
 - (B) Baku, Azerbaijan
 - (C) Goa, India
 - (D) Chennai, India

XIX. I rise to apprise this august House of the foreign policy dimension of our response to the Pahalgam terrorist attack, going into the preparations for Operation Sindoor and how foreign policy was handled during Operation Sindoor. As all the honourable members would appreciate, it was important to send a clear, strong and resolute message after the Pahalgam attack. Our red lines had been crossed and we had to make it very apparent that there would be serious consequences. As a result, the first step which was taken was that a meeting of the Cabinet Committee of Security took place on the 23rd of April, and that meeting decided that:

- One, the Indus Water Treaty of 1960 will be held in abeyance with immediate effect until Pakistan credibly and irrevocably abjures its support for cross-border terrorism.
- Two, the integrated checkpoint Attari would be closed with immediate effect.
- Three, Pakistani nationals who were traveling under SAARC visa exemption scheme would no longer be allowed to do that.
- Four, the Defence, Naval and Air Advisors of the Pakistani High Commission would be declared persona non-grata and,
- Five, the overall strength of the High Commission would be brought down to 30 from the number of 55. (207 words)

(Excerpts from Statement made by Minister of External Affairs Dr. S Jaishankar on special discussion in Lok Sabha on Operation Sindoor dated 28th Jul 2025)

103. Where is Pahalgam situated in India?
- (A) Punjab
 - (B) Himachal Pradesh
 - (C) Jammu & Kashmir
 - (D) Uttarakhand



104. The Checkpost Attari is located in
- (A) Near Amritsar Punjab
 - (B) Near Baramulla in Jammu & Kashmir
 - (C) Near Kutch in Gujrat
 - (D) Near Barmer in Rajasthan
105. Which amongst the following is not a SAARC Nation?
- (A) Afghanistan
 - (B) Maldives
 - (C) Mauritius
 - (D) Bangladesh
106. Expression '*Persona Non Grata*' means:
- (A) An ungrateful person
 - (B) An unwelcome person
 - (C) An untrustworthy person
 - (D) A displaced person
107. The Indus Water Treaty signed in 1960 between India and Pakistan was facilitated by:
- (A) The United Nations General Assembly
 - (B) The United Nations Security Council
 - (C) The World Bank
 - (D) The permanent Indus Commission
108. Which amongst the following is not a tributary of River Indus?
- (A) Ravi
 - (B) Jhelum
 - (C) Tapti
 - (D) Chenab



XX. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi participated in the 25th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), held in Tianjin, China, from 31 August to 1 September 2025. The Summit witnessed productive discussions on SCO Development Strategy, Reform of Global Governance, Counter-Terrorism, Peace and Security, Economic and Financial Cooperation, and Sustainable Development.

Addressing the Summit, Prime Minister highlighted India's approach to strengthening cooperation under the SCO framework. In this regard, he noted that India seeks greater action under three pillars – Security, Connectivity and Opportunity. Emphasising that peace, security and stability remain key to progress and prosperity, he called upon member countries to take firm and decisive action to fight terrorism in all its manifestations. Prime Minister underlined the need for coordinated action against terror financing and radicalization. Thanking member countries for their strong solidarity in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack, he emphasized that there should be no double standards in dealing with terrorism and urged the group to hold countries who perpetrate and support cross-border terrorism accountable.

Highlighting the role of connectivity in fostering development and building trust, Prime Minister stated that India strongly supported projects such as Chabahar port and International North-South Transport Corridor. He also spoke about opportunities in the fields of start-ups, innovation, youth empowerment and shared heritage, which must be pursued under the SCO umbrella. Prime Minister proposed commencing a Civilizational Dialogue Forum within the group to foster greater people-to-people ties and cultural understanding. (246 words)

(Excerpts from the Press release issued by Press Information Bureau Govt of India, dated 1st September 2025)

109. The civilizational dialogue forum (CDF) proposed by the Prime Minister of India at the 25th Meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organization, is intended to promote
- (A) Peace and security
 - (B) Sustainable development
 - (C) Reform of Global governance
 - (D) Cultural Understanding



110. The next Presidency of SCO is taken over by:
- (A) Kyrgyzstan
 - (B) Tajikistan
 - (C) Uzbekistan
 - (D) Kazakhstan
111. Prime Minister of India stated that India strongly supported projects such as Chabahar port. Where is this port located?
- (A) Oman
 - (B) Iran
 - (C) Afghanistan
 - (D) Saudi Arabia
112. Which of the following countries is not a member of SCO?
- (A) Belarus
 - (B) Iran
 - (C) Pakistan
 - (D) Myanmar
113. The Secretariat of SCO is located in:
- (A) Beijing, China
 - (B) Tianjin, China
 - (C) Shanghai, China
 - (D) Wuhan, China
114. At the conclusion of 25th SCO summit, the member countries adopted the:
- (A) Beijing Declaration
 - (B) Tianjin Declaration
 - (C) Shanghai Declaration
 - (D) Wuhan Declaration



XXI. Air India stands in solidarity with the families and those affected by the AI-171 accident.

We continue to mourn their loss and remain fully committed to providing support during this difficult time. Over a month ago, Air India started releasing interim payment of Rs 25 lakh to the affected families, to help them meet their immediate financial needs. The interim payment will be adjusted against any final compensation.

Air India has, so far, released the interim compensation to the families of 147 of the 229 deceased passengers and also the 19 who lost their lives at the accident site. In addition, the requisite documents of 52 others have been verified, to whose families the interim compensation will be released progressively. The Tata Group has also registered 'The AI-171 Memorial and Welfare Trust', dedicated to the victims of the unfortunate accident. The Trust has pledged an ex-gratia payment of Rs 1 crore in respect of each of the deceased, and support for rebuilding the B.J. Medical College Hostel infrastructure, which was damaged in the accident.

The Trust will also provide aid and assistance for alleviation of any trauma or distress suffered by the first responders, medical and disaster relief professionals, social workers, and governmental staff who provided invaluable institutional support and service in the aftermath of the accident. (217 words)

(Excerpts from the Press Release published by Air India, on July 26, 2025)

115. Air India flight AI-171 was operating from Ahmedabad to:

- (A) London Gatwick airport
- (B) Heathrow Airport
- (C) London Luton Airport
- (D) London Stansted Airport

116. Who is the Minister of Civil Aviation of India?

- (A) Shri Piyush Goyal
- (B) Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia
- (C) Shri Ram Mohan Naidu
- (D) Shri Prafulla Patel



117. 'The AI-171 Memorial and Welfare Trust' is registered by Tata Group as a public charitable trust in:
- (A) Ahmedabad
 - (B) Gandhinagar
 - (C) Mumbai
 - (D) Delhi
118. The sole survivor of 'The Air India flight AI-171 accident is:
- (A) British National of Indian Origin
 - (B) Canadian National of Indian origin
 - (C) Portuguese National of Indian Origin
 - (D) Indian National
119. The agency that probes the fatal crash of AI-171 is:
- (A) DGCA
 - (B) AAI
 - (C) AAIB
 - (D) FIP
120. The Air India flight AI-171 was:
- (A) Boeing 737-800 aircraft
 - (B) Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner
 - (C) Boeing 737 Max aircraft
 - (D) Boeing Next Generation 737
-



SPACE FOR ROUGH WORK



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COMMON LAW ADMISSION TEST (CLAT) 2026

Sunday, December 7, 2025, 02:00 P.M. – 04:00 P.M

APPENDIX II: PROVISIONAL ANSWER KEY FOR THE QUESTION BOOKLET

WITH SYMBOL (⚙) -SET A: CLAT 2026-UNDERGRADUATE

Q. No.	Correct Answer Option	Q. No.	Correct Answer Option	Q. No.	Correct Answer Option
1	C	41	D	81	B
2	D	42	A	82	A
3	C	43	B	83	D
4	B	44	D	84	D
5	A	45	A	85	B
6	D	46	B	86	A
7	B	47	A	87	B
8	B	48	C	88	B
9	A	49	C	89	A
10	B	50	A	90	B
11	A	51	C	91	D
12	C	52	B	92	C
13	B	53	B	93	B
14	C	54	A	94	C
15	C	55	B	95	C
16	A	56	A	96	D
17	D	57	D	97	D
18	B	58	C	98	C
19	A	59	C	99	A
20	D	60	C	100	Withdrawn
21	B	61	C	101	B
22	A	62	A	102	B
23	C	63	A	103	C
24	B	64	B	104	B
25	B	65	B	105	B
26	D	66	B	106	A
27	B	67	A	107	B
28	D	68	B	108	D
29	B	69	D	109	B
30	C	70	B	110	B
31	D	71	B	111	A
32	D	72	A	112	C



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33	C	73	D	113	C
34	C	74	C	114	C
35	C	75	D	115	C
36	A	76	C	116	C
37	C	77	B	117	D
38	B	78	B	118	C
39	C	79	C	119	B
40	C	80	C	120	A

Question Number 100 of Symbol (⚙) -SET A has been withdrawn. The final answer key will be released, and the results will be calculated based on 119 questions for now.



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Sunday, December 7, 2025, 02:00 P.M. – 04:00 P.M

APPENDIX II: PROVISIONAL ANSWER KEY FOR THE QUESTION BOOKLET

WITH SYMBOL (⌘) -SET B: CLAT 2026-UNDERGRADUATE

Q. No.	Correct Answer Option	Q. No.	Correct Answer Option	Q. No.	Correct Answer Option
1	B	41	C	81	A
2	D	42	D	82	C
3	B	43	D	83	C
4	D	44	C	84	C
5	B	45	A	85	C
6	C	46	Withdrawn	86	C
7	D	47	B	87	D
8	D	48	B	88	C
9	C	49	C	89	B
10	C	50	B	90	A
11	C	51	B	91	B
12	A	52	A	92	A
13	C	53	B	93	B
14	B	54	D	94	A
15	C	55	C	95	D
16	C	56	D	96	C
17	D	57	C	97	C
18	A	58	B	98	C
19	B	59	A	99	C
20	D	60	D	100	A
21	A	61	B	101	A
22	B	62	B	102	B
23	A	63	A	103	B
24	C	64	B	104	B
25	C	65	A	105	A
26	A	66	C	106	B
27	C	67	B	107	D
28	B	68	C	108	B
29	D	69	C	109	B
30	D	70	A	110	A
31	B	71	D	111	D
32	A	72	B	112	C



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33	B	73	A	113	D
34	B	74	D	114	C
35	A	75	B	115	B
36	B	76	A	116	B
37	D	77	C	117	C
38	C	78	B	118	C
39	B	79	B	119	B
40	C	80	B	120	A

Question Number 46 of Symbol (~~38~~) -SET B has been withdrawn. The final answer key will be released, and the results will be calculated based on 119 questions for now.



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Reg. No: DRB1/SOR/707/2018-2019.

NATIONAL LAW SCHOOL OF INDIA UNIVERSITY

Post Bag No.7201, Nagarbhavi, Bengaluru-560072 Karnataka, India

COMMON LAW ADMISSION TEST (CLAT) 2026

Sunday, December 7, 2025, 02:00 P.M. – 04:00 P.M

APPENDIX II: PROVISIONAL ANSWER KEY FOR THE QUESTION BOOKLET

WITH SYMBOL (❖) -SET C: CLAT 2026-UNDERGRADUATE

Q. No.	Correct Answer Option	Q. No.	Correct Answer Option	Q. No.	Correct Answer Option
1	D	41	B	81	A
2	D	42	D	82	B
3	B	43	B	83	D
4	A	44	C	84	B
5	B	45	D	85	B
6	B	46	D	86	A
7	A	47	C	87	D
8	B	48	C	88	C
9	D	49	C	89	D
10	C	50	A	90	C
11	B	51	C	91	B
12	C	52	B	92	B
13	C	53	C	93	C
14	D	54	C	94	C
15	D	55	D	95	B
16	C	56	A	96	A
17	A	57	B	97	C
18	Withdrawn	58	D	98	D
19	B	59	A	99	C
20	B	60	B	100	B
21	C	61	A	101	A
22	B	62	C	102	D
23	B	63	C	103	B
24	A	64	A	104	B
25	B	65	C	105	A
26	D	66	B	106	B
27	B	67	B	107	A
28	B	68	A	108	C
29	A	69	B	109	B
30	C	70	A	110	C
31	C	71	D	111	C
32	C	72	C	112	A



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33	C	73	C	113	D
34	C	74	C	114	B
35	D	75	C	115	A
36	C	76	A	116	D
37	B	77	A	117	B
38	A	78	B	118	A
39	B	79	B	119	C
40	D	80	B	120	B

Question Number 18 of Symbol (❖) -SET C has been withdrawn. The final answer key will be released, and the results will be calculated based on 119 questions for now.



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Sunday, December 7, 2025, 02:00 P.M. – 04:00 P.M

APPENDIX II: PROVISIONAL ANSWER KEY FOR THE QUESTION BOOKLET

WITH SYMBOL (*) -SET D: CLAT 2026-UNDERGRADUATE

Q. No.	Correct Answer Option	Q. No.	Correct Answer Option	Q. No.	Correct Answer Option
1	B	41	B	81	B
2	B	42	A	82	C
3	A	43	D	83	C
4	C	44	D	84	A
5	C	45	B	85	D
6	C	46	A	86	B
7	C	47	B	87	A
8	C	48	B	88	D
9	D	49	A	89	B
10	C	50	B	90	A
11	B	51	D	91	C
12	A	52	C	92	B
13	B	53	B	93	B
14	A	54	C	94	D
15	B	55	C	95	B
16	A	56	D	96	D
17	D	57	D	97	B
18	C	58	C	98	C
19	C	59	A	99	D
20	C	60	Withdrawn	100	D
21	C	61	B	101	C
22	A	62	B	102	C
23	A	63	C	103	C
24	B	64	B	104	A
25	B	65	B	105	C
26	B	66	A	106	B
27	A	67	B	107	C
28	B	68	D	108	C
29	D	69	C	109	D
30	B	70	D	110	A
31	B	71	C	111	B
32	A	72	B	112	D



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Sunday, December 7, 2025, 02:00 P.M. – 04:00 P.M

33	D	73	A	113	A
34	C	74	D	114	B
35	D	75	B	115	A
36	C	76	B	116	C
37	B	77	A	117	C
38	B	78	B	118	A
39	C	79	A	119	C
40	C	80	C	120	B

Question Number 60 of Symbol (✱) -SET D has been withdrawn. The final answer key will be released, and the results will be calculated based on 119 questions for now.



PG 2026

QUESTION BOOKLET NO.

1. **Name of the Candidate :**

2. **Admit Card Number :**

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Duration of the Test : 2 hours (120 minutes) *

Maximum Marks : 120

1. This Question Booklet (QB) contains 120 (One hundred and Twenty) Multiple Choice Questions across 48 (Forty Eight) pages including 2 (Two) blank pages for rough work. No additional sheet(s) of paper will be supplied for rough work.
2. You have to answer ALL questions in the separate carbonised Optical Mark Reader (OMR) Response Sheet supplied along with this QB. You must READ the detailed instructions provided with the OMR Response Sheet on the reverse side of this packet BEFORE you start the test.
3. No clarification can be sought on the QB from anyone. In case of any discrepancy such as printing error or missing pages, in the QB, request the Invigilator to replace the QB and OMR Response Sheet. Do not use the previous OMR Response sheet with the fresh QB.
4. You should write the QB Number, and the OMR Response Sheet Number, and sign in the space/column provided in the Attendance Sheet.
5. The QB for the Post Graduate Programme is for 120 marks. Every **Right Answer** secures 1 mark. Every **Wrong Answer** results in the deduction of 0.25 mark. There shall be no deductions for Unanswered Questions.
6. You may retain the QB and the Candidate's copy of the OMR Response Sheet after the end of the test.
7. The use of any unfair means shall result in your disqualification. Possession of Electronic Devices such as mobile phones, headphones, digital watches, etc., is/are strictly prohibited in the test premises. Impersonation or any other unlawful practice will lead to your disqualification and possibly, appropriate action under the law.

DO NOT OPEN TILL 2 P.M.

*** Except for PWD Candidates who are eligible for extra time as per the law.**





I. During Bentham’s lifetime, revolutions occurred in the American colonies and in France, producing the Bill of Rights and the *Déclaration des Droits de l’Homme* (Declaration of the Rights of Man), both of which were based on liberty, equality, and self-determination. Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels published *The Communist Manifesto* in 1848. Revolutionary movements broke out that year in France, Italy, Austria, Poland, and elsewhere. In addition, the Industrial Revolution transformed Great Britain and eventually the rest of Europe from an agrarian (farm-based) society into an industrial one, in which steam and coal increased manufacturing production dramatically, changing the nature of work, property ownership, and family. This period also included advances in chemistry, astronomy, navigation, human anatomy, and immunology, among other sciences.

Given this historical context, it is understandable that Bentham used reason and science to explain human behaviour. His ethical system was an attempt to quantify happiness and the good so they would meet the conditions of the scientific method. Ethics had to be empirical, quantifiable, verifiable, and reproducible across time and space. Just as science was beginning to understand the workings of cause and effect in the body, so ethics would explain the causal relationships of the mind. Bentham rejected religious authority and wrote a rebuttal to the Declaration of Independence in which he railed against natural rights as “rhetorical nonsense, nonsense upon stilts.” Instead, the fundamental unit of human action for him was utility—solid, certain, and factual.

What is utility? Bentham’s fundamental axiom, which underlies utilitarianism, was that all social morals and government legislation should aim for producing the greatest happiness for the greatest number of people. Utilitarianism, therefore, emphasizes the consequences or ultimate purpose of an act rather than the character of the actor, the actor’s motivation, or the particular circumstances surrounding the act. It has these characteristics: (1) universality, because it applies to all acts of human behaviour, even those that appear to be done from altruistic motives; (2) objectivity, meaning it operates beyond individual thought, desire, and perspective; (3) rationality, because it is not based in metaphysics or theology; and (4) quantifiability in its reliance on utility. (353 words)

(Extracted from Michael Quinn, “Jeremy Bentham, ‘The Psychology of Economic Man,’ and Behavioural Economics,” Oeconomia 6, no. 1 (2016): 3–32)

1. According to the text, what did Bentham consider the fundamental unit of human action, replacing concepts like natural rights?
- (A) Liberty (B) Self-determination
(C) Utility (D) Happiness for the greatest number



2. Which of the following is identified as Bentham's fundamental axiom underlying utilitarianism?
 - (A) Ethics must be empirical, quantifiable, and reproducible.
 - (B) Utility must be used to reject religious authority.
 - (C) All social morals and government legislation should aim for producing the greatest happiness for the greatest number of people.
 - (D) The character of the actor is the most important aspect of an ethical act.

3. Utilitarianism, as described in the text, emphasizes which aspect of an act over the others listed?
 - (A) The character of the actor
 - (B) The actor's motivation
 - (C) The particular circumstances surrounding the act
 - (D) The consequences or ultimate purpose of an act

4. The characteristic of utilitarianism that operates beyond individual thought, desire, and perspective is called:
 - (A) Universality
 - (B) Quantifiability
 - (C) Rationality
 - (D) Objectivity

5. Bentham's ethical system attempted to quantify happiness and the good to meet the conditions of the scientific method, which required ethics to be all of the following except:
 - (A) Empirical
 - (B) Verifiable
 - (C) Theological
 - (D) Quantifiable

II. “We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal and are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights”.

This statement, in spite of literal inaccuracy in its every phrase, served the purpose for which it was written. It expressed an aspiration, and it was a fighting slogan. In order that slogans may serve their purpose, it is necessary that they shall arouse strong, emotional belief, but it is not at all necessary that they shall be literally accurate. A large part of each human being's time on earth is spent in declaiming about his "rights," asserting their existence, complaining of their violation, describing them as present or future, vested or contingent, absolute or conditional, perfect or inchoate, alienable or inalienable, legal or equitable, in rem or in personam, primary or secondary, moral or jural (legal), inherent or acquired, natural or artificial, human or divine. No doubt still other adjectives are available. Each one expresses some idea, but not always the same idea even when used twice by one and the same person.



They all need definition in the interest of understanding and peace. In his table of correlatives, Hohfeld set "right" over against "duty" as its necessary correlative. This had been done numberless times by other men. He also carefully distinguished it from the concepts expressed in his table by the terms "privilege," "power," and "immunity." To the present writer, the value of his work seems beyond question and the practical convenience of his classification is convincing. However, the adoption of Hohfeld's classification and the correlating of the terms "right" and "duty" do not complete the work of classification and definition.

(Extracted from Arthur L Corbin, Rights and Duties, 33 Yale LJ 501(1923))

6. The author suggests that the statement "all men are created equal and are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights" was effective primarily because:
 - (A) It accurately reflects the literal truth of human existence and legal principles.
 - (B) It provided a comprehensive legal definition of natural rights.
 - (C) Its emotional and aspirational content made it a successful "fighting slogan."
 - (D) It meticulously categorized rights using precise jural (legal) terminology.
7. Based on the passage, the primary problem the author identifies with the current discourse surrounding "rights" is the:
 - (A) Lack of a comprehensive list of all possible rights.
 - (B) Failure of historical documents to be literally accurate.
 - (C) Proliferation of undefined and inconsistently used qualifying adjectives.
 - (D) Over reliance on Hohfeld's narrow and incomplete classification system.
8. The author's view of Hohfeld's contribution to legal scholarship can best be described as:
 - (A) Essential but ultimately incomplete in fully defining and classifying "rights."
 - (B) Flawed because it failed to distinguish "right" from "duty" effectively.
 - (C) Irrelevant, as his classification uses confusing and difficult jargon.
 - (D) Sufficiently exhaustive to complete the work of definition and classification.
9. The phrase "literal inaccuracy in its every phrase" is used by the author to critique the Declaration's statement, suggesting a conflict between its rhetorical power and its:
 - (A) Emotional resonance for revolutionaries.
 - (B) Utility as a means for legislative action.
 - (C) Precision as a statement of verifiable facts or legal principles.
 - (D) Acceptance by religious authority and the Creator.
10. Which concept from Hohfeld's table of correlatives is not explicitly mentioned in the passage as a concept "right" was distinguished from?
 - (A) Duty
 - (B) Privilege
 - (C) Immunity
 - (D) Disability



III. The International Law Commission (ILC), in compliance with General Assembly resolution 177 (II), was directed to "formulate the principles of international law recognized in the Charter of the Nuremberg Tribunal and in the judgment of the Tribunal". The ILC's task was to merely formulate the principles not to express an appreciation of them as principles of International law since they had already been affirmed by the General Assembly.

At its second session in 1950, the ILC adopted a formulation of seven Principles of International Law recognized in the Charter and Judgment of the Nuremberg Tribunal.

- * Principle I : Any person who commits an act which constitutes a crime under international law is responsible therefor and liable to punishment. This is based on the general rule that international law may impose duties directly on individuals.
- * Principle II : The fact that internal law does not impose a penalty for an international crime does not relieve the person who committed the act from international responsibility. This implies the "supremacy" of international law over national law.
- * Principle III : The fact that a person acted as Head of State or responsible Government official does not relieve him from responsibility under international law.
- * Principle IV : Acting pursuant to an order of his Government or of a superior does not relieve him from responsibility, provided a moral choice was in fact possible to him.
- * Principle V : Any person charged with a crime under international law has the right to a fair trial on the facts and law
- * Principle VI : sets out the crimes punishable under international law:
 - * Crimes against peace : Includes planning, preparation, initiation, or waging of a war of aggression or a war in violation of international treaties, as well as participation in a conspiracy for these acts. The ILC understands the term "waging of a war of aggression" to refer only to high-ranking military personnel and high State officials. The Tribunal affirmed the illegality of aggressive war based on the Kellogg-Briand Pact.



- * War crimes : Violations of the laws or customs of war, such as murder, ill-treatment, deportation, killing of hostages, and plunder.
- * Crimes against humanity : Murder, extermination, enslavement, deportation, and other inhuman acts or persecutions on political, racial, or religious grounds, when done in execution of or in connection with a crime against peace or a war crime. These acts may constitute crimes against humanity even if committed by the perpetrator against their own population.
- * Principle VII : Complicity in the commission of any of the crimes listed in Principle VI is a crime under international law.

The ILC also considered the General Assembly's invitation to study the desirability and possibility of establishing an international judicial organ for the trial of persons charged with genocide or other crimes. While some members questioned its effectiveness, particularly for grave international crimes, others argued that the creation of such a jurisdiction was desirable as an effective contribution to world peace and security, serving as a deterrent against aggressors. (496 words)

(Summary of the Principles of International Law recognized in the Charter of the Nuremberg Tribunal and in the Judgment of the Tribunal, with commentaries 1950 based on the Text adopted by the International Law Commission at its second session, in 1950)

11. The International Law Commission (ILC) concluded that its task, as directed by General Assembly resolution 177 (II), was primarily:
 - (A) To determine the extent to which the Nuremberg principles constituted principles of international law.
 - (B) To formulate the Nuremberg principles, without expressing an appreciation of their status as principles of international law.
 - (C) To assess whether the Charter and judgment were already an expression of positive international law at the time of the Tribunal's establishment.
 - (D) To formulate the general principles of law on which the provisions of the Charter and the Tribunal's decisions were based.
12. Principle IV of the Nuremberg Principles concerning superior orders, differs from Article 8 of the Charter of the Nuremberg Tribunal by:
 - (A) Narrowing the application of the principle to exclude high State officials.
 - (B) Adding the condition that "a moral choice was in fact possible" to the accused.
 - (C) Eliminating the reference to the order being considered in mitigation of punishment.
 - (D) Formulating the principle in general terms, unlike the Charter's specific context.



13. The Tribunal, in its judgment, was constrained from making a general declaration that the acts of persecution and murder committed in Germany before 1939 were "crimes against humanity" primarily because:
 - (A) Persecution on political, racial, or religious grounds was not yet recognized as an international crime.
 - (B) It could not be satisfactorily proved that these acts were committed in execution of, or in connection with, a crime within the Tribunal's jurisdiction.
 - (C) The definition of crimes against humanity in the Charter explicitly excluded acts committed before the outbreak of the war.
 - (D) International law at the time imposed duties only on States, not on individuals, for these types of crimes.

14. In formulating Principle VI (a), the ILC clarified the term "waging of a war of aggression" because:
 - (A) The Charter of the Tribunal had no definition of "war of aggression".
 - (B) Members feared that every combatant in uniform might be charged with the crime.
 - (C) The Tribunal had not made a clear distinction between "planning" and "preparation".
 - (D) The General Assembly had requested a more precise definition for use in future conventions.

15. The debate within the International Law Commission regarding the creation of an international judicial organ (Part IV) centered on the following contrasting positions:
 - (A) Whether the judicial organ should be created only for the trial of persons charged with genocide versus all international crimes.
 - (B) Whether the creation of the organ required an amendment to the Charter of the United Nations versus being possible through a convention open to all States.
 - (C) Whether the establishment of the organ was desirable and possible versus being undesirable due to its likely ineffectiveness against grave international crimes.
 - (D) Whether an international criminal court should have a deterrent effect versus serving only to ensure the rule of law in the community of States.



IV. The document presents a critique of the United Nations (UN) organization, arguing that it has failed to carry out its charter-mandated tasks, specifically to "maintain international peace and security" and "to achieve international cooperation" in solving global problems. The author notes growing public frustration with catastrophic humanitarian situations and the failure of peace-keeping operations, leading to widespread scepticism about the possibility of "revitalization". UN Reform Approaches Discussions on UN reform are divided into two main categories: the conservative approach and the radical approach.

1. Conservative Approach: The conservative view considers the existing Charter "practically untouchable" and believes in improving "collective security" as defined in Chapter VII. Key positions include: US Position: Prioritizes its own interests, supports better management and the creation of an Inspector General, favours enlarging the Security Council (to include Germany and Japan, mainly for financing peace-keeping), and associates the UN with regional organizations like NATO for peace enforcement. The US remains reluctant to allow full application of Chapter VII and views collective security restrictively.

Secretary-General's Position (Boutros Ghali): Advocated for the full implementation of 'collective security' as envisaged in 1945, including the use of the Military Staff Committee (Article 47) and the conclusion of special agreements (Article 43) for providing armed forces. He also proposed 'peace enforcement units' under the command of the Secretary-General and wider use of 'preventive diplomacy'. The report candidly recognized the Security Council's incapacity to deal with threats from a major power.

2. Radical Approach: The radical approach criticizes the principles of the present system and proposes an overhaul. It reflects increasing doubts about the value of the Charter's collective security system, especially in intra-State conflicts. Radical proposals include:
 - * Establishing an Economic Security Council.
 - * Modifying the Charter with less reluctance.
 - * Reforming the IMF and World Bank.
 - * Developing a new global security system (e.g., regional models like CSCE/CSCM).
 - * The creation of a consultative parliamentary assembly at the world level.

Future Outlook : The author asserts that no major or minor reform has any chance of being implemented now, primarily because the Charter's amendment procedures (requiring a two-thirds majority including all five permanent Security Council members) preclude agreement. However, he concludes that the continuing deterioration of the global situation, driven by economic integration, rising inequality, and intra-State conflicts, will inevitably lead the political establishment to define a new global institutional structure. This future debate will become highly political, opposing the defence of democracy and human rights against nationalism and fascism. (408 words)

(Summary of the article titled "The UN as an organisation. A critique of its functioning" by Maurice Bertrand, published in 6 EJIL (1995) pp-349-359)

16. The author attributes the growing public frustration with the UN primarily to which pair of continuous failures?
 - (A) The inability to define a new institutional structure and the spread of poverty.
 - (B) The persistent reliance on Chapter VII enforcement and the lack of a Central World Bank.
 - (C) The failure of peace-keeping operations and the spread of unemployment at a world level.
 - (D) The supremacy of the US position and the rejection of the Economic Security Council.



17. A primary point of divergence between the US Conservative position and the Secretary-General's Conservative position on security matters, according to the summary is:
- (A) The US supports the creation of 'peace enforcement units,' while the Secretary-General is opposed.
 - (B) The Secretary-General advocates for the full implementation of 'collective security', while the US restricts its participation in peace-keeping.
 - (C) The US views 'preventive diplomacy' as an illusion, whereas the Secretary-General supports its larger use.
 - (D) The US opposes the enlargement of the Security Council, while the Secretary-General supports the entrance of Japan and Germany.
18. According to the critique's conclusion, the immediate, insurmountable barrier preventing the implementation of any reform, major or minor, is:
- (A) The widespread public scepticism and the rise of nationalist political parties.
 - (B) The Secretary-General's reluctance to give up command over new peace enforcement units.
 - (C) The procedural requirements for amending the Charter, specifically requiring the consensus of all five permanent Security Council members.
 - (D) The ideological debate on global governance and the lack of a complete theoretical framework for the radical approach.
19. The Secretary-General's 'Agenda for Peace' proposed a specific military capability intended to address the gap between traditional peace-keeping and full military action. This proposed unit was explicitly characterized by the summary as being:
- (A) Composed of permanent Member State forces under Article 43 agreements.
 - (B) Less heavily armed than peace-keeping forces and under the direction of the Military Staff Committee.
 - (C) More heavily armed than peace-keeping forces and under the command of the Secretary-General.
 - (D) Primarily associated with NATO under a regional security arrangement.
20. The Radical Approach to reform, as outlined in the summary, calls for an institutional overhaul of global economic governance by suggesting which two specific actions related to the Bretton Woods institutions?
- (A) The full use of Article 42 and the reduction of social inequality.
 - (B) The creation of an Economic Security Council and the replacement of the IMF with a Central World Bank.
 - (C) The implementation of international taxation and the institutionalization of G7 summit meetings.
 - (D) The transfer of significant resources from rich to poor countries and the reform of the World Bank's structure.



- V. “The power to pardon is a part of the constitutional scheme, and we have no doubt, in our mind, that it should be so treated also in the Indian Republic. It has been reposed by the people through the Constitution in the Head of the State, and enjoys high status. It is a constitutional responsibility of great significance, to be exercised when occasion arises in accordance with the discretion contemplated by the context. It is not denied, and indeed it has been repeatedly affirmed in the course of argument by learned counsels appearing for the Petitioner that the power to pardon rests on the advice tendered by the Executive to the President, who subject to the provisions of Article 74(1) of the Constitution, must act in accordance with such advice.....”

We are of the view that it is open to the President in the exercise of the power vested in him by Article 72 of the Constitution to scrutinise the evidence on the record of the criminal case and come to a different conclusion from that recorded by the court in regard to the guilt of, and sentence imposed on the accused. In doing so, the President does not amend or modify or supersede the judicial record. The judicial record remains intact, and undisturbed. The President acts in a wholly different plane from that in which the Court acted. He acts under a constitutional power, the nature of which is entirely different from the judicial power and cannot be regarded as an extension of it. This is so, notwithstanding that the practical effect of the Presidential act is to remove the stigma of guilt from the accused or to remit the sentence imposed on him.

It is apparent that the power under Article 72 entitles the President to examine the record of evidence of the criminal case and to determine for himself whether the case is one deserving the grant of the relief falling within that power. We are of opinion that the President is entitled to go into the merits of the case notwithstanding that it has been judicially concluded by the consideration given to it by this Court. In *Kehar Singh v. Union of India*, 1989 SC, this court stated that the same obviously means that the affected party need not be given the reasons. The question whether reasons can or cannot be disclosed to the Court when the same is challenged was not the subject-matter of consideration. In any event, the absence of any obligation to convey the reasons does not mean that there should not be legitimate or relevant reasons for passing the order.

[Extract from the judgment of Shatrughan Chauhan v. Union of India 2014 (3) SCC 1]

21. Which one of the following statements is correct with respect to the granting of pardon by the President?
- (A) The power to grant pardon is a constitutional duty. Hence, judicial review is available, just as any executive action is.
 - (B) Granting pardon being the privilege of the President, no judicial review is available against the decision of the President in granting or refusing to grant a pardon.
 - (C) The constitution expressly conferred the power to grant to the President hence, the President is not bound to rely on the aid and advice of the executive.
 - (D) The President’s power to grant pardon can be reviewed on the grounds of non-application of mind.



22. In the above case the Supreme Court held that a minimum period of _____ days be stipulated between the receipt of communication of the rejection of the mercy petition and the scheduled date of execution.
- (A) 60
 - (B) 30
 - (C) 14
 - (D) No such timeline was fixed
23. What is not true about the pardoning power *vis a vis* Article 21 of Constitution of India?
- (A) Insanity is not a relevant supervening factor for commutation of death sentence.
 - (B) Right to life of a person continues till his last breath and that Court will protect that right even if the noose is being tied on the condemned person's neck.
 - (C) The anguish of alternating hope and despair, the agony of uncertainty and the consequence of such suffering on the mental, emotional and physical integrity and health violates Art. 21 of the prisoners.
 - (D) Article 21 is a substantive right and not merely procedural.
24. In which case, the Supreme Court held that if the crime is brutal and heinous and involves the killing of a large number of innocent people without any reason, delay cannot be the sole factor for the commutation of the death sentence to life imprisonment?
- (A) Devender Pal Singh Bhullar v. State (NCT) of Delhi.
 - (B) V. Sriharan @ Murugan v. Union of India
 - (C) Yakub Abdul Razak Memon v. State of Maharashtra
 - (D) Shatrughan Chauhan v. Union of India
25. The President's power to grant a pardon
- (A) Can be delegated to the Prime Minister and his Council of Ministers
 - (B) Cannot be delegated as it is an essential executive function
 - (C) Cannot be delegated as it is expressly conferred on the President
 - (D) Can be delegated to the Vice-president.



VI. To recall, the petitioners while challenging the 1951 and 1965 amendments to the AMU Act in *Azeez Basha* argued that the amendments were violative of the right to administration guaranteed by Article 30(1). The Union of India responded to the argument with the submission that the Muslim minority cannot claim the right to administration since it did not ‘establish’ the institution. Opposing this argument, the petitioners in *Azeez Basha*, submitted that Article 30(1) guarantees the ‘right to administer’ an educational institution to minorities even if it was not established by them, if by “some process, it had been administering the same before the Constitution came into force.” The argument of the petitioners was rejected. This Court held that the words “establish” and “administer” must be read conjunctively, that is, the guarantee of the right to administration is contingent on the establishment of the institution by religious or linguistic minorities...

The issue before this Bench is the indicia for an educational institution to be a minority educational institution. Should it be proved that the institution was established by the minority, or it was administered by the minority, or both? The petitioners and the respondents agree that the words ‘establish’ and ‘administer’ must be read conjunctively. They argue that administration is a sequitur to establishment. However, they disagree on the test to be applied to identify a minority education institution. The petitioners argue that the only indicia for a minority educational institution is that it must be established by a minority, while the respondents argue that the dual test of establishment and administration must be satisfied.

(Extracted with edits and revisions from Aligarh Muslim University v. Naresh Agarwal & Ors, 2024 SC 8)

26. Which of the following Supreme Court judgments does not deal with minority educational institution for the purpose of Article 30(1) of the Constitution of India?
- (A) *TMA Pai Foundation v. State of Karnataka* (2002) 8 SCC 481
 - (B) *S Azeez Basha v. Union of India* AIR 1968 SC 662
 - (C) *Rev. Stanislaus v. State of Madhya Pradesh* 1977 SCR (2) 611
 - (D) *Central Board of Dawoodi Bohra Community v. State of Maharashtra* (2005) 2 SCC 673
27. In determining the status of a minority educational institution, Article 30 of the Constitution of India is of significance. Which of the following statements regarding Article 30 is correct?
- I. Article 30 prescribes conditions which must be fulfilled for an educational institution to be considered a minority educational institution.
 - II. Article 30 confers two group rights on all linguistic and religious minorities: the right to establish an educational institution and the right to administer an educational institution.

Select the most appropriate option :

- (A) Only I is correct
- (B) Only II is correct
- (C) Both I and II are correct
- (D) Both I and II are incorrect



28. Which core principle from the 1968 judgment in *S. Azeez Basha v. Union of India* was overruled by the Supreme Court in the 2024 judgment, *Aligarh Muslim University v. Naresh Agarwal & Ors.*?
- (A) That Article 30 protection is not available to 'Universities' established before the commencement of the Constitution.
 - (B) That the words "establish and administer" in Article 30(1) must be read conjunctively.
 - (C) That an educational institution is not established by a minority if it derives its legal character and incorporation through a statute.
 - (D) That legislative amendments to the AMU Act violated Articles 14, 19, 25, 29, and 31 of the Constitution.
29. The court in this case justified application of Article 30(1) to educational institutions established by religious and linguistic minorities before commencement of Constitution through a co-joint reading of Article 30, with Articles 13 and 372. In doing so it observed that 'Article 13(1) has a retroactive effect and not a retrospective effect.' Which of the following statement best captures the difference between the two effects?
- (A) A provision is retrospective if it alters the position of law before its enactment/commencement, it is retroactive if it imposes new results for previous actions
 - (B) A retroactive effect applies only prospectively, whereas retrospective effect alters past rights and liabilities
 - (C) A provision is retrospective if it applies to past and closed transactions, whereas provision is retroactive if it applies only to future cases
 - (D) A retrospective provision alters both substantive and procedural rights in the past, while a retroactive provision affects only substantive law
30. The court observed that a holistic and realistic view should be taken keeping in mind the objective and purpose of the provision. From the judgements referred to by it, which of the following inferences can be drawn:
- I. Existence of religious place for prayer and worship is a necessary indicator of minority character
 - II. Existence of religious symbols in the precincts of the educational institution are necessary to prove minority character
- Select the most appropriate option:
- (A) Only I is correct
 - (B) Only II is correct
 - (C) Both I and II are correct
 - (D) Both I and II are incorrect



VII. Ahmadi, J.(as he then was) speaking for himself and Punchhi, J., endorsed the recommendations in the following words-The time is ripe for taking stock of the working of the various Tribunals set up in the country after the insertion of Articles 323A and 323B in the Constitution. After the incorporation of these two articles, Acts have been enacted where-under tribunals have been constituted for dispensation of justice. Sufficient time has passed and experience gained in these last few years for taking stock of the situation with a view to finding out if they have served the purpose and objectives for which they were constituted. Complaints have been heard in regard to the functioning of other tribunals as well and it is time that a body like the Law Commission of India has a comprehensive look-in with a view to suggesting measures for their improved functioning. That body can also suggest changes in the different statutes and evolve a model on the basis whereof tribunals may be constituted or reconstituted with a view to ensuring greater independence. An intensive and extensive study needs to be undertaken by the Law Commission in regard to the Constitution of tribunals under various statutes with a view to ensuring their independence so that the public confidence in such tribunals may increase and the quality of their performance may improve.

Before parting with the case it is necessary to express our anguish over the ineffectiveness of the alternative mechanism devised for judicial review. The judicial review and remedy are the fundamental rights of the citizens. The dispensation of justice by the tribunal is much to be desired.

(Extracted with Edits from R.K. Jain v. Union of India, 1993 (4) SCC 119)

31. In which of the following case the Court held that though judicial review is a basic feature of the Constitution, the vesting of the power of judicial review in an alternative institutional mechanism, after taking it away from the High Courts, would not violate the basic structure so long as it was ensured that the alternative mechanism was an effective and real substitute for the High Court.
- (A) L. Chandra Kumar v. Union Of India And Others 1997
 - (B) R.K. Jain v. Union of India : 1993
 - (C) S.P. Sampath Kumar v. Union of India : (1985)
 - (D) Kesvananda Bharti v. State of Kerala. 1973



32. The provisions of the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985 shall NOT apply to-
- (A) Any member of the naval, military or air forces or of any other armed forces of the Union
 - (B) Officer or servant of the Supreme Court or of any High Court or Courts subordinate
 - (C) Person appointed to the secretarial staff of either House of Parliament or to the secretarial staff of any State Legislature or a House thereof or, in the case of a Union Territory having a Legislature, of that Legislature.
 - (D) Officers of the Indian Police Services.
33. The first tribunal established in India is:
- (A) Central Administrative Tribunal
 - (B) Railway Claims Tribunal
 - (C) Armed Forces Tribunal
 - (D) Income tax Appellate Tribunal
34. Article 323A and 323B of the Indian Constitution for the establishment of tribunal to adjudicate disputes in specific matters. While both articles deal with tribunals, there are key differences in their scope and application. Which of the following statements correctly reflect the distinction between Article 323A and 323B?
- (A) Article 323A exclusively deals with administrative tribunals for public service matters, while Article 323B deals with the tribunals for a wider range of subjects including taxation and land reforms.
 - (B) While tribunals under Article 323A can be established only by Parliament, tribunals under Article 323B can only be established by State legislature, with matters falling within their legislative competence.
 - (C) Under Article 323A, only one tribunal for centre and no tribunal for state may be established. As far as Article 323B is concerned, there is no hierarchy of tribunals.
 - (D) Article 323A grant tribunals the power to hear appeals directly from the Supreme Court, by passing the high court. Under Article 323B there is no such power.
35. The creation of Administrative Tribunals to ease the burden of service related cases, on the High Courts and the amendment of the constitution to add articles 323A and 323B were based on the recommendation of :
- (A) Parliamentary Standing Committee
 - (B) National Tribunals Commission
 - (C) Swaran Singh Committee
 - (D) Law commission of India's 272nd Report



VIII. The element of gift is traceable to both 'settlement' and 'will'. As settled in law, the nomenclature of an instrument is immaterial and the nature of the document is to be derived from its contents. While so, a voluntary disposition can transfer the interest in *praesenti* and in future, in the same document. In such a case, the document would have the elements of both the settlement and will. Such document, then has to be registered and by operation of the doctrine of severability, becomes a composite document and has to be treated as both, a settlement and will and the respective rights will flow with regard to each disposition from the same document. It is pertinent to mention here that the reservation of life interest or any condition in the instrument, even if it postpones the physical delivery of possession to the donee/settlee, cannot be treated as a will, as the property had already been vested with the donee/settlee.

[Extracted from: NP Saseendran v NP Ponnamma 2025 INSC 388.]

36. Which of the following is NOT an essential of a valid gift:
- (A) It is a transfer of certain existing movable or immovable property.
 - (B) It is made voluntarily.
 - (C) It is made without consideration.
 - (D) It must be accepted by or on behalf of the donee during the lifetime of the donor, even if the donor becomes incapable of giving the property.
37. The element of _____ is common to all the three transactions, i.e. Gift, Settlement and Will:
- (A) physical delivery of possession.
 - (B) absence of consideration.
 - (C) voluntary disposition.
 - (D) vesting of the right in *praesenti*.
38. The main test to find out whether a document constitutes a 'Will' or a 'Settlement' is to see whether the disposition of the interest in the property is in *praesenti* in favour of the settlee or whether the disposition is to take effect on the death of the executant. In view of this position of law, choose the CORRECT proposition:
- (A) If the disposition is to take effect on the death of the executant, it will be a Settlement. But, if the executant divests his interest in the property and vests his interest in *praesenti* in the transferee, the document will be a Will.
 - (B) Whether the disposition is to take effect on the death of the executant or the executant divests his interest in the property and vests his interest in *praesenti* in the transferee, the document will nevertheless remain a Settlement.
 - (C) If the disposition is to take effect on the death of the executant, it will be a Will. But, if the executant divests his interest in the property and vests his interest in *praesenti* in the settlee, the document will be a Settlement.
 - (D) If the disposition takes effect on the assumption of death of the executant, it shall be a will.



39. Which of the following propositions is INCORRECT about a valid gift:
- (A) A gift may be suspended or revoked.
 - (B) A gift comprising both existing and future property is valid in totality.
 - (C) Delivery of possession is not a condition *sine qua non* to validate the gift.
 - (D) In so far as gift of an immovable property is concerned, registration is mandatory.
40. Which of the following propositions is CORRECT about a Will:
- (A) It is revocable, as no interest in the property is intended to pass during the lifetime of the testator.
 - (B) It is revocable, despite interest in the property being passed under the Will during the lifetime of the testator.
 - (C) It is revocable because registration is not mandatory.
 - (D) It is irrevocable because registration is not mandatory

IX. "Mortgage inter alia means transfer of interest in the specific immovable property for the purpose of securing the money advanced by way of loan. Section 17(1)(c) of the Registration Act provides that a non-testamentary instrument which acknowledges the receipt or payment of any consideration on account of the creation, declaration, assignment, limitation or extension of any such right, title or interest, requires compulsory registration. Mortgage by deposit of title-deeds in terms of Section 58(f) of the Transfer of Property Act surely acknowledges the receipt and transfer of interest and, therefore, one may contend that its registration is compulsory.

However, Section 59 of the Transfer of Property Act mandates that every mortgage other than a mortgage by deposit of title-deeds can be effected only by a registered instrument. In the face of it, in our opinion, when the debtor deposits with the creditor title-deeds of the property for the purpose of security, it becomes mortgage in terms of Section 58(f) of the Transfer of Property Act and no registered instrument is required under Section 59 thereof as in other classes of mortgage.

The essence of mortgage by deposit of title-deeds is handing over by a borrower to the creditor title-deeds of immovable property with the intention that those documents shall constitute security, enabling the creditor to recover the money lent. After the deposit of the title-deeds the creditor and borrower may record the transaction in a memorandum but such a memorandum would not be an instrument of mortgage. A memorandum reducing other terms and conditions with regard to the deposit in the form of a document, however, shall require registration under Section 17(1)(c) of the Registration Act, but in a case in which such a document does not incorporate any term and condition, it is merely evidential and does not require registration."

[Extracted from: State of Haryana v Narvir Singh (2014) 1 SCC 105]

41. Which of the following is NOT an essential of a mortgage under the Transfer of Property Act, 1882:
- (A) It is a transfer of an interest in specific immovable property.
 - (B) It is for the purpose of securing the payment of money advanced or to be advanced by way of loan.
 - (C) It is always in respect of an existing debt.
 - (D) It is in respect of an existing or future debt, or the performance of an engagement which may give rise to a pecuniary liability.



42. A mortgage by deposit of title-deeds is a form of mortgage recognised by section 58(f) of the Transfer of Property Act, 1882, which provides that:
- (A) When the debtor deposits with the creditor the title-deeds of his property with an intent to create a security, the law implies a contract between the parties to create a mortgage, and no registered instrument is required under section 59 of the Transfer of Property Act, as in other forms of mortgage.
 - (B) When the debtor deposits with the creditor the title-deeds of his property with an intent to create a security, the implication of law (that there exists a contract between the parties to create a mortgage) is excluded, and a registered instrument is required under section 59 of the Transfer of Property Act.
 - (C) When the debtor deposits with the creditor the title-deeds of his property with an intent to create a security, the implication of law (that there exists a contract between the parties to create a mortgage) is excluded, and a registered instrument is required under section 58(f) of the Transfer of Property Act.
 - (D) When the debtor deposits with the creditor the title-deeds of his property with an intent to create a security, the implication of law (that there exists a contract between the parties to create a mortgage) is excluded, and a registered instrument is required under section 17(1)(c) of the Registration Act.
43. As per section 96 of the Transfer of Property Act, the provisions which apply to _____ shall, so far as may be, apply to a mortgage by deposit of title-deeds.
- (A) A simple mortgage.
 - (B) A mortgage by conditional sale.
 - (C) A usufructuary mortgage.
 - (D) An English mortgage.
44. The period of limitation for a suit to enforce payment of money secured by a mortgage or otherwise charged upon immovable property is:
- (A) 30 years.
 - (B) 12 years.
 - (C) 20 years.
 - (D) 3 years.



45. In a mortgage by deposit of title-deeds, after the deposit of the title-deeds, if the creditor and the borrower choose to record their transaction in a memorandum reducing other terms and conditions (in addition to what flow from the mortgage by deposit of title-deeds) with regard to the deposit in the form of a memorandum/document, then the memorandum/document requires registration under section 17(1)(c) of the Registration Act. In this context which among the following propositions is not correct?
- (A) The deposit and the document both form integral parts of the transaction and are essential ingredients in the creation of the mortgage.
 - (B) The deposit alone is not intended to create the charge and the document, which constitutes the bargain regarding the security, is also necessary and operates to create the charge in conjunction with the deposit.
 - (C) The implication of law (that there exists a contract between the parties to create a mortgage) is excluded by their express bargain, and the document becomes the sole evidence of its terms.
 - (D) The deposit and the documents do not form integral parts of the transaction and hence they are not essential ingredients in the creation of the mortgage.

X. Having heard the learned Counsels for the parties, and on perusal of the material on record, the primary issue which arises for consideration of this Court is “whether a review or recall of an order passed in a criminal proceeding initiated under section 340 of CrPC is permissible or not?” [...] A careful consideration of the statutory provisions and the aforesaid decisions of this Court clarify the now-well settled position of jurisprudence of Section 362 of CrPC which when summarized would be that the criminal courts, as envisaged under the CrPC, are barred from altering or reviewing in their own judgments except for the exceptions which are explicitly provided by the statute, namely, correction of a clerical or an arithmetical error that might have been committed or the said power is provided under any other law for the time being in force. As the courts become *functus officio* the very moment a judgment or an order is signed, the bar of Section 362 CrPC becomes applicable. Despite the powers provided under Section 482 CrPC which, this veil cannot allow the courts to step beyond or circumvent an explicit bar. It also stands clarified that it is only in situations wherein an application for recall of an order or judgment seeking a procedural review that the bar would not apply and not a substantive review where the bar as contained in Section 362 CrPC is attracted. Numerous decisions of this Court have also elaborated that the bar under said provision is to be applied *stricto sensu*.

(Extracted with edits and revisions from Vikram Bakshi v. RP Khosla 2025 INSC 1020)

46. As per section 362 of Cr. P.C.(equivalent to section 403 of BNSS 2023), a criminal court has power to review or alter its own judgment or order only under the following circumstances.
- (A) If there is an error as to the question of fact.
 - (B) If there is an error as to the question of law.
 - (C) If there is/are clerical and arithmetical errors.
 - (D) If the judgment or order is rendered *per in curium*.



47. The bench in this case referred to a distinction drawn previously in *Grindlays Bank* case, that of procedural review and substantive review by criminal courts. Which of the following statements most accurately captures the distinction between the two decisions?
- (A) A procedural review is exercised when a higher court finds an error in interpretation, while a substantive review is limited to correcting factual inaccuracies within the same court.
 - (B) A procedural review is available only in appellate courts, whereas a substantive review may be conducted by the original court that issued in court
 - (C) A procedural review is inherent or implied in a court to set aside a palpably erroneous order passed under misapprehension by it. However, a substantive review is when error sought to be corrected is one of law and is apparent on the face of the record.
 - (D) A procedural review involves correcting errors of judgement made after hearing the parties while a substantive review is confined to omissions in recording of legal reasoning.
48. According to the Supreme Court's analysis, under which principle did the High Court claim to recall its Judgment, even though the Supreme Court ultimately rejected this basis?
- (A) *Ex debito justitiae*, to correct a factual error not brought to its notice earlier.
 - (B) Inherent power under Section 482 of the CrPC to prevent the abuse of the process of any Court.
 - (C) The power of a criminal court to conduct a "substantive review" on the merits of the case.
 - (D) The binding nature of the Supreme Court's earlier Judgment which mandated a decision on the perjury application.
49. The court identified certain exceptional circumstances wherein the criminal court is empowered to alter or review its own judgement or a final order under Section 362 (CrPC). Which of the following is NOT one among them:
- (A) Such power is expressly conferred upon court by law
 - (B) The court passing such a judgement or order lacked inherent jurisdiction to do so
 - (C) Fact relating to non-serving of necessary party being non-represented, not brought to notice of court while passing such judgment or order
 - (D) A subsequent judicial precedent renders the earlier judgment legally untenable



50. In relation to exceptional circumstances identified by the court under which the embargo on criminal courts to review or alter their judgement or final order after signing under Section 362 (CrPC) would not apply, which of the following statements is correct?
- I. The exceptions are exercisable only if a ground that is raised was not available or existent at the time of original proceedings before the Court
 - II. The said power cannot be invoked as a means to circumvent the finality of the judicial process or mistakes and/or errors in the decision which are attributable to a conscious omission by the parties.

Select the most appropriate option:

- (A) Only I is correct
 - (B) Only II is correct
 - (C) Both I and II are correct
 - (D) Both I and II are incorrect
- XI. A glance over all the Sections related to extortion would reveal a clear distinction being carried out between the actual commission of extortion and the process of putting a person in fear for the purpose of committing extortion.

Section 383 defines extortion, the punishment therefor is given in Section 384. Sections 386 and 388 provide for an aggravated form of extortion. These sections deal with the actual commission of an act of extortion, whereas Sections 385, 387 and 389 IPC seek to punish for an act committed for the purpose of extortion even though the act of extortion may not be complete and property not delivered. It is in the process of committing an offence that a person is put in fear of injury, death or grievous hurt. Section 387 IPC provides for a stage prior to committing extortion, which is putting a person in fear of death or grievous hurt 'in order to commit extortion', similar to Section 385 IPC. Hence, Section 387 IPC is an aggravated form of 385 IPC, not 384 IPC.

Having deliberated upon the offence of extortion and its forms, we proceed to analyze the essentials of both Sections, i.e., 383 and 387 IPC, the High Court dealt with.

(Extracted from *Balaji Traders v. State of UP*, 2025 INSC 806)

51. According to the Supreme Court's analysis in the judgment, Section 387 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) deals with:
- (A) The actual commission of the act of extortion by putting a person in fear of death or grievous hurt.
 - (B) The punishment for a completed act of extortion by putting a person in fear of death or grievous hurt.
 - (C) The process or stage prior to committing extortion, specifically putting or attempting to put a person in fear of death or grievous hurt in order to commit extortion.
 - (D) A lesser, non-aggravated form of extortion defined in Section 383 IPC.



52. The core difference between Section 383/384 IPC (Extortion/Punishment) and Section 387 IPC (Putting person in fear of death or grievous hurt, in order to commit extortion), as established by the Supreme Court, is that:
- (A) Section 387 IPC requires the use of firearms, whereas Section 383/384 IPC does not.
 - (B) Section 383/384 IPC deals with the actual commission of extortion and requires delivery of property, while Section 387 IPC deals with the process (putting a person in fear) and does not require the delivery of property.
 - (C) Section 383/384 IPC is an aggravated form of Section 387 IPC.
 - (D) Section 387 IPC involves only an attempt, while Section 383/384 IPC involves a completed offence.
53. What is the minimum essential ingredient that the Supreme Court found *prima facie* disclosed in the complaint for an offence under Section 387 IPC?
- (A) The transfer of at least Rs. 5 lakhs from the complainant to the accused.
 - (B) The use of rifles, a specific type of weapon.
 - (C) Putting the complainant in fear of death or grievous hurt in order to commit extortion, such as by pointing a gun and demanding Rs. 5 lakhs per month.
 - (D) The existence of pending litigation regarding Trademark and Copyright claims.
54. The Supreme Court cites which of the following as a well-settled principle of law regarding the interpretation of penal statutes?
- (A) Penal statutes must be given a wide and flexible interpretation to cover all intended mischief.
 - (B) Courts are competent to stretch the meaning of an expression used by the Legislature to carry out the intention of the Legislature.
 - (C) If two possible and reasonable constructions can be put upon a penal provision, the Court must lean towards the construction that imposes the maximum penalty.
 - (D) If two possible and reasonable constructions can be put upon a penal provision, the Court must lean towards that construction which exempts the subject from penalty rather than the one which imposes penalty.
55. The Supreme Court's final decision on the appeal filed by M/s. Balaji Traders was to:
- (A) Dismiss the appeal and uphold the High Court's quashing order.
 - (B) Dismiss the appeal but modify the charge to Section 384 IPC.
 - (C) Allow the appeal, set aside the High Court's order, and restore the proceedings of Complaint case to the file of the Trial Court.
 - (D) Allow the appeal and transfer the case to the High Court for a fresh hearing on merits.



- XII. The reference essentially raises the following issue: whether a child who is conferred with legislative legitimacy under Section 16(1) or 16(2) is, by reason of Section 16(3), entitled to the ancestral/coparcenary property of the parents or is the child merely entitled to the self-earned/separate property of the parents. The questions that arise before us are - first, whether the legislative intent is to confer legitimacy on a child covered by Section 16 in a manner that makes them coparceners, and thus entitled to initiate or get a share in the partition - actual or notional; second, at what point does a specific property transition into becoming the property of the parent. For, it is solely within such property that children endowed with legislative legitimacy hold entitlement, in accordance with Section 16(3).[.]Holding that the consequence of legitimacy under sub-sections (1) or (2) of Section 16 is to place such an individual on an equal footing as a coparcener in the coparcenary would be contrary to the plain intendment of sub-section (3) of Section 16 of the HMA 1955 which recognises rights to or in the property only of the parents. In fact, the use of language in the negative by Section 16(3) places the position beyond the pale of doubt. We would therefore have to hold that when an individual falls within the protective ambit of sub-section (1) or sub-section (2) of Section 16, they would be entitled to rights in or to the absolute property of the parents and no other person. (Extracted with edits and revisions from *Revanasiddappa&Anr v. Mallikarjun* 2023 INSC 783)
56. When a Hindu Mitakshara coparcener, who has a child legitimised under section 16 of Hindu Marriage Act 1955, dies intestate, after the 2005 Amendment of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, what is the legal mechanism that determines the child's share in the parent's interest in the coparcenary property?
- (A) The Child becomes a coparcener by birth, and the entire coparcenary property is divided equally amongst all the coparceners.
 - (B) The parent's interest devolves by traditional rule of survivorship, and the section 16 child receives no share
 - (C) The parent's interest is first determined through a notional partition immediately before death under section 6 (3) of Hindu Succession Act 1956 and this determined share then devolves by intestate succession to all the deceased's children (including the section 16 child) under section 8/10 of Hindu Succession Act 1956.
 - (D) The share of section 16 child is limited to receiving maintenance from the joint family estate.
57. From the decisions rendered by the Supreme Court on this issue, which of the following correctly states the legal position of a child conferred with legitimacy under section 16 of Hindu Marriage Act
- (A) Such a child is a coparcener
 - (B) Such a child is not a coparcener
 - (C) Such a child is a coparcener, and has the power to seek partition of coparcenary property
 - (D) Such a child is a coparcener, but does not have the power to seek partition of coparcenary property



58. Consider the following statements:

- I. A child born out of a null and void marriage is considered as legitimate by law
- II. Conferment of legitimacy is irrespective of whether such child was born before or after the commencement of the Amending Act 1976

Select the most appropriate option:

- (A) Only I is correct
- (B) Only II is correct
- (C) Both I and II are correct
- (D) Both I and II are incorrect

59. Which of the following statements is correct in relation to the property rights of children from void/voidable marriages

- (A) Such a child can ask for partition of coparcenary property
- (B) Such a child can claim share in their own right in the undivided coparcenary property of his parents
- (C) Such a child has rights only to self-acquired property of his parents
- (D) Such a child cannot ask for partition of coparcenary property

60. Which of the following best summarises the conclusion reached by the Supreme Court regarding children conferred with legitimacy under Section 16 under the Hindu Marriage Act?

- (A) Such children are entitled to coparcenary rights in the ancestral property to their parents, equal to children born within a valid marriage
- (B) Such children are entitled only to the self-acquired or separate property of their parents, and not to ancestral/coparcenary property
- (C) Such children are entitled to inherit property only if no legitimate heirs exist from a valid marriage
- (D) Such children have no rights in any property of the parents, whether self-acquired or ancestral



XIII. Live-in relationship, as such, as already indicated, is a relationship which has not been socially accepted in India, unlike many other countries. In *Lata Singh v. State of U.P.* [(2006) 5 SCC 475 : (2006) 2 SCC (Cri) 478] it was observed that a live-in relationship between two consenting adults of heterosexual sex does not amount to any offence even though it may be perceived as immoral. However, in order to provide a remedy in civil law for protection of women, from being victims of such relationship, and to prevent the occurrence of domestic violence in the society, first time in India, the DV Act has been enacted to cover the couple having relationship in the nature of marriage, persons related by consanguinity, marriages, etc. We have few other legislations also where reliefs have been provided to woman placed in certain vulnerable situations. Section 125 CrPC, of course, provides for maintenance of a destitute wife and Section 498-A IPC is related to mental cruelty inflicted on women by her husband and in-laws. Section 304-B IPC deals with the cases relating to dowry death. The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 was enacted to deal with the cases of dowry demands by the husband and family members. The Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act, 1956 provides for grant of maintenance to a legally wedded Hindu wife, and also deals with rules for adoption. The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 refers to the provisions dealing with solemnisation of marriage also deals with the provisions for divorce. For the first time, though, the DV Act, Parliament has recognised a “relationship in the nature of marriage” and not a live-in relationship simpliciter. We have already stated, when we examine whether a relationship will fall within the expression “relationship in the nature of marriage” within the meaning of Section 2(f) of the DV Act, we should have a close analysis of the entire relationship. Invariably, it may be a question of fact and degree, whether a relationship between two unrelated persons of the opposite sex meets the tests judicially evolved.

(Extracted with edits and revisions from Indra Sarma v. V.K.V. Sarma, (2013) 15 SCC 755)

61. What is the scope of analysis required to determine if a relationship falls within the expression “relationship in the nature of marriage” under Section 2(f) of the DV Act?
- (A) Considering the number of children born in a live in relationship.
 - (B) Considering only the cohabitation period of the relationship and their emotional connectivity.
 - (C) Conducting a close analysis of the entire interpersonal relationship, taking into account all facets.
 - (D) Evaluating only the financial aspects and mutual agreements of the relationship, and if there is any written agreement between the partner.
62. In which of the following cases, the Supreme Court read down the word “adult male” in Section 2(q) of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005?
- (A) *Indra Sarma v. V.K.V. Sarma* (2013) 15 SCC 755
 - (B) *Hiral P Harsora v. Kusum Harsora*, (Manu/SC/1269/2016)
 - (C) *Uma Narayanan v. Priya Krishna Prasad*, (Laws (Mad) 2008-8-28)
 - (D) *D Velusamy v. D Patchaiammal* (AIR 2011 SC 479)



63. As per section 20 of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, while disposing of an application under Section 12(1), the Magistrate may direct the respondent to pay monetary relief to the aggrieved person so that the aggrieved person can:
- (A) Live a life that meets at least the bare minimum needs for survival and basic well-being.
 - (B) Live a life that is consistent with her standard of living which she is accustomed.
 - (C) Live a life that is consistent with her parent's standard of living.
 - (D) Live a life which can cover her medical expenses and expenses incurred due to litigation of domestic violence.
64. In which case, the three judge bench of the Hon'ble Supreme Court has recently interpreted the term "shared household" and has held that "*...lives or at any stage has lived in a domestic relationship...*" have to be given its normal and purposeful meaning. The living of woman in a household has to refer to a living which has some permanency. Mere fleeting or casual living at different places shall not make a shared household.
- (A) Satish Chander Ahuja v. Sneha Ahuja, AIR 2020 SC 2483
 - (B) Rupa Ashok Hurra v. Ashok Hurra AIR 2002 SC 177
 - (C) S.R. Batra v. Tarun Batra (2007) 3 SCC 169
 - (D) B.R. Mehta Vs. Atma Devi (1987) 4 SCC 183
65. Under Indian Law, can a woman in a live in relationship claim maintenance under S. 125, CrPC despite not being a legally wedded wife?
- (A) No, as per the interpretation of statute 'wife' means legally wedded wife and includes who has been divorced by, or has obtained a divorce from her husband.
 - (B) Yes, a woman in a live in relationship can claim maintenance u/s 125, CrPC as strict proof of marriage is not necessary and maintenance cannot be denied if evidence suggests cohabitation.
 - (C) A woman in live in relationship can only claim maintenance if she has been cohabiting for more than five years and dependent children from the relationship.
 - (D) A woman in live in relationship can claim maintenance only through a civil suit as the protection of women from domestic violence act 2005 (PWDVA) does not apply to live in relationships.



XIV. Section 2(47) of the Income Tax Act, 1961, which is an inclusive definition, inter alia, provides that relinquishment of an asset or extinguishment of any right therein amounts to a transfer of a capital asset. While the taxpayer continues to remain a shareholder of the company even with the reduction of share capital, it could not be accepted that there was no extinguishment of any part of his right as a shareholder qua the company.

A company under Section 66 of the Companies Act, 2013 has a right to reduce the share capital and one of the modes which could be adopted is to reduce the face value of the preference share.

When as a result of reducing the face value of the share, the share capital is reduced, the right of the preference shareholder to the dividend or his share capital and the right to share in the distribution of the net assets upon liquidation is extinguished proportionately to the extent of reduction in the capital. Such a reduction of the right of the capital asset clearly amounts to a transfer within the meaning of section 2(47) of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

(Extracted with edits and revisions from Principal Commissioner of Income Tax v. Jupiter Capital Pvt Ltd., (2025 INSC 38)

66. What was the core issue before the Supreme Court in this Special Leave Petition filed by the Income Tax Department?
- (A) Whether the assessee's claim for a long-term capital gain was correctly disallowed by the Assessing Officer.
 - (B) Whether the reduction in the number of shares due to a reduction in share capital amounted to a "transfer" under Section 2(47) of the Income Tax Act, 1961, allowing for a capital loss claim.
 - (C) Whether the High Court of Karnataka correctly relied on the decision of Anarkali Sarabhai v. CIT.
 - (D) Whether the face value of the shares remaining the same after the reduction nullified the claim of capital loss.
67. According to the Supreme Court, why does a reduction in share capital that proportionately reduces a shareholder's rights amount to a "transfer" under Section 2(47) of the Income Tax Act, 1961?
- (A) Because the shareholder's voting percentage remains constant, which is a form of continuous transfer.
 - (B) Because it involves a sale or exchange of the capital asset to another party.
 - (C) Because it is covered under the inclusive definition of "transfer" as an extinguishment of any rights in the capital asset.
 - (D) Because the face value of the shares remains unchanged, constituting a deemed transfer.



68. The Supreme Court clarified a principle regarding the computation of capital gains/loss under Section 48 of the Income Tax Act. What was this clarification?
- (A) That the reduction of share capital must result in a change in the percentage of shareholding.
 - (B) That the face value of the shares must be reduced for the transfer to be valid.
 - (C) That the transfer must be a sale or relinquishment, and not merely an extinguishment of rights.
 - (D) That receipt of some consideration in lieu of the extinguishment of rights is not a condition precedent for the computation of capital gains/loss.
69. The Supreme Court, in its summary of the principles from *Kartikeya V. Sarabhai*, stated that the right of a preference shareholder is extinguished proportionately to the extent of the capital reduction. Which of the following two specific rights were mentioned as being extinguished?
- (A) Right to voting power and right to attend general meetings.
 - (B) Right to proportional share of debt and right to appoint directors.
 - (C) Right to dividend/share capital and right to share in the distribution of net assets upon liquidation.
 - (D) Right to face value of the share and right to receive consideration.
70. The Supreme Court emphasized that the expression "extinguishment of any right therein" is of wide import. What does this expression cover?
- (A) Only transactions involving the sale or exchange of tangible capital assets.
 - (B) Only transactions resulting in the destruction, annihilation, or extinction of the entire capital asset.
 - (C) Every possible transaction that results in the destruction, annihilation, extinction, termination, cessation, or cancellation of all or any of the bundle of rights—qualitative or quantitative—that the assessee has in a capital asset.
 - (D) Only transactions where the face value of the shares is compulsorily reduced by a court order.



XV. “Section 55 of the Indian Contract Act says that when a party to a contract promises to do a certain thing within a specified time but fails to do so, the contract or so much of it as has not been performed, becomes voidable at the option of the promisee if the intention of the parties was, that time should be of the essence of the contract. If time is not the essence of the contract, the contract does not become voidable by the failure to do such thing on or before the specified time but the promisee is entitled to compensation from the promisor for any loss occasioned to him by such failure. Further, if in case of a contract voidable on account of the promisor’s failure to perform his promise within the time agreed and the promisee accepts performance of such promise at any time other than that agreed, the promisee cannot claim compensation for any loss occasioned by the non-performance of the promise at the time agreed, unless, at the time of such acceptance he gives notice to the promisor of his intention to do so.

... Sections 73 and 74 deal with consequences of breach of contract. Heading of Section 73 is compensation for loss or damage caused by breach of contract. When a contract is broken, the party who suffers by such breach is entitled to receive from the party who has broken the contract compensation for any loss or damage caused to him thereby which naturally arose in the usual course of things from such breach or which the parties knew when they made the contract to be likely to result from the breach of it. On the other hand, Section 74 deals with compensation for breach of contract where penalty is stipulated for. When a contract is broken, if a sum is mentioned in the contract as the amount to be paid in case of such breach or if the contract contains any other stipulation by way of penalty, the party complaining of the breach is entitled whether or not actually damage or loss is proved to have been caused thereby, to receive from the party who has broken the contract reasonable compensation not exceeding the amount so named or the penalty stipulated for.”

[Extracted from: Consolidated Construction Consortium Limited v Software Technology Parks of India 2025 INSC 574]

71. Whether time is of essence or not is a question of fact, and the real test is the parties’ intention. Which amongst the following is not correct in ascertaining the intention of the parties with respect to “time is of essence”.
- (A) The express words used in the contract.
 - (B) The nature of the property which forms the subject-matter of the contract.
 - (C) The nature of the contract and the surrounding circumstances.
 - (D) The nature of the contract that provides for an extension of time or liquidated damages for delays
72. Which of the following is NOT a leading judgement on section 74 of the Indian Contract Act:
- (A) Kailash Nath Associates v Delhi Development Authority [2015] 1 SCR 627.
 - (B) ONGC Ltd v Saw Pipes Ltd (2003) 5 SCC 705.
 - (C) Fateh Chand v Balkishan Dass (1964) 1 SCR 515.
 - (D) Satyabrata Ghose v MugneeramBangur & Co 1954 SCR 310.



73. Which of the following is a CORRECT proposition as regards award of damages in contract:
- (A) In general, no damages in contract are awarded for injury to plaintiff's feelings or for mental distress, loss of reputation or social discredit caused by the breach of contract.
 - (B) In general, damages in contract are awarded for anguish and vexation caused by the breach of contract.
 - (C) In general, damages in contract are awarded for anguish and loss of reputation, but not for social discredit caused by the breach of contract.
 - (D) In general, damages in contract are awarded for emotional distress, but not for mental agony caused by the breach of contract.
74. Which of the following is/are CORRECT proposition(s) as regards the law on damages for the breach of contract under section 74 of the Indian Contract Act:
- (A) Where a sum is named in the contract as a liquidated amount payable by way of damages, only reasonable compensation can be awarded not exceeding the amount so stated.
 - (B) In cases where the amount fixed is in the nature of penalty, only reasonable compensation can be awarded, not exceeding the penalty so stated.
 - (C) The expression 'whether or not actual damage or loss is proved to have been caused thereby' in section 74 means that in every case the proof of actual damage or loss has been dispensed with.
 - (D) Both (A) and (B).
75. _____ will apply to cases of forfeiture of earnest money under a contract. Where, however, forfeiture takes place under the terms and conditions of a public auction before agreement is reached, section 74 would have no application:
- (A) Section 55.
 - (B) Section 73.
 - (C) Section 74.
 - (D) Section 75.



XVI. “Law treats all contracts with equal respect and unless a contract is proved to suffer from any of the vitiating factors, the terms and conditions have to be enforced regardless of the relative strengths and weakness of the parties.

Section 28 of the Contract Act does not bar exclusive jurisdiction clauses. What has been barred is the absolute restriction of any party from approaching a legal forum. The right to legal adjudication cannot be taken away from any party through contract but can be relegated to a set of Courts for the ease of the parties. In the present dispute, the clause does not take away the right of the employee to pursue a legal claim but only restricts the employee to pursue those claims before the courts in Mumbai alone.

... the Court must already have jurisdiction to entertain such a legal claim. This limb pertains to the fact that a contract cannot confer jurisdiction on a court that did not have such a jurisdiction in the first place.”

[Extracted from: Rakesh Kumar Verma v HDFC Bank Ltd 2025 INSC 473]

76. Which of the following propositions is CORRECT:

- (A) It is, in general, open to the contracting parties to confer by their agreement jurisdiction on a court which does not possess the jurisdiction under the law.
- (B) It is not open to the contracting parties to confer by their agreement jurisdiction on a court which does not possess the jurisdiction under the law.
- (C) It is open to the contracting parties to confer by their written and registered agreement jurisdiction on a court which does not possess the jurisdiction under the law.
- (D) If it is absolutely in the interest of the contracting parties, then only it is open to the contracting parties to confer by their agreement jurisdiction on a court which does not possess the jurisdiction under the law.

77. Which of the following propositions is NOT CORRECT about an ouster clause:

- (A) Jurisdiction of civil courts is created by statute and cannot be created or conferred by consent of the parties upon a court which has not been granted jurisdiction by the law.
- (B) Where two or more courts have under the law jurisdiction to try a suit or proceeding, an agreement between the parties that the dispute between them will be tried in one of such courts, is not contrary to public policy.
- (C) Ouster clauses can oust the jurisdiction only of civil courts and not of the High Court, provided such jurisdiction exists in the High Court on account of part of cause of action having arisen within its territorial jurisdiction.
- (D) An ouster clause is valid even if it confers exclusive jurisdiction on a court that otherwise has no territorial or pecuniary jurisdiction over the matter.



78. Which of the following cannot be a condition for an exclusive jurisdiction clause in a contract to be valid:
- (A) It should be in consonance with section 28 of the Indian Contract Act, i.e. it should not absolutely restrict any party from initiating legal proceedings pertaining to the contract.
 - (B) The court which the parties have chosen for exclusive jurisdiction must be competent to have such jurisdiction.
 - (C) The parties must either impliedly or explicitly agree to subject themselves to the jurisdiction of a specific court for the resolution of their contractual dispute.
 - (D) The parties agree to the jurisdiction of a court that does not have the jurisdiction over the matter under the general law.
79. Section 28 of the Indian Contract Act is subject to _____ appended to it:
- (A) One exception.
 - (B) Two exceptions.
 - (C) Three exceptions.
 - (D) Four exceptions.
80. Which of the following agreements has/have been rendered void by section 28 of the Indian Contract Act:
- (A) An agreement by which any party thereto is restricted absolutely from enforcing his rights under or in respect of any contract, by the usual legal proceedings in the ordinary tribunals.
 - (B) An agreement which limits the time within which any party thereto may enforce his contractual rights.
 - (C) Both (A) and (B).
 - (D) Neither (A) nor (B).



XVII. “The law is well settled that a constitutional court can award monetary compensation against the State and its officials for its failure to safeguard fundamental rights of citizens but there is no system or method to measure the damages caused in such situations. Quite often the courts have a difficult task in determining damages in various fact situations. The yardsticks normally adopted for determining the compensation payable in private tort claims are not as such applicable when a constitutional court determines the compensation in cases where there is a violation of fundamental rights guaranteed to its citizens.

... In *D.K. Basu v. State of W.B.* [(1997) SCC 1 416], a Constitution Bench of this Court held that there is no straitjacket formula for computation of damages and we find that there is no uniformity or yardstick followed in awarding damages for violation of fundamental rights. In *Rudul Sah case* [*Rudul Sah v. State of Bihar*, (1983) 4 SCC 141] this Court used the terminology ‘palliative’ for measuring the damages and the formula of ‘ad hoc’ was applied. In *Sebastian Hongray case* [*Sebastian M. Hongray v. Union of India*, (1984) 3 SCC 82] the expression used by this Court for determining the monetary compensation was ‘exemplary’ costs and the formula adopted was ‘punitive’. In *Bhim Singh case* [*Bhim Singh v. State of J & K*, (1985) 4 SCC 677], the expression used by the Court was ‘compensation’ and the method adopted was ‘tortious formula’. In *D.K. Basu v. State of W.B.* [(1997) SCC 1 416] the expression used by this Court for determining the compensation was ‘monetary compensation’. The formula adopted was ‘cost to cost’ method. Courts have not, therefore, adopted a uniform criterion since no statutory formula has been laid down.”

[Extracted from: *Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Delhi v Uphaar Tragedy Victims Association* (2011) 14 SCC 481]

81. The public law proceedings serve a different purpose than the private law proceedings. The relief of monetary compensation, as exemplary damages, in proceedings under article 32 by the Supreme Court or under article 226 by the High Courts, for established infringement of the indefeasible right guaranteed under article 21 of the Constitution is a remedy available in _____ and is based on the strict liability for contravention of the guaranteed basic and indefeasible rights of the citizen:

- (A) Public law.
- (B) Private law.
- (C) Civil law.
- (D) All the above.



82. Choose the IN-CORRECT proposition about 'constitutional tort':
- (A) In essence, it attributes vicarious liability on the State for acts and omissions of its agents which result in violation of fundamental rights of an individual or group.
 - (B) Constitutional law and tort law came to be merged by the Supreme Court which began allowing successful petitioners to recover monetary damages from the State for infraction of their fundamental rights.
 - (C) The causal connection between the act or omission and the resultant infraction of fundamental rights, is central to any determination of an action of constitutional tort.
 - (D) The doctrine of sovereign immunity absolutely protects the State from liability for all acts of its servants, including those that violate fundamental rights.
83. Which of the following cases is NOT related to constitutional tort:
- (A) Kaushal Kishor v State of Uttar Pradesh 2023 INSC 4.
 - (B) Bombay Hospital & Medical Research Centre v Asha Jaiswal 2021 INSC 801.
 - (C) Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Delhi v Uphaar Tragedy Victims Association (2011) 14 SCC 481.
 - (D) DK Basu v State of WB [(1997) SCC 1 416.
84. Which of the following propositions is/are CORRECT about the award of damages in cases where there is violation of fundamental rights:
- (A) Constitutional courts can in appropriate cases of serious violation of life and liberty of the individuals award punitive damages.
 - (B) Owing to lack of legislation, the Courts dealing with the cases of tortious claims against State and its officials are not following a uniform pattern while deciding those claims and this, at times, leads to undesirable consequences and arbitrary fixation of compensation amount.
 - (C) Both (A) and (B).
 - (D) Neither (A) nor (B).
85. The principle of sovereign immunity of the State for the tortious acts of its servant, has been held to be _____ in the case of violation of fundamental rights:
- (A) Always applicable.
 - (B) Inapplicable.
 - (C) A good defence.
 - (D) Occasionally applicable.



XVIII. It is well recognized that actionable negligence in context of medical profession involves three constituents (i) duty to exercise due care; (ii) breach of duty and (iii) consequential damage. However, a simple lack of care, an error of judgment or an accident is not sufficient proof of negligence on part of the medical professional so long as the doctor follows the acceptable practice of the medical profession in discharge of his duties. He cannot be held liable for negligence merely because a better alternative treatment or course of treatment was available or that more skilled doctors were there who could have administered better treatment.

A medical professional may be held liable for negligence only when he is not possessed with the requisite qualification or skill or when he fails to exercise reasonable skill which he possesses in giving the treatment. None of the above two essential conditions for establishing negligence stand satisfied in the case at hand as no evidence was brought on record to prove that Dr. Neeraj Sud had not exercised due diligence, care or skill which he possessed in operating the patient and giving treatment to him. When reasonable care, expected of the medical professional, is extended or rendered to the patient unless contrary is proved, it would not be a case for actionable negligence.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from Neeraj Sud v Jaswinder Singh 2024 INSC 825]

86. In which of the following situations, a professional would be held liable for negligence:
- (A) If he was not possessed of the requisite skill which he professed to have possessed, or, he did not exercise, with reasonable competence, in the given case, the skill which he did possess.
 - (B) If he failed to use exceptional or extraordinary precautions which might have prevented the damage (particular happening).
 - (C) Both (A) and (B).
 - (D) Neither (A) nor (B).
87. Which of the following propositions is INCORRECT as regards negligence in civil law and in criminal law:
- (A) The jurisprudential concept of negligence differs in civil law and criminal law.
 - (B) What may be negligence in civil law may not necessarily be negligence in criminal law.
 - (C) For an act to amount to criminal negligence, the degree of negligence should be much higher, i.e. gross or of a very high degree.
 - (D) For negligence to amount to both a 'tort' and an 'offence', the element of mens rea must necessarily be shown to have existed.



88. The basis or the yardstick for judging the performance of the professional proceeded against on indictment of negligence is:
- (A) That of an ordinary and reasonably competent person exercising ordinary skill in that profession.
 - (B) That of a person with the highest level of expertise or skills in that branch which he practices.
 - (C) That of a person with the highest level of expertise or skills in that branch which he practices, and possessing the knowledge of all latest developments.
 - (D) Both (B) and (C).
89. Deviation from normal medical practice is not necessarily evidence of negligence. In order to establish liability of a medical practitioner on that basis, which of the following requirements has/have to be shown:
- (A) That, there is a usual and normal practice; and the medical practitioner (defendant) has not adopted it.
 - (B) That, the course in fact adopted by the medical practitioner (defendant) is one, which no professional man of ordinary skill would have taken, had he been acting with ordinary care.
 - (C) Both (A) and (B).
 - (D) Neither (A) nor (B).
90. A medical practitioner would not be held liable:
- (A) Where his conduct fell below that of the standards of a reasonably competent practitioner in his field.
 - (B) Where things went wrong from mischance or misadventure or through an error of judgment in choosing one reasonable course of treatment in preference of another.
 - (C) Both (A) and (B).
 - (D) Neither (A) nor (B).



XIX. Today, in the year 2025, we have been experiencing the drastic consequences of large scale destruction of environment on human lives in the capital city of our country and in many other cities. At least for a span of two months every year, the residents of Delhi suffocate due to air pollution. The AQI level is either dangerous or very dangerous. They suffer in their health. The other leading cities are not far behind. The air and water pollution in the cities is ever increasing. Therefore, coming out with measures such as the 2021 Official Memorandum is violative of fundamental rights of all persons guaranteed under Article 21 to live in a pollution free environment. It also infringes the right to health guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution.

The 2021 OM talks about the concept of development. Can there be development at the cost of environment? Conservation of environment and its improvement is an essential part of the concept of development. Therefore, going out of the way by issuing such OMs to protect those who have caused harm to the environment has to be deprecated by the Courts which are under a constitutional and statutory mandate to uphold the fundamental right under Article 21 and to protect the environment. In fact, the Courts should comedown heavily on such attempts. As stated earlier, the 2021 OM deals with project proponents who were fully aware of the EIA notification and who have taken conscious risk to flout the EIA notification and go ahead with the construction/continuation/expansion of projects. They have shown scant respect to the law and their duty to protect the environment. Apart from violation of Article 21, such action is completely arbitrary which is violative article 14 of the Constitution of India, besides being violative of the 1986 Act and the EIA notification.

(Extracted with edits from *Vanashakti v. Union of India*, 2025 INSC 718)

91. What was the central controversy in the petition, *Vanashakti v. Union of India*?
- (A) The constitutional validity of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
 - (B) The determination of pollution load standards for Category 'B' projects.
 - (C) The ex post facto grant of Environmental Clearance (EC).
 - (D) The delegation of powers to the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA).
92. The Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, which mandates prior EC, was issued by the Central Government under which primary legislation?
- (A) The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
 - (B) The Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
 - (C) The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
 - (D) The National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.



93. The Supreme Court reiterated a concluded finding that the concept of ex post facto or retrospective Environmental Clearance (EC) is:
- (A) Detrimental to the environment but permissible under Article 142 of the Constitution.
 - (B) Completely alien to environmental jurisprudence and the EIA notification.
 - (C) A necessary measure to bring defaulting entities into regulatory compliance.
 - (D) A valid administrative decision protected by Section 3 of the 1986 Act.
94. The EIA Notification 2006, mandates that prior Environmental Clearance (EC) must be obtained at what stage of a project?
- (A) Before commencing operations or processes.
 - (B) Within six months of a project's completion.
 - (C) After the public hearing but before the final appraisal.
 - (D) Before any construction work, or preparation of land is started on the project.
95. Allowing for ex post facto clearance was held to be contrary to which two fundamental principles of environmental jurisprudence?
- (A) Doctrine of Necessity and Principle of Stare Decisis.
 - (B) Polluter Pays Principle and Public Trust Doctrine.
 - (C) Precautionary Principle and Sustainable Development.
 - (D) Doctrine of Sovereign immunity and doctrine of Public Trust

XX. With the Paris Agreement, countries established an enhanced transparency framework (ETF). Under ETF, starting in 2024, countries will report transparently on actions taken and progress in climate change mitigation, adaptation measures and support provided or received. It also provides for international procedures for the review of the submitted reports.

The information gathered through the ETF will feed into the Global stocktake which will assess the collective progress towards the long-term climate goals. This will lead to recommendations for countries to set more ambitious plans in the next round.

Although climate change action needs to be massively increased to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement, the years since its entry into force have already sparked low-carbon solutions and new markets. More and more countries, regions, cities and companies are establishing carbon neutrality targets. Zero-carbon solutions are becoming competitive across economic sectors representing 25% of emissions. This trend is most noticeable in the power and transport sectors and has created many new business opportunities for early movers. By 2030, zero-carbon solutions could be competitive in sectors representing over 70% of global emissions.

(Extracted with edits from the website UNFCCC.INT)

96. What is the central, long-term temperature goal of the Paris Agreement?
- (A) To limit the global temperature increase to exactly 1.5 degrees
 - (B) To hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 degrees above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5 degrees.
 - (C) To reduce the global average temperature to pre-industrial levels by the year 2100.
 - (D) To limit the global temperature increase to 3 degrees above pre-industrial levels.



97. The Paris Agreement calls for a process to periodically assess the collective progress toward achieving its long-term goals. What is this process called?
- (A) The Compliance Mechanism
 - (B) The Global Stocktake
 - (C) The Transparency Framework
 - (D) The Adaptation Communication
98. Which previous International Climate Treaty did the Paris Agreement succeed and replace in terms of its operational framework after 2020?
- (A) The Montreal Protocol
 - (B) The Basel Convention
 - (C) The Kyoto Protocol
 - (D) The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
99. The Paris Agreement establishes a clear distinction in obligations between developed and developing countries regarding:
- (A) The long-term temperature goal, with different limits for each group.
 - (B) Mitigation efforts, by requiring only developed countries to submit NDCs.
 - (C) Climate finance, by requiring developed countries to provide financial resources to assist developing countries.
 - (D) The principle of sovereignty, by allowing only developing countries to withdraw from the Agreement.
100. The mechanism known as "Loss and Damage" in the context of climate change, which addresses the unavoidable adverse effects of climate change, is reinforced in the Paris Agreement through the:
- (A) Technology Executive Committee.
 - (B) Global Stocktake.
 - (C) Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM).
 - (D) Adaptation Fund.
- XXI. SEBI was established as India's principal capital markets regulator with the aim to protect the interest of investors in securities and promote the development and regulation of the securities market in India. SEBI is empowered to regulate the securities market in India by the SEBI Act 1992, the SCRA and the Depositories Act 1996. SEBI's powers to regulate the securities market are wide and include delegated legislative, administrative, and adjudicatory powers to enforce SEBI's regulations. SEBI exercises its delegated legislative power by inter alia framing regulations and appropriately amending them to keep up with the dynamic nature of the securities' market. SEBI has issued a number of regulations on various areas of security regulation which form the backbone of the framework governing the securities market in India.



Section 11 of the SEBI Act lays down the functions of SEBI and expressly states that it “shall be the duty of the Board to protect the interests of investors in securities and to promote the development of, and to regulate the securities market, by such measures as it thinks fit”. Further, Section 30 of the SEBI Act empowers SEBI to make regulations consistent with the Act. Significantly, while framing these regulations, SEBI consults its advisory committees consisting of domain experts, including market experts, leading market players, legal experts, technology experts, retired Judges of this Court or the High Courts, academicians, representatives of industry associations and investor associations. During the consultative process, SEBI also invites and duly considers comments from the public on their proposed regulations. SEBI follows similar consultative processes while reviewing and amending its regulations.

(Extracted, with edits and revision, from the judgement in Vishal Tiwari v. Union Of India, [2024] 1 S.C.R. 171)

101. What is meant by SCRA in the above passage.
- (A) Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act
 - (B) Securities and Corporate (Registration) Act
 - (C) Securities Compliance (Regulation) Act
 - (D) SEBI and Companies (Regulation) Act
102. Which of the following is not a committee setup by SEBI?
- (A) Technical Advisory Committee
 - (B) Competition Advisory committee
 - (C) Intermediary Advisory Committee
 - (D) Market Data Advisory Committee
103. Which among the following is not a function of SEBI?
- (A) regulating substantial acquisition of shares and take over of companies
 - (B) prohibiting and regulating self-regulatory organisations
 - (C) prohibiting insider trading in securities
 - (D) promoting investors' education and training of intermediaries of securities markets.
104. The process by which an organisation thinks about and evolves its relationships with stakeholders for the common good, and demonstrates its commitment in this regard by adoption of appropriate business processes and strategies is called?
- (A) Annual general meeting
 - (B) Corporate social responsibility
 - (C) Issuing Shelf prospectus
 - (D) Incorporation of a company
105. In which of the following cases did the court struck down the attempt of the government to nationalise banks and pay minimal compensation to the shareholders?
- (A) Shri Sunil Siddharthbhai Etc v. Union of India
 - (B) R.C. Cooper v. Union of India
 - (C) United Bank Of India v. SatyawatiTondon & Ors
 - (D) Punjab National Bank v. Union of India



XXII. The Companies Act, 2013 does not deal with insolvency and bankruptcy when the companies are unable to pay their debts or the aspects relating to the revival and rehabilitation of the companies and their winding up if revival and rehabilitation is not possible. In principle, it cannot be doubted that the cases of revival or winding up of the company on the ground of insolvency and inability to pay debts are different from cases where companies are wound up under Section 271 of the Companies Act 2013. The two situations are not identical. Under Section 271 of the Companies Act, 2013, even a running and financially sound company can also be wound up for the reasons in clauses (a) to (e). The reasons and grounds for winding up under Section 271 of the Companies Act, 2013 are vastly different from the reasons and grounds for the revival and rehabilitation scheme as envisaged under the IBC. The two enactments deal with two distinct situations and in our opinion, they cannot be equated when we examine whether there is discrimination or violation of Article 14 of the Constitution of India. For the revival and rehabilitation of the companies, certain sacrifices are required from all quarters, including the workmen. In case of insolvent companies, for the sake of survival and regeneration, everyone, including the secured creditors and the Central and State Government, are required to make sacrifices. The workmen also have a stake and benefit from the revival of the company, and therefore unless it is found that the sacrifices envisaged for the workmen, which certainly form a separate class, are onerous and burdensome so as to be manifestly unjust and arbitrary, we will not set aside the legislation, solely on the ground that some or marginal sacrifice is to be made by the workers. We would also reject the argument that to find out whether there was a violation of Article 14 of the Constitution of India or whether the right to life under Article 21 Constitution of India was infringed, we must word by word examine the waterfall mechanism envisaged under the Companies Act, 2013, where the company is wound up in terms of grounds (a) to (e) of Section 271 of the Companies Act, 2013; and the rights of the workmen when the insolvent company is sought to be revived, rehabilitated or wound up under the Code. The grounds and situations in the context of the objective and purpose of the two enactments are entirely different.

(Extracted, with edits and revision, from Moser Baer Karamchari Union v. Union of India, 2023 SCC Online SC 547)

106. In which of the following cases, it was held by the Supreme Court that although a company is a separate legal entity distinct from that of its members, the corporate veil may be lifted and the corporate personality may be ignored?
- (A) Life Insurance Corporation of India v. Escorts Ltd. (1986) 59 Comp Case 548
 - (B) R. K. Dalmia vs Delhi Administration, AIR 1962 SC 1821
 - (C) Dale And Carrington Invt. P. Ltd. v. P.K. Prathapan AIR 2005 SC 1624
 - (D) Rohtas Industries Ltd v. S.D. Agarwal, AIR 1969 SC 707



107. The extent to which a Corporation as a legal person can be held criminally liable for its acts and omissions and for those of the natural persons employed by it is called?
- (A) Corporate manslaughter (B) Lifting the corporate veil
(C) Corporate criminal liability (D) Corporate social responsibility
108. In which of the following cases, the constitutionality of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 was upheld by the Supreme Court?
- (A) RPS Infrastructure Ltd. v. Union of India, 2023 INSC 816
(B) Paschimanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd. v. Union of India, AIR 1971 SC 862
(C) Union Bank of India v. Financial Creditors of M/s Amtek Auto Limited, (2023) IBC Law.in 85 SC.
(D) Swiss Ribbons v. Union of India, (2019) SCC Online SC 73.
109. A director other than a managing director or a whole-time director or a nominee director who does not have any material or pecuniary relationship with the company/ directors other than the remuneration is called
- (A) Founding Director (B) Promoter Director
(C) Independent Director (D) Associate Director
110. Which among the following is not a duty of a Director of the company?
- (A) To file return of allotments
(B) To disclose interest
(C) Duty to call upon the shareholders to attend the Board meetings
(D) To convene General meeting

XXIII. In his heroic efforts, my learned brother Krishna Iyer, if I may say so with great respect, has not discarded the tests of industry formulated in the past. Indeed, he has actually restored the tests laid down by this Court in *D. N. Banerji's* case and, after that, in the *Corporation of the City of Nagpur v. Its Employees*, and *State of Bombay v. The Hospital Mazdoor Sabha* to their pristine glory.

My learned brother has, however, rejected what may appear, to use the word employed recently by an American Jurist, "excrescences" of subjective notions of judges which may have blurred those tests. The temptation is great, in such cases, for us to give expression of what may be purely subjective personal predilections. It has, however, to be resisted if law is to possess a direction in Conformity with Constitutional objectives and criteria which must impart that reasonable state of predictability and certainty to interpretations of the Constitution as well as to the laws made under it which citizens should expect. We have, so to speak, to chart what may appear to be a Sea in which the ship of law like Noah's ark may have to be navigated. Indeed, Lord Sankey on one occasion, said that law itself is like the ark to which people look for some certainty and security amidst the shifting sands of political life and vicissitudes of times. The Constitution and the directive principles of State policy, read with the basic fundamental rights, provide us with a compass.



This Court has tried to indicate in recent cases that the meaning of what could be described as a basic "structure" of the Constitution must necessarily be found in express provisions of the construction and not merely in subjective notions about meanings of words. Similar must be the reasoning we must employ in extracting the core of meaning hidden between the interstices of statutory provisions. Each of us is likely to have a subjective notion about "industry". For objectivity, we have to look first to the, words used in the statutory provision defining industry in an attempt to find the meaning. If that meaning is clear, we need proceed no further. But, the trouble here is that the words found there do not yield a meaning so readily. They refer to what employers or workers may do as parts of their ordinary avocation or business in life.

(Extracted with edits from Bangalore Water Supply v. A. Rajappa & Others, AIR 1978 SC 548)

111. According to the Supreme Court's judgment, what is the most important factor in determining whether an activity constitutes an industry?
- (A) The profit-making motive of the employer
 - (B) When there are multiple activities carried on by an establishment, its dominant function has to be considered. If the dominant function is not commercial, benefits of a workman of an industry under Industrial Dispute Act may be given.
 - (C) The nature of the activity and the authority of the employer over its employees
 - (D) When there are multiple activities carried on by an establishment, all the activities must be considered. Even if one activity is commercial, the employees will not get the benefit of workman of an industry under the Industrial Dispute Act.
112. Which of the following best describes the broader impact of the judgment?
- (A) It reduced labour protections for workers
 - (B) It extended labour protections to a broader spectrum of workers
 - (C) It had no significant impact on labour laws
 - (D) It only affected private sector workers
113. Which of the following best describes the term 'industry' as defined by the Supreme Court in this judgment?
- (A) Any activity involving profit-making
 - (B) Any systematic activity organized by cooperation between an employer and employees for producing or distributing goods and services
 - (C) Only activities conducted by private enterprises
 - (D) Activities limited to manufacturing sectors



114. In which of the following landmark judgements, the Supreme Court held that when an association or society of apartment owners employs workers for personal services to its members, those workers do not qualify as workmen under the Act and the association is not an “Industry” under the Industrial Disputes Act?
- (A) Som Vihar Apartment Owners’ Housing Maintenance Society Ltd v. Workmen, 2009 SC
 - (B) Anand Vihar Apartment Owners’ Society Ltd. V. Workmen, 2024 SC
 - (C) Kanchanjunga Building Employees Union v. Kanchanjunga Flat Owner’s Society &Anr., 2024 SC
 - (D) Workmen represented by Secretary v. Reptakos Brett AIR 1992 SC 504
115. Under the Industrial Dispute Act, 1947, what is the role of the “Works Committee” and which of the following correctly describes its function?
- (A) The works committee is a body formed by the central government to address wage disputes between employer and employee in public sector industries.
 - (B) The works committee is a grievance redressal body constituted by the employer, primarily to promote measures for securing and preserving amity and good relations between the employer and employee.
 - (C) The Works Committee is responsible for making binding decisions on industrial disputes related to layoffs, retrenchment and closure of industrial units.
 - (D) The Works Committee is responsible for adjudicating major industrial disputes regarding wages, bonus or retrenchment.

XXIV. The Act of 1948 defines “manufacturing process” and we clearly find that “washing, cleaning” and the activities carried out by the respondent with a view to its use, delivery or disposal are squarely attracted. The contention of the respondent that dry cleaning does not make any product usable, saleable or worthy of transport, delivery or disposal has only to be stated to be rejected.

“Manufacturing process” has been defined to mean any process for washing or cleaning with a view to its use, sale, transport, delivery or disposal. The linen deposited with the launderer is, after washing and cleaning, delivered to the customer for use. The ingredients of the section are fully satisfied. There is nothing in the Act of 1948, which is repugnant in the subject or context, constraining us to jettison the definition. Hence, we reject the findings of the High Court and hold that the activity carried out which on facts is not disputed is clearly covered by the definition of “manufacturing process” under Section 2(k) which, in turn, would bring the premises in question of the respondent under the definition of “factory” under Section 2(m). If that were so, the complaint lodged against the respondent could not have been quashed.

(Extracted with edits from *The State of Goa v. Namita Tripathi*, 2025 INSC 306)

116. According to the Supreme Court's interpretation of Section 2(k)(i) of the Factories Act, 1948, the business of a laundry service involving cleaning and washing of clothes is considered a "manufacturing process" primarily because it involves:
- (A) Producing a new marketable commodity through transformation.
 - (B) Washing or cleaning any article or substance with a view to its delivery or use.
 - (C) Carrying on a service and not a manufacturing activity.
 - (D) Employing more than 50 workers, regardless of the activity.



117. What rule of statutory interpretation did the Supreme Court explicitly state should be applied to the Factories Act, 1948, because of its nature?
- (A) Rule of Literal Interpretation.
 - (B) Doctrine of Stare Decisis.
 - (C) Liberal and Beneficial Construction.
 - (D) Rule of Ejusdem Generis.
118. The Supreme Court used the 'Mischief Rule' of interpretation to analyze the definition of "manufacturing process" by comparing the Factories Act, 1948, with its predecessor. What was the critical difference noted in the 1948 Act's definition (Section 2(k)) compared to the 1934 Act's definition (Section 2(g))?
- (A) The 1948 Act introduced the concept of "power" being used in the process.
 - (B) The 1948 Act included the words 'washing, cleaning', which were absent in the 1934 Act.
 - (C) The 1948 Act removed the exemption for mobile units of the armed forces.
 - (D) The 1948 Act lowered the minimum age of employment for children.
119. A premises is defined as a "factory" under Section 2(m)(i) of the Factories Act, 1948, if:
- (A) Twenty or more workers are working without the aid of power.
 - (B) Ten or more workers are working, and a manufacturing process is carried on with the aid of power.
 - (C) Less than ten workers are working, but the process involves hazardous substances.
 - (D) It is a hotel, restaurant, or eating place.
120. The Supreme Court ruled that the Punjab and Haryana High Court judgment in Employees' State Insurance Corporation, Jullundur v. Triplex Dry Cleaners and Others (1982) was not applicable to the present case because:
- (A) The Triplex Dry Cleaners case was decided under the Shops and Establishments Act, not the Factories Act.
 - (B) The Triplex Dry Cleaners case was decided before the definition of "manufacturing process" under the Factories Act, 1948, was incorporated into the Employees State Insurance Act (ESIC Act).
 - (C) The Triplex Dry Cleaners case dealt with washing, not dry cleaning.
 - (D) The ESIC Act was a penal statute, while the Factories Act, 1948, is a welfare statute.



SPACE FOR ROUGH WORK



SPACE FOR ROUGH WORK



PG 2026

QUESTION BOOKLET NO.

1. **Name of the Candidate :**

2. **Admit Card Number :**

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Duration of the Test : 2 hours (120 minutes) *

Maximum Marks : 120

1. This Question Booklet (QB) contains 120 (One hundred and Twenty) Multiple Choice Questions across 48 (Forty Eight) pages including 2 (Two) blank pages for rough work. No additional sheet(s) of paper will be supplied for rough work.
2. You have to answer ALL questions in the separate carbonised Optical Mark Reader (OMR) Response Sheet supplied along with this QB. You must READ the detailed instructions provided with the OMR Response Sheet on the reverse side of this packet BEFORE you start the test.
3. No clarification can be sought on the QB from anyone. In case of any discrepancy such as printing error or missing pages, in the QB, request the Invigilator to replace the QB and OMR Response Sheet. Do not use the previous OMR Response sheet with the fresh QB.
4. You should write the QB Number, and the OMR Response Sheet Number, and sign in the space/column provided in the Attendance Sheet.
5. The QB for the Post Graduate Programme is for 120 marks. Every **Right Answer** secures 1 mark. Every **Wrong Answer** results in the deduction of 0.25 mark. There shall be no deductions for Unanswered Questions.
6. You may retain the QB and the Candidate's copy of the OMR Response Sheet after the end of the test.
7. The use of any unfair means shall result in your disqualification. Possession of Electronic Devices such as mobile phones, headphones, digital watches, etc., is/are strictly prohibited in the test premises. Impersonation or any other unlawful practice will lead to your disqualification and possibly, appropriate action under the law.

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- I. The element of gift is traceable to both 'settlement' and 'will'. As settled in law, the nomenclature of an instrument is immaterial and the nature of the document is to be derived from its contents. While so, a voluntary disposition can transfer the interest in *praesenti* and in future, in the same document. In such a case, the document would have the elements of both the settlement and will. Such document, then has to be registered and by operation of the doctrine of severability, becomes a composite document and has to be treated as both, a settlement and will and the respective rights will flow with regard to each disposition from the same document. It is pertinent to mention here that the reservation of life interest or any condition in the instrument, even if it postpones the physical delivery of possession to the donee/settlee, cannot be treated as a will, as the property had already been vested with the donee/settlee.
- [Extracted from: NP Saseendran v NP Ponnamma 2025 INSC 388.]
1. Which of the following is NOT an essential of a valid gift:
 - (A) It is a transfer of certain existing movable or immovable property.
 - (B) It is made voluntarily.
 - (C) It is made without consideration.
 - (D) It must be accepted by or on behalf of the donee during the lifetime of the donor, even if the donor becomes incapable of giving the property.

 2. The element of _____ is common to all the three transactions, i.e. Gift, Settlement and Will:
 - (A) physical delivery of possession.
 - (B) absence of consideration.
 - (C) voluntary disposition.
 - (D) vesting of the right in praesenti.

 3. The main test to find out whether a document constitutes a 'Will' or a 'Settlement' is to see whether the disposition of the interest in the property is in *praesenti* in favour of the settlee or whether the disposition is to take effect on the death of the executant. In view of this position of law, choose the CORRECT proposition:
 - (A) If the disposition is to take effect on the death of the executant, it will be a Settlement. But, if the executant divests his interest in the property and vests his interest in *praesenti* in the transferee, the document will be a Will.
 - (B) Whether the disposition is to take effect on the death of the executant or the executant divests his interest in the property and vests his interest in *praesenti* in the transferee, the document will nevertheless remain a Settlement.
 - (C) If the disposition is to take effect on the death of the executant, it will be a Will. But, if the executant divests his interest in the property and vests his interest in *praesenti* in the settlee, the document will be a Settlement.
 - (D) If the disposition takes effect on the assumption of death of the executant, it shall be a will.



4. Which of the following propositions is INCORRECT about a valid gift:
- (A) A gift may be suspended or revoked.
 - (B) A gift comprising both existing and future property is valid in totality.
 - (C) Delivery of possession is not a condition *sine qua non* to validate the gift.
 - (D) In so far as gift of an immovable property is concerned, registration is mandatory.
5. Which of the following propositions is CORRECT about a Will:
- (A) It is revocable, as no interest in the property is intended to pass during the lifetime of the testator.
 - (B) It is revocable, despite interest in the property being passed under the Will during the lifetime of the testator.
 - (C) It is revocable because registration is not mandatory.
 - (D) It is irrevocable because registration is not mandatory

II. "Mortgage inter alia means transfer of interest in the specific immovable property for the purpose of securing the money advanced by way of loan. Section 17(1)(c) of the Registration Act provides that a non-testamentary instrument which acknowledges the receipt or payment of any consideration on account of the creation, declaration, assignment, limitation or extension of any such right, title or interest, requires compulsory registration. Mortgage by deposit of title-deeds in terms of Section 58(f) of the Transfer of Property Act surely acknowledges the receipt and transfer of interest and, therefore, one may contend that its registration is compulsory.

However, Section 59 of the Transfer of Property Act mandates that every mortgage other than a mortgage by deposit of title-deeds can be effected only by a registered instrument. In the face of it, in our opinion, when the debtor deposits with the creditor title-deeds of the property for the purpose of security, it becomes mortgage in terms of Section 58(f) of the Transfer of Property Act and no registered instrument is required under Section 59 thereof as in other classes of mortgage.

The essence of mortgage by deposit of title-deeds is handing over by a borrower to the creditor title-deeds of immovable property with the intention that those documents shall constitute security, enabling the creditor to recover the money lent. After the deposit of the title-deeds the creditor and borrower may record the transaction in a memorandum but such a memorandum would not be an instrument of mortgage. A memorandum reducing other terms and conditions with regard to the deposit in the form of a document, however, shall require registration under Section 17(1)(c) of the Registration Act, but in a case in which such a document does not incorporate any term and condition, it is merely evidential and does not require registration."

[Extracted from: State of Haryana v Narvir Singh (2014) 1 SCC 105]

6. Which of the following is NOT an essential of a mortgage under the Transfer of Property Act, 1882:
- (A) It is a transfer of an interest in specific immovable property.
 - (B) It is for the purpose of securing the payment of money advanced or to be advanced by way of loan.
 - (C) It is always in respect of an existing debt.
 - (D) It is in respect of an existing or future debt, or the performance of an engagement which may give rise to a pecuniary liability.



7. A mortgage by deposit of title-deeds is a form of mortgage recognised by section 58(f) of the Transfer of Property Act, 1882, which provides that:
- (A) When the debtor deposits with the creditor the title-deeds of his property with an intent to create a security, the law implies a contract between the parties to create a mortgage, and no registered instrument is required under section 59 of the Transfer of Property Act, as in other forms of mortgage.
 - (B) When the debtor deposits with the creditor the title-deeds of his property with an intent to create a security, the implication of law (that there exists a contract between the parties to create a mortgage) is excluded, and a registered instrument is required under section 59 of the Transfer of Property Act.
 - (C) When the debtor deposits with the creditor the title-deeds of his property with an intent to create a security, the implication of law (that there exists a contract between the parties to create a mortgage) is excluded, and a registered instrument is required under section 58(f) of the Transfer of Property Act.
 - (D) When the debtor deposits with the creditor the title-deeds of his property with an intent to create a security, the implication of law (that there exists a contract between the parties to create a mortgage) is excluded, and a registered instrument is required under section 17(1)(c) of the Registration Act.
8. As per section 96 of the Transfer of Property Act, the provisions which apply to _____ shall, so far as may be, apply to a mortgage by deposit of title-deeds.
- (A) A simple mortgage.
 - (B) A mortgage by conditional sale.
 - (C) A usufructuary mortgage.
 - (D) An English mortgage.
9. The period of limitation for a suit to enforce payment of money secured by a mortgage or otherwise charged upon immovable property is:
- (A) 30 years.
 - (B) 12 years.
 - (C) 20 years.
 - (D) 3 years.



10. In a mortgage by deposit of title-deeds, after the deposit of the title-deeds, if the creditor and the borrower choose to record their transaction in a memorandum reducing other terms and conditions (in addition to what flow from the mortgage by deposit of title-deeds) with regard to the deposit in the form of a memorandum/document, then the memorandum/document requires registration under section 17(1)(c) of the Registration Act. In this context which among the following propositions is not correct?
- (A) The deposit and the document both form integral parts of the transaction and are essential ingredients in the creation of the mortgage.
 - (B) The deposit alone is not intended to create the charge and the document, which constitutes the bargain regarding the security, is also necessary and operates to create the charge in conjunction with the deposit.
 - (C) The implication of law (that there exists a contract between the parties to create a mortgage) is excluded by their express bargain, and the document becomes the sole evidence of its terms.
 - (D) The deposit and the documents do not form integral parts of the transaction and hence they are not essential ingredients in the creation of the mortgage.

III. Having heard the learned Counsels for the parties, and on perusal of the material on record, the primary issue which arises for consideration of this Court is “whether a review or recall of an order passed in a criminal proceeding initiated under section 340 of CrPC is permissible or not?” [...] A careful consideration of the statutory provisions and the aforesaid decisions of this Court clarify the now-well settled position of jurisprudence of Section 362 of CrPC which when summarized would be that the criminal courts, as envisaged under the CrPC, are barred from altering or reviewing in their own judgments except for the exceptions which are explicitly provided by the statute, namely, correction of a clerical or an arithmetical error that might have been committed or the said power is provided under any other law for the time being in force. As the courts become *functus officio* the very moment a judgment or an order is signed, the bar of Section 362 CrPC becomes applicable. Despite the powers provided under Section 482 CrPC which, this veil cannot allow the courts to step beyond or circumvent an explicit bar. It also stands clarified that it is only in situations wherein an application for recall of an order or judgment seeking a procedural review that the bar would not apply and not a substantive review where the bar as contained in Section 362 CrPC is attracted. Numerous decisions of this Court have also elaborated that the bar under said provision is to be applied *stricto sensu*.

(Extracted with edits and revisions from Vikram Bakshi v. RP Khosla 2025 INSC 1020)

11. As per section 362 of Cr. P.C.(equivalent to section 403 of BNSS 2023), a criminal court has power to review or alter its own judgment or order only under the following circumstances.
- (A) If there is an error as to the question of fact.
 - (B) If there is an error as to the question of law.
 - (C) If there is/are clerical and arithmetical errors.
 - (D) If the judgment or order is rendered *per in curium*.



12. The bench in this case referred to a distinction drawn previously in *Grindlays Bank* case, that of procedural review and substantive review by criminal courts. Which of the following statements most accurately captures the distinction between the two decisions?
- (A) A procedural review is exercised when a higher court finds an error in interpretation, while a substantive review is limited to correcting factual inaccuracies within the same court.
 - (B) A procedural review is available only in appellate courts, whereas a substantive review may be conducted by the original court that issued in court
 - (C) A procedural review is inherent or implied in a court to set aside a palpably erroneous order passed under misapprehension by it. However, a substantive review is when error sought to be corrected is one of law and is apparent on the face of the record.
 - (D) A procedural review involves correcting errors of judgement made after hearing the parties while a substantive review is confined to omissions in recording of legal reasoning.
13. According to the Supreme Court's analysis, under which principle did the High Court claim to recall its Judgment, even though the Supreme Court ultimately rejected this basis?
- (A) *Ex debito justitiae*, to correct a factual error not brought to its notice earlier.
 - (B) Inherent power under Section 482 of the CrPC to prevent the abuse of the process of any Court.
 - (C) The power of a criminal court to conduct a "substantive review" on the merits of the case.
 - (D) The binding nature of the Supreme Court's earlier Judgment which mandated a decision on the perjury application.
14. The court identified certain exceptional circumstances wherein the criminal court is empowered to alter or review its own judgement or a final order under Section 362 (CrPC). Which of the following is NOT one among them:
- (A) Such power is expressly conferred upon court by law
 - (B) The court passing such a judgement or order lacked inherent jurisdiction to do so
 - (C) Fact relating to non-serving of necessary party being non-represented, not brought to notice of court while passing such judgment or order
 - (D) A subsequent judicial precedent renders the earlier judgment legally untenable



15. In relation to exceptional circumstances identified by the court under which the embargo on criminal courts to review or alter their judgement or final order after signing under Section 362 (CrPC) would not apply, which of the following statements is correct?
- I. The exceptions are exercisable only if a ground that is raised was not available or existent at the time of original proceedings before the Court
 - II. The said power cannot be invoked as a means to circumvent the finality of the judicial process or mistakes and/or errors in the decision which are attributable to a conscious omission by the parties.

Select the most appropriate option:

- (A) Only I is correct
 - (B) Only II is correct
 - (C) Both I and II are correct
 - (D) Both I and II are incorrect
- IV. A glance over all the Sections related to extortion would reveal a clear distinction being carried out between the actual commission of extortion and the process of putting a person in fear for the purpose of committing extortion.

Section 383 defines extortion, the punishment therefor is given in Section 384. Sections 386 and 388 provide for an aggravated form of extortion. These sections deal with the actual commission of an act of extortion, whereas Sections 385, 387 and 389 IPC seek to punish for an act committed for the purpose of extortion even though the act of extortion may not be complete and property not delivered. It is in the process of committing an offence that a person is put in fear of injury, death or grievous hurt. Section 387 IPC provides for a stage prior to committing extortion, which is putting a person in fear of death or grievous hurt 'in order to commit extortion', similar to Section 385 IPC. Hence, Section 387 IPC is an aggravated form of 385 IPC, not 384 IPC.

Having deliberated upon the offence of extortion and its forms, we proceed to analyze the essentials of both Sections, i.e., 383 and 387 IPC, the High Court dealt with.

(Extracted from *Balaji Traders v. State of UP*, 2025 INSC 806)

16. According to the Supreme Court's analysis in the judgment, Section 387 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) deals with:
- (A) The actual commission of the act of extortion by putting a person in fear of death or grievous hurt.
 - (B) The punishment for a completed act of extortion by putting a person in fear of death or grievous hurt.
 - (C) The process or stage prior to committing extortion, specifically putting or attempting to put a person in fear of death or grievous hurt in order to commit extortion.
 - (D) A lesser, non-aggravated form of extortion defined in Section 383 IPC.



17. The core difference between Section 383/384 IPC (Extortion/Punishment) and Section 387 IPC (Putting person in fear of death or grievous hurt, in order to commit extortion), as established by the Supreme Court, is that:
- (A) Section 387 IPC requires the use of firearms, whereas Section 383/384 IPC does not.
 - (B) Section 383/384 IPC deals with the actual commission of extortion and requires delivery of property, while Section 387 IPC deals with the process (putting a person in fear) and does not require the delivery of property.
 - (C) Section 383/384 IPC is an aggravated form of Section 387 IPC.
 - (D) Section 387 IPC involves only an attempt, while Section 383/384 IPC involves a completed offence.
18. What is the minimum essential ingredient that the Supreme Court found *prima facie* disclosed in the complaint for an offence under Section 387 IPC?
- (A) The transfer of at least Rs. 5 lakhs from the complainant to the accused.
 - (B) The use of rifles, a specific type of weapon.
 - (C) Putting the complainant in fear of death or grievous hurt in order to commit extortion, such as by pointing a gun and demanding Rs. 5 lakhs per month.
 - (D) The existence of pending litigation regarding Trademark and Copyright claims.
19. The Supreme Court cites which of the following as a well-settled principle of law regarding the interpretation of penal statutes?
- (A) Penal statutes must be given a wide and flexible interpretation to cover all intended mischief.
 - (B) Courts are competent to stretch the meaning of an expression used by the Legislature to carry out the intention of the Legislature.
 - (C) If two possible and reasonable constructions can be put upon a penal provision, the Court must lean towards the construction that imposes the maximum penalty.
 - (D) If two possible and reasonable constructions can be put upon a penal provision, the Court must lean towards that construction which exempts the subject from penalty rather than the one which imposes penalty.
20. The Supreme Court's final decision on the appeal filed by M/s. Balaji Traders was to:
- (A) Dismiss the appeal and uphold the High Court's quashing order.
 - (B) Dismiss the appeal but modify the charge to Section 384 IPC.
 - (C) Allow the appeal, set aside the High Court's order, and restore the proceedings of Complaint case to the file of the Trial Court.
 - (D) Allow the appeal and transfer the case to the High Court for a fresh hearing on merits.



- V. The reference essentially raises the following issue: whether a child who is conferred with legislative legitimacy under Section 16(1) or 16(2) is, by reason of Section 16(3), entitled to the ancestral/coparcenary property of the parents or is the child merely entitled to the self-earned/separate property of the parents. The questions that arise before us are - first, whether the legislative intent is to confer legitimacy on a child covered by Section 16 in a manner that makes them coparceners, and thus entitled to initiate or get a share in the partition - actual or notional; second, at what point does a specific property transition into becoming the property of the parent. For, it is solely within such property that children endowed with legislative legitimacy hold entitlement, in accordance with Section 16(3).[.]Holding that the consequence of legitimacy under sub-sections (1) or (2) of Section 16 is to place such an individual on an equal footing as a coparcener in the coparcenary would be contrary to the plain intendment of sub-section (3) of Section 16 of the HMA 1955 which recognises rights to or in the property only of the parents. In fact, the use of language in the negative by Section 16(3) places the position beyond the pale of doubt. We would therefore have to hold that when an individual falls within the protective ambit of sub-section (1) or sub-section (2) of Section 16, they would be entitled to rights in or to the absolute property of the parents and no other person. (Extracted with edits and revisions from *Revanasiddappa&Anr v. Mallikarjun* 2023 INSC 783)
21. When a Hindu Mitakshara coparcener, who has a child legitimised under section 16 of Hindu Marriage Act 1955, dies intestate, after the 2005 Amendment of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, what is the legal mechanism that determines the child's share in the parent's interest in the coparcenary property?
- (A) The Child becomes a coparcener by birth, and the entire coparcenary property is divided equally amongst all the coparceners.
 - (B) The parent's interest devolves by traditional rule of survivorship, and the section 16 child receives no share
 - (C) The parent's interest is first determined through a notional partition immediately before death under section 6 (3) of Hindu Succession Act 1956 and this determined share then devolves by intestate succession to all the deceased's children (including the section 16 child) under section 8/10 of Hindu Succession Act 1956.
 - (D) The share of section 16 child is limited to receiving maintenance from the joint family estate.
22. From the decisions rendered by the Supreme Court on this issue, which of the following correctly states the legal position of a child conferred with legitimacy under section 16 of Hindu Marriage Act
- (A) Such a child is a coparcener
 - (B) Such a child is not a coparcener
 - (C) Such a child is a coparcener, and has the power to seek partition of coparcenary property
 - (D) Such a child is a coparcener, but does not have the power to seek partition of coparcenary property



23. Consider the following statements:

- I. A child born out of a null and void marriage is considered as legitimate by law
- II. Conferment of legitimacy is irrespective of whether such child was born before or after the commencement of the Amending Act 1976

Select the most appropriate option:

- (A) Only I is correct
 - (B) Only II is correct
 - (C) Both I and II are correct
 - (D) Both I and II are incorrect
24. Which of the following statements is correct in relation to the property rights of children from void/voidable marriages
- (A) Such a child can ask for partition of coparcenary property
 - (B) Such a child can claim share in their own right in the undivided coparcenary property of his parents
 - (C) Such a child has rights only to self-acquired property of his parents
 - (D) Such a child cannot ask for partition of coparcenary property
25. Which of the following best summarises the conclusion reached by the Supreme Court regarding children conferred with legitimacy under Section 16 under the Hindu Marriage Act?
- (A) Such children are entitled to coparcenary rights in the ancestral property to their parents, equal to children born within a valid marriage
 - (B) Such children are entitled only to the self-acquired or separate property of their parents, and not to ancestral/coparcenary property
 - (C) Such children are entitled to inherit property only if no legitimate heirs exist from a valid marriage
 - (D) Such children have no rights in any property of the parents, whether self-acquired or ancestral



VI. Live-in relationship, as such, as already indicated, is a relationship which has not been socially accepted in India, unlike many other countries. In *Lata Singh v. State of U.P.* [(2006) 5 SCC 475 : (2006) 2 SCC (Cri) 478] it was observed that a live-in relationship between two consenting adults of heterosexual sex does not amount to any offence even though it may be perceived as immoral. However, in order to provide a remedy in civil law for protection of women, from being victims of such relationship, and to prevent the occurrence of domestic violence in the society, first time in India, the DV Act has been enacted to cover the couple having relationship in the nature of marriage, persons related by consanguinity, marriages, etc. We have few other legislations also where reliefs have been provided to woman placed in certain vulnerable situations. Section 125 CrPC, of course, provides for maintenance of a destitute wife and Section 498-A IPC is related to mental cruelty inflicted on women by her husband and in-laws. Section 304-B IPC deals with the cases relating to dowry death. The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 was enacted to deal with the cases of dowry demands by the husband and family members. The Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act, 1956 provides for grant of maintenance to a legally wedded Hindu wife, and also deals with rules for adoption. The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 refers to the provisions dealing with solemnisation of marriage also deals with the provisions for divorce. For the first time, though, the DV Act, Parliament has recognised a “relationship in the nature of marriage” and not a live-in relationship simpliciter. We have already stated, when we examine whether a relationship will fall within the expression “relationship in the nature of marriage” within the meaning of Section 2(f) of the DV Act, we should have a close analysis of the entire relationship. Invariably, it may be a question of fact and degree, whether a relationship between two unrelated persons of the opposite sex meets the tests judicially evolved.

(Extracted with edits and revisions from Indra Sarma v. V.K.V. Sarma, (2013) 15 SCC 755)

26. What is the scope of analysis required to determine if a relationship falls within the expression “relationship in the nature of marriage” under Section 2(f) of the DV Act?
- (A) Considering the number of children born in a live in relationship.
 - (B) Considering only the cohabitation period of the relationship and their emotional connectivity.
 - (C) Conducting a close analysis of the entire interpersonal relationship, taking into account all facets.
 - (D) Evaluating only the financial aspects and mutual agreements of the relationship, and if there is any written agreement between the partner.
27. In which of the following cases, the Supreme Court read down the word “adult male” in Section 2(q) of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005?
- (A) *Indra Sarma v. V.K.V. Sarma* (2013) 15 SCC 755
 - (B) *Hiral P Harsora v. Kusum Harsora*, (Manu/SC/1269/2016)
 - (C) *Uma Narayanan v. Priya Krishna Prasad*, (Laws (Mad) 2008-8-28)
 - (D) *D Velusamy v. D Patchaiammal* (AIR 2011 SC 479)



28. As per section 20 of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, while disposing of an application under Section 12(1), the Magistrate may direct the respondent to pay monetary relief to the aggrieved person so that the aggrieved person can:
- (A) Live a life that meets at least the bare minimum needs for survival and basic well-being.
 - (B) Live a life that is consistent with her standard of living which she is accustomed.
 - (C) Live a life that is consistent with her parent's standard of living.
 - (D) Live a life which can cover her medical expenses and expenses incurred due to litigation of domestic violence.
29. In which case, the three judge bench of the Hon'ble Supreme Court has recently interpreted the term "shared household" and has held that "*...lives or at any stage has lived in a domestic relationship...*" have to be given its normal and purposeful meaning. The living of woman in a household has to refer to a living which has some permanency. Mere fleeting or casual living at different places shall not make a shared household.
- (A) Satish Chander Ahuja v. Sneha Ahuja, AIR 2020 SC 2483
 - (B) Rupa Ashok Hurra v. Ashok Hurra AIR 2002 SC 177
 - (C) S.R. Batra v. Tarun Batra (2007) 3 SCC 169
 - (D) B.R. Mehta Vs. Atma Devi (1987) 4 SCC 183
30. Under Indian Law, can a woman in a live in relationship claim maintenance under S. 125, CrPC despite not being a legally wedded wife?
- (A) No, as per the interpretation of statute 'wife' means legally wedded wife and includes who has been divorced by, or has obtained a divorce from her husband.
 - (B) Yes, a woman in a live in relationship can claim maintenance u/s 125, CrPC as strict proof of marriage is not necessary and maintenance cannot be denied if evidence suggests cohabitation.
 - (C) A woman in live in relationship can only claim maintenance if she has been cohabiting for more than five years and dependent children from the relationship.
 - (D) A woman in live in relationship can claim maintenance only through a civil suit as the protection of women from domestic violence act 2005 (PWDVA) does not apply to live in relationships.



VII. Section 2(47) of the Income Tax Act, 1961, which is an inclusive definition, inter alia, provides that relinquishment of an asset or extinguishment of any right therein amounts to a transfer of a capital asset. While the taxpayer continues to remain a shareholder of the company even with the reduction of share capital, it could not be accepted that there was no extinguishment of any part of his right as a shareholder qua the company.

A company under Section 66 of the Companies Act, 2013 has a right to reduce the share capital and one of the modes which could be adopted is to reduce the face value of the preference share.

When as a result of reducing the face value of the share, the share capital is reduced, the right of the preference shareholder to the dividend or his share capital and the right to share in the distribution of the net assets upon liquidation is extinguished proportionately to the extent of reduction in the capital. Such a reduction of the right of the capital asset clearly amounts to a transfer within the meaning of section 2(47) of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

(Extracted with edits and revisions from Principal Commissioner of Income Tax v. Jupiter Capital Pvt Ltd., (2025 INSC 38)

31. What was the core issue before the Supreme Court in this Special Leave Petition filed by the Income Tax Department?
- (A) Whether the assessee's claim for a long-term capital gain was correctly disallowed by the Assessing Officer.
 - (B) Whether the reduction in the number of shares due to a reduction in share capital amounted to a "transfer" under Section 2(47) of the Income Tax Act, 1961, allowing for a capital loss claim.
 - (C) Whether the High Court of Karnataka correctly relied on the decision of Anarkali Sarabhai v. CIT.
 - (D) Whether the face value of the shares remaining the same after the reduction nullified the claim of capital loss.
32. According to the Supreme Court, why does a reduction in share capital that proportionately reduces a shareholder's rights amount to a "transfer" under Section 2(47) of the Income Tax Act, 1961?
- (A) Because the shareholder's voting percentage remains constant, which is a form of continuous transfer.
 - (B) Because it involves a sale or exchange of the capital asset to another party.
 - (C) Because it is covered under the inclusive definition of "transfer" as an extinguishment of any rights in the capital asset.
 - (D) Because the face value of the shares remains unchanged, constituting a deemed transfer.



33. The Supreme Court clarified a principle regarding the computation of capital gains/loss under Section 48 of the Income Tax Act. What was this clarification?
- (A) That the reduction of share capital must result in a change in the percentage of shareholding.
 - (B) That the face value of the shares must be reduced for the transfer to be valid.
 - (C) That the transfer must be a sale or relinquishment, and not merely an extinguishment of rights.
 - (D) That receipt of some consideration in lieu of the extinguishment of rights is not a condition precedent for the computation of capital gains/loss.
34. The Supreme Court, in its summary of the principles from *Kartikeya V. Sarabhai*, stated that the right of a preference shareholder is extinguished proportionately to the extent of the capital reduction. Which of the following two specific rights were mentioned as being extinguished?
- (A) Right to voting power and right to attend general meetings.
 - (B) Right to proportional share of debt and right to appoint directors.
 - (C) Right to dividend/share capital and right to share in the distribution of net assets upon liquidation.
 - (D) Right to face value of the share and right to receive consideration.
35. The Supreme Court emphasized that the expression "extinguishment of any right therein" is of wide import. What does this expression cover?
- (A) Only transactions involving the sale or exchange of tangible capital assets.
 - (B) Only transactions resulting in the destruction, annihilation, or extinction of the entire capital asset.
 - (C) Every possible transaction that results in the destruction, annihilation, extinction, termination, cessation, or cancellation of all or any of the bundle of rights—qualitative or quantitative—that the assessee has in a capital asset.
 - (D) Only transactions where the face value of the shares is compulsorily reduced by a court order.



VIII. The Companies Act, 2013 does not deal with insolvency and bankruptcy when the companies are unable to pay their debts or the aspects relating to the revival and rehabilitation of the companies and their winding up if revival and rehabilitation is not possible. In principle, it cannot be doubted that the cases of revival or winding up of the company on the ground of insolvency and inability to pay debts are different from cases where companies are wound up under Section 271 of the Companies Act 2013. The two situations are not identical. Under Section 271 of the Companies Act, 2013, even a running and financially sound company can also be wound up for the reasons in clauses (a) to (e). The reasons and grounds for winding up under Section 271 of the Companies Act, 2013 are vastly different from the reasons and grounds for the revival and rehabilitation scheme as envisaged under the IBC. The two enactments deal with two distinct situations and in our opinion, they cannot be equated when we examine whether there is discrimination or violation of Article 14 of the Constitution of India. For the revival and rehabilitation of the companies, certain sacrifices are required from all quarters, including the workmen. In case of insolvent companies, for the sake of survival and regeneration, everyone, including the secured creditors and the Central and State Government, are required to make sacrifices. The workmen also have a stake and benefit from the revival of the company, and therefore unless it is found that the sacrifices envisaged for the workmen, which certainly form a separate class, are onerous and burdensome so as to be manifestly unjust and arbitrary, we will not set aside the legislation, solely on the ground that some or marginal sacrifice is to be made by the workers. We would also reject the argument that to find out whether there was a violation of Article 14 of the Constitution of India or whether the right to life under Article 21 Constitution of India was infringed, we must word by word examine the waterfall mechanism envisaged under the Companies Act, 2013, where the company is wound up in terms of grounds (a) to (e) of Section 271 of the Companies Act, 2013; and the rights of the workmen when the insolvent company is sought to be revived, rehabilitated or wound up under the Code. The grounds and situations in the context of the objective and purpose of the two enactments are entirely different.

(Extracted, with edits and revision, from Moser Baer Karamchari Union v. Union of India, 2023 SCC Online SC 547)

36. In which of the following cases, it was held by the Supreme Court that although a company is a separate legal entity distinct from that of its members, the corporate veil may be lifted and the corporate personality may be ignored?
- (A) Life Insurance Corporation of India v. Escorts Ltd. (1986) 59 Comp Case 548
 - (B) R. K. Dalmia vs Delhi Administration, AIR 1962 SC 1821
 - (C) Dale And Carrington Invt. P. Ltd. v. P.K. Prathapan AIR 2005 SC 1624
 - (D) Rohtas Industries Ltd v. S.D. Agarwal, AIR 1969 SC 707



37. The extent to which a Corporation as a legal person can be held criminally liable for its acts and omissions and for those of the natural persons employed by it is called?
- (A) Corporate manslaughter (B) Lifting the corporate veil
(C) Corporate criminal liability (D) Corporate social responsibility
38. In which of the following cases, the constitutionality of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 was upheld by the Supreme Court?
- (A) RPS Infrastructure Ltd. v. Union of India, 2023 INSC 816
(B) Paschimanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd. v. Union of India, AIR 1971 SC 862
(C) Union Bank of India v. Financial Creditors of M/s Amtek Auto Limited, (2023) IBC Law.in 85 SC.
(D) Swiss Ribbons v. Union of India, (2019) SCC Online SC 73.
39. A director other than a managing director or a whole-time director or a nominee director who does not have any material or pecuniary relationship with the company/ directors other than the remuneration is called
- (A) Founding Director (B) Promoter Director
(C) Independent Director (D) Associate Director
40. Which among the following is not a duty of a Director of the company?
- (A) To file return of allotments
(B) To disclose interest
(C) Duty to call upon the shareholders to attend the Board meetings
(D) To convene General meeting
- IX. In his heroic efforts, my learned brother Krishna Iyer, if I may say so with great respect, has not discarded the tests of industry formulated in the past. Indeed, he has actually restored the tests laid down by this Court in *D. N. Banerji's* case and, after that, in the *Corporation of the City of Nagpur v. Its Employees*, and *State of Bombay v. The Hospital Mazdoor Sabha* to their pristine glory. My learned brother has, however, rejected what may appear, to use the word employed recently by an American Jurist, "excrescences" of subjective notions of judges which may have blurred those tests. The temptation is great, in such cases, for us to give expression of what may be purely subjective personal predilections. It has, however, to be resisted if law is to possess a direction in Conformity with Constitutional objectives and criteria which must impart that reasonable state of predictability and certainty to interpretations of the Constitution as well as to the laws made under it which citizens should expect. We have, so to speak, to chart what may appear to be a Sea in which the ship of law like Noah's ark may have to be navigated. Indeed, Lord Sankey on one occasion, said that law itself is like the ark to which people look for some certainty and security amidst the shifting sands of political life and vicissitudes of times. The Constitution and the directive principles of State policy, read with the basic fundamental rights, provide us with a compass.



This Court has tried to indicate in recent cases that the meaning of what could be described as a basic "structure" of the Constitution must necessarily be found in express provisions of the construction and not merely in subjective notions about meanings of words. Similar must be the reasoning we must employ in extracting the core of meaning hidden between the interstices of statutory provisions. Each of us is likely to have a subjective notion about "industry". For objectivity, we have to look first to the, words used in the statutory provision defining industry in an attempt to find the meaning. If that meaning is clear, we need proceed no further. But, the trouble here is that the words found there do not yield a meaning so readily. They refer to what employers or workers may do as parts of their ordinary avocation or business in life.

(Extracted with edits from Bangalore Water Supply v. A. Rajappa & Others, AIR 1978 SC 548)

41. According to the Supreme Court's judgment, what is the most important factor in determining whether an activity constitutes an industry?
- (A) The profit-making motive of the employer
 - (B) When there are multiple activities carried on by an establishment, its dominant function has to be considered. If the dominant function is not commercial, benefits of a workman of an industry under Industrial Dispute Act may be given.
 - (C) The nature of the activity and the authority of the employer over its employees
 - (D) When there are multiple activities carried on by an establishment, all the activities must be considered. Even if one activity is commercial, the employees will not get the benefit of workman of an industry under the Industrial Dispute Act.
42. Which of the following best describes the broader impact of the judgment?
- (A) It reduced labour protections for workers
 - (B) It extended labour protections to a broader spectrum of workers
 - (C) It had no significant impact on labour laws
 - (D) It only affected private sector workers
43. Which of the following best describes the term 'industry' as defined by the Supreme Court in this judgment?
- (A) Any activity involving profit-making
 - (B) Any systematic activity organized by cooperation between an employer and employees for producing or distributing goods and services
 - (C) Only activities conducted by private enterprises
 - (D) Activities limited to manufacturing sectors



44. In which of the following landmark judgements, the Supreme Court held that when an association or society of apartment owners employs workers for personal services to its members, those workers do not qualify as workmen under the Act and the association is not an “Industry” under the Industrial Disputes Act?
- (A) Som Vihar Apartment Owners’ Housing Maintenance Society Ltd v. Workmen, 2009 SC
 - (B) Anand Vihar Apartment Owners’ Society Ltd. V. Workmen, 2024 SC
 - (C) Kanchanjunga Building Employees Union v. Kanchanjunga Flat Owner’s Society &Anr., 2024 SC
 - (D) Workmen represented by Secretary v. Reptakos Brett AIR 1992 SC 504
45. Under the Industrial Dispute Act, 1947, what is the role of the “Works Committee” and which of the following correctly describes its function?
- (A) The works committee is a body formed by the central government to address wage disputes between employer and employee in public sector industries.
 - (B) The works committee is a grievance redressal body constituted by the employer, primarily to promote measures for securing and preserving amity and good relations between the employer and employee.
 - (C) The Works Committee is responsible for making binding decisions on industrial disputes related to layoffs, retrenchment and closure of industrial units.
 - (D) The Works Committee is responsible for adjudicating major industrial disputes regarding wages, bonus or retrenchment.
- X. The Act of 1948 defines “manufacturing process” and we clearly find that “washing, cleaning” and the activities carried out by the respondent with a view to its use, delivery or disposal are squarely attracted. The contention of the respondent that dry cleaning does not make any product usable, saleable or worthy of transport, delivery or disposal has only to be stated to be rejected.
- “Manufacturing process” has been defined to mean any process for washing or cleaning with a view to its use, sale, transport, delivery or disposal. The linen deposited with the launderer is, after washing and cleaning, delivered to the customer for use. The ingredients of the section are fully satisfied. There is nothing in the Act of 1948, which is repugnant in the subject or context, constraining us to jettison the definition. Hence, we reject the findings of the High Court and hold that the activity carried out which on facts is not disputed is clearly covered by the definition of “manufacturing process” under Section 2(k) which, in turn, would bring the premises in question of the respondent under the definition of “factory” under Section 2(m). If that were so, the complaint lodged against the respondent could not have been quashed.
- (Extracted with edits from *The State of Goa v. Namita Tripathi*, 2025 INSC 306)
46. According to the Supreme Court's interpretation of Section 2(k)(i) of the Factories Act, 1948, the business of a laundry service involving cleaning and washing of clothes is considered a "manufacturing process" primarily because it involves:
- (A) Producing a new marketable commodity through transformation.
 - (B) Washing or cleaning any article or substance with a view to its delivery or use.
 - (C) Carrying on a service and not a manufacturing activity.
 - (D) Employing more than 50 workers, regardless of the activity.



47. What rule of statutory interpretation did the Supreme Court explicitly state should be applied to the Factories Act, 1948, because of its nature?
- (A) Rule of Literal Interpretation.
 - (B) Doctrine of Stare Decisis.
 - (C) Liberal and Beneficial Construction.
 - (D) Rule of Ejusdem Generis.
48. The Supreme Court used the 'Mischief Rule' of interpretation to analyze the definition of "manufacturing process" by comparing the Factories Act, 1948, with its predecessor. What was the critical difference noted in the 1948 Act's definition (Section 2(k)) compared to the 1934 Act's definition (Section 2(g))?
- (A) The 1948 Act introduced the concept of "power" being used in the process.
 - (B) The 1948 Act included the words 'washing, cleaning', which were absent in the 1934 Act.
 - (C) The 1948 Act removed the exemption for mobile units of the armed forces.
 - (D) The 1948 Act lowered the minimum age of employment for children.
49. A premises is defined as a "factory" under Section 2(m)(i) of the Factories Act, 1948, if:
- (A) Twenty or more workers are working without the aid of power.
 - (B) Ten or more workers are working, and a manufacturing process is carried on with the aid of power.
 - (C) Less than ten workers are working, but the process involves hazardous substances.
 - (D) It is a hotel, restaurant, or eating place.
50. The Supreme Court ruled that the Punjab and Haryana High Court judgment in Employees' State Insurance Corporation, Jullundur v. Triplex Dry Cleaners and Others (1982) was not applicable to the present case because:
- (A) The Triplex Dry Cleaners case was decided under the Shops and Establishments Act, not the Factories Act.
 - (B) The Triplex Dry Cleaners case was decided before the definition of "manufacturing process" under the Factories Act, 1948, was incorporated into the Employees State Insurance Act (ESIC Act).
 - (C) The Triplex Dry Cleaners case dealt with washing, not dry cleaning.
 - (D) The ESIC Act was a penal statute, while the Factories Act, 1948, is a welfare statute.



XI. During Bentham’s lifetime, revolutions occurred in the American colonies and in France, producing the Bill of Rights and the *Déclaration des Droits de l’Homme* (Declaration of the Rights of Man), both of which were based on liberty, equality, and self-determination. Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels published *The Communist Manifesto* in 1848. Revolutionary movements broke out that year in France, Italy, Austria, Poland, and elsewhere. In addition, the Industrial Revolution transformed Great Britain and eventually the rest of Europe from an agrarian (farm-based) society into an industrial one, in which steam and coal increased manufacturing production dramatically, changing the nature of work, property ownership, and family. This period also included advances in chemistry, astronomy, navigation, human anatomy, and immunology, among other sciences.

Given this historical context, it is understandable that Bentham used reason and science to explain human behaviour. His ethical system was an attempt to quantify happiness and the good so they would meet the conditions of the scientific method. Ethics had to be empirical, quantifiable, verifiable, and reproducible across time and space. Just as science was beginning to understand the workings of cause and effect in the body, so ethics would explain the causal relationships of the mind. Bentham rejected religious authority and wrote a rebuttal to the Declaration of Independence in which he railed against natural rights as “rhetorical nonsense, nonsense upon stilts.” Instead, the fundamental unit of human action for him was utility—solid, certain, and factual.

What is utility? Bentham’s fundamental axiom, which underlies utilitarianism, was that all social morals and government legislation should aim for producing the greatest happiness for the greatest number of people. Utilitarianism, therefore, emphasizes the consequences or ultimate purpose of an act rather than the character of the actor, the actor’s motivation, or the particular circumstances surrounding the act. It has these characteristics: (1) universality, because it applies to all acts of human behaviour, even those that appear to be done from altruistic motives; (2) objectivity, meaning it operates beyond individual thought, desire, and perspective; (3) rationality, because it is not based in metaphysics or theology; and (4) quantifiability in its reliance on utility. (353 words)

(Extracted from Michael Quinn, “Jeremy Bentham, ‘The Psychology of Economic Man,’ and Behavioural Economics,” Oeconomia 6, no. 1 (2016): 3–32)

51. According to the text, what did Bentham consider the fundamental unit of human action, replacing concepts like natural rights?
- (A) Liberty (B) Self-determination
(C) Utility (D) Happiness for the greatest number



52. Which of the following is identified as Bentham's fundamental axiom underlying utilitarianism?
- (A) Ethics must be empirical, quantifiable, and reproducible.
 - (B) Utility must be used to reject religious authority.
 - (C) All social morals and government legislation should aim for producing the greatest happiness for the greatest number of people.
 - (D) The character of the actor is the most important aspect of an ethical act.
53. Utilitarianism, as described in the text, emphasizes which aspect of an act over the others listed?
- (A) The character of the actor
 - (B) The actor's motivation
 - (C) The particular circumstances surrounding the act
 - (D) The consequences or ultimate purpose of an act
54. The characteristic of utilitarianism that operates beyond individual thought, desire, and perspective is called:
- (A) Universality
 - (B) Quantifiability
 - (C) Rationality
 - (D) Objectivity
55. Bentham's ethical system attempted to quantify happiness and the good to meet the conditions of the scientific method, which required ethics to be all of the following except:
- (A) Empirical
 - (B) Verifiable
 - (C) Theological
 - (D) Quantifiable

XII. "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal and are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights".

This statement, in spite of literal inaccuracy in its every phrase, served the purpose for which it was written. It expressed an aspiration, and it was a fighting slogan. In order that slogans may serve their purpose, it is necessary that they shall arouse strong, emotional belief, but it is not at all necessary that they shall be literally accurate. A large part of each human being's time on earth is spent in declaiming about his "rights," asserting their existence, complaining of their violation, describing them as present or future, vested or contingent, absolute or conditional, perfect or inchoate, alienable or inalienable, legal or equitable, in rem or in personam, primary or secondary, moral or jural (legal), inherent or acquired, natural or artificial, human or divine. No doubt still other adjectives are available. Each one expresses some idea, but not always the same idea even when used twice by one and the same person.



They all need definition in the interest of understanding and peace. In his table of correlatives, Hohfeld set "right" over against "duty" as its necessary correlative. This had been done numberless times by other men. He also carefully distinguished it from the concepts expressed in his table by the terms "privilege," "power," and "immunity." To the present writer, the value of his work seems beyond question and the practical convenience of his classification is convincing. However, the adoption of Hohfeld's classification and the correlating of the terms "right" and "duty" do not complete the work of classification and definition.

(Extracted from Arthur L Corbin, Rights and Duties, 33 Yale LJ 501(1923))

56. The author suggests that the statement "all men are created equal and are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights" was effective primarily because:
- (A) It accurately reflects the literal truth of human existence and legal principles.
 - (B) It provided a comprehensive legal definition of natural rights.
 - (C) Its emotional and aspirational content made it a successful "fighting slogan."
 - (D) It meticulously categorized rights using precise jural (legal) terminology.
57. Based on the passage, the primary problem the author identifies with the current discourse surrounding "rights" is the:
- (A) Lack of a comprehensive list of all possible rights.
 - (B) Failure of historical documents to be literally accurate.
 - (C) Proliferation of undefined and inconsistently used qualifying adjectives.
 - (D) Over reliance on Hohfeld's narrow and incomplete classification system.
58. The author's view of Hohfeld's contribution to legal scholarship can best be described as:
- (A) Essential but ultimately incomplete in fully defining and classifying "rights."
 - (B) Flawed because it failed to distinguish "right" from "duty" effectively.
 - (C) Irrelevant, as his classification uses confusing and difficult jargon.
 - (D) Sufficiently exhaustive to complete the work of definition and classification.
59. The phrase "literal inaccuracy in its every phrase" is used by the author to critique the Declaration's statement, suggesting a conflict between its rhetorical power and its:
- (A) Emotional resonance for revolutionaries.
 - (B) Utility as a means for legislative action.
 - (C) Precision as a statement of verifiable facts or legal principles.
 - (D) Acceptance by religious authority and the Creator.
60. Which concept from Hohfeld's table of correlatives is not explicitly mentioned in the passage as a concept "right" was distinguished from?
- (A) Duty
 - (B) Privilege
 - (C) Immunity
 - (D) Disability



XIII. The International Law Commission (ILC), in compliance with General Assembly resolution 177 (II), was directed to "formulate the principles of international law recognized in the Charter of the Nuremberg Tribunal and in the judgment of the Tribunal". The ILC's task was to merely formulate the principles not to express an appreciation of them as principles of International law since they had already been affirmed by the General Assembly.

At its second session in 1950, the ILC adopted a formulation of seven Principles of International Law recognized in the Charter and Judgment of the Nuremberg Tribunal.

- * Principle I : Any person who commits an act which constitutes a crime under international law is responsible therefor and liable to punishment. This is based on the general rule that international law may impose duties directly on individuals.
- * Principle II : The fact that internal law does not impose a penalty for an international crime does not relieve the person who committed the act from international responsibility. This implies the "supremacy" of international law over national law.
- * Principle III : The fact that a person acted as Head of State or responsible Government official does not relieve him from responsibility under international law.
- * Principle IV : Acting pursuant to an order of his Government or of a superior does not relieve him from responsibility, provided a moral choice was in fact possible to him.
- * Principle V : Any person charged with a crime under international law has the right to a fair trial on the facts and law
- * Principle VI : sets out the crimes punishable under international law:
 - * Crimes against peace : Includes planning, preparation, initiation, or waging of a war of aggression or a war in violation of international treaties, as well as participation in a conspiracy for these acts. The ILC understands the term "waging of a war of aggression" to refer only to high-ranking military personnel and high State officials. The Tribunal affirmed the illegality of aggressive war based on the Kellogg-Briand Pact.



- * War crimes : Violations of the laws or customs of war, such as murder, ill-treatment, deportation, killing of hostages, and plunder.
- * Crimes against humanity : Murder, extermination, enslavement, deportation, and other inhuman acts or persecutions on political, racial, or religious grounds, when done in execution of or in connection with a crime against peace or a war crime. These acts may constitute crimes against humanity even if committed by the perpetrator against their own population.
- * Principle VII : Complicity in the commission of any of the crimes listed in Principle VI is a crime under international law.

The ILC also considered the General Assembly's invitation to study the desirability and possibility of establishing an international judicial organ for the trial of persons charged with genocide or other crimes. While some members questioned its effectiveness, particularly for grave international crimes, others argued that the creation of such a jurisdiction was desirable as an effective contribution to world peace and security, serving as a deterrent against aggressors. (496 words)

(Summary of the Principles of International Law recognized in the Charter of the Nuremberg Tribunal and in the Judgment of the Tribunal, with commentaries 1950 based on the Text adopted by the International Law Commission at its second session, in 1950)

61. The International Law Commission (ILC) concluded that its task, as directed by General Assembly resolution 177 (II), was primarily:
 - (A) To determine the extent to which the Nuremberg principles constituted principles of international law.
 - (B) To formulate the Nuremberg principles, without expressing an appreciation of their status as principles of international law.
 - (C) To assess whether the Charter and judgment were already an expression of positive international law at the time of the Tribunal's establishment.
 - (D) To formulate the general principles of law on which the provisions of the Charter and the Tribunal's decisions were based.
62. Principle IV of the Nuremberg Principles concerning superior orders, differs from Article 8 of the Charter of the Nuremberg Tribunal by:
 - (A) Narrowing the application of the principle to exclude high State officials.
 - (B) Adding the condition that "a moral choice was in fact possible" to the accused.
 - (C) Eliminating the reference to the order being considered in mitigation of punishment.
 - (D) Formulating the principle in general terms, unlike the Charter's specific context.



63. The Tribunal, in its judgment, was constrained from making a general declaration that the acts of persecution and murder committed in Germany before 1939 were "crimes against humanity" primarily because:
- (A) Persecution on political, racial, or religious grounds was not yet recognized as an international crime.
 - (B) It could not be satisfactorily proved that these acts were committed in execution of, or in connection with, a crime within the Tribunal's jurisdiction.
 - (C) The definition of crimes against humanity in the Charter explicitly excluded acts committed before the outbreak of the war.
 - (D) International law at the time imposed duties only on States, not on individuals, for these types of crimes.
64. In formulating Principle VI (a), the ILC clarified the term "waging of a war of aggression" because:
- (A) The Charter of the Tribunal had no definition of "war of aggression".
 - (B) Members feared that every combatant in uniform might be charged with the crime.
 - (C) The Tribunal had not made a clear distinction between "planning" and "preparation".
 - (D) The General Assembly had requested a more precise definition for use in future conventions.
65. The debate within the International Law Commission regarding the creation of an international judicial organ (Part IV) centered on the following contrasting positions:
- (A) Whether the judicial organ should be created only for the trial of persons charged with genocide versus all international crimes.
 - (B) Whether the creation of the organ required an amendment to the Charter of the United Nations versus being possible through a convention open to all States.
 - (C) Whether the establishment of the organ was desirable and possible versus being undesirable due to its likely ineffectiveness against grave international crimes.
 - (D) Whether an international criminal court should have a deterrent effect versus serving only to ensure the rule of law in the community of States.



XIV. The document presents a critique of the United Nations (UN) organization, arguing that it has failed to carry out its charter-mandated tasks, specifically to "maintain international peace and security" and "to achieve international cooperation" in solving global problems. The author notes growing public frustration with catastrophic humanitarian situations and the failure of peace-keeping operations, leading to widespread scepticism about the possibility of "revitalization". UN Reform Approaches Discussions on UN reform are divided into two main categories: the conservative approach and the radical approach.

1. Conservative Approach: The conservative view considers the existing Charter "practically untouchable" and believes in improving "collective security" as defined in Chapter VII. Key positions include: US Position: Prioritizes its own interests, supports better management and the creation of an Inspector General, favours enlarging the Security Council (to include Germany and Japan, mainly for financing peace-keeping), and associates the UN with regional organizations like NATO for peace enforcement. The US remains reluctant to allow full application of Chapter VII and views collective security restrictively.

Secretary-General's Position (Boutros Ghali): Advocated for the full implementation of 'collective security' as envisaged in 1945, including the use of the Military Staff Committee (Article 47) and the conclusion of special agreements (Article 43) for providing armed forces. He also proposed 'peace enforcement units' under the command of the Secretary-General and wider use of 'preventive diplomacy'. The report candidly recognized the Security Council's incapacity to deal with threats from a major power.

2. Radical Approach: The radical approach criticizes the principles of the present system and proposes an overhaul. It reflects increasing doubts about the value of the Charter's collective security system, especially in intra-State conflicts. Radical proposals include:
 - * Establishing an Economic Security Council.
 - * Modifying the Charter with less reluctance.
 - * Reforming the IMF and World Bank.
 - * Developing a new global security system (e.g., regional models like CSCE/CSCM).
 - * The creation of a consultative parliamentary assembly at the world level.

Future Outlook : The author asserts that no major or minor reform has any chance of being implemented now, primarily because the Charter's amendment procedures (requiring a two-thirds majority including all five permanent Security Council members) preclude agreement. However, he concludes that the continuing deterioration of the global situation, driven by economic integration, rising inequality, and intra-State conflicts, will inevitably lead the political establishment to define a new global institutional structure. This future debate will become highly political, opposing the defence of democracy and human rights against nationalism and fascism. (408 words)

(Summary of the article titled "The UN as an organisation. A critique of its functioning" by Maurice Bertrand, published in 6 EJIL (1995) pp-349-359)

66. The author attributes the growing public frustration with the UN primarily to which pair of continuous failures?
 - (A) The inability to define a new institutional structure and the spread of poverty.
 - (B) The persistent reliance on Chapter VII enforcement and the lack of a Central World Bank.
 - (C) The failure of peace-keeping operations and the spread of unemployment at a world level.
 - (D) The supremacy of the US position and the rejection of the Economic Security Council.



67. A primary point of divergence between the US Conservative position and the Secretary-General's Conservative position on security matters, according to the summary is:
- (A) The US supports the creation of 'peace enforcement units,' while the Secretary-General is opposed.
 - (B) The Secretary-General advocates for the full implementation of 'collective security', while the US restricts its participation in peace-keeping.
 - (C) The US views 'preventive diplomacy' as an illusion, whereas the Secretary-General supports its larger use.
 - (D) The US opposes the enlargement of the Security Council, while the Secretary-General supports the entrance of Japan and Germany.
68. According to the critique's conclusion, the immediate, insurmountable barrier preventing the implementation of any reform, major or minor, is:
- (A) The widespread public scepticism and the rise of nationalist political parties.
 - (B) The Secretary-General's reluctance to give up command over new peace enforcement units.
 - (C) The procedural requirements for amending the Charter, specifically requiring the consensus of all five permanent Security Council members.
 - (D) The ideological debate on global governance and the lack of a complete theoretical framework for the radical approach.
69. The Secretary-General's 'Agenda for Peace' proposed a specific military capability intended to address the gap between traditional peace-keeping and full military action. This proposed unit was explicitly characterized by the summary as being:
- (A) Composed of permanent Member State forces under Article 43 agreements.
 - (B) Less heavily armed than peace-keeping forces and under the direction of the Military Staff Committee.
 - (C) More heavily armed than peace-keeping forces and under the command of the Secretary-General.
 - (D) Primarily associated with NATO under a regional security arrangement.
70. The Radical Approach to reform, as outlined in the summary, calls for an institutional overhaul of global economic governance by suggesting which two specific actions related to the Bretton Woods institutions?
- (A) The full use of Article 42 and the reduction of social inequality.
 - (B) The creation of an Economic Security Council and the replacement of the IMF with a Central World Bank.
 - (C) The implementation of international taxation and the institutionalization of G7 summit meetings.
 - (D) The transfer of significant resources from rich to poor countries and the reform of the World Bank's structure.



XV. “The power to pardon is a part of the constitutional scheme, and we have no doubt, in our mind, that it should be so treated also in the Indian Republic. It has been reposed by the people through the Constitution in the Head of the State, and enjoys high status. It is a constitutional responsibility of great significance, to be exercised when occasion arises in accordance with the discretion contemplated by the context. It is not denied, and indeed it has been repeatedly affirmed in the course of argument by learned counsels appearing for the Petitioner that the power to pardon rests on the advice tendered by the Executive to the President, who subject to the provisions of Article 74(1) of the Constitution, must act in accordance with such advice.....”

We are of the view that it is open to the President in the exercise of the power vested in him by Article 72 of the Constitution to scrutinise the evidence on the record of the criminal case and come to a different conclusion from that recorded by the court in regard to the guilt of, and sentence imposed on the accused. In doing so, the President does not amend or modify or supersede the judicial record. The judicial record remains intact, and undisturbed. The President acts in a wholly different plane from that in which the Court acted. He acts under a constitutional power, the nature of which is entirely different from the judicial power and cannot be regarded as an extension of it. This is so, notwithstanding that the practical effect of the Presidential act is to remove the stigma of guilt from the accused or to remit the sentence imposed on him.

It is apparent that the power under Article 72 entitles the President to examine the record of evidence of the criminal case and to determine for himself whether the case is one deserving the grant of the relief falling within that power. We are of opinion that the President is entitled to go into the merits of the case notwithstanding that it has been judicially concluded by the consideration given to it by this Court. In *Kehar Singh v. Union of India*, 1989 SC, this court stated that the same obviously means that the affected party need not be given the reasons. The question whether reasons can or cannot be disclosed to the Court when the same is challenged was not the subject-matter of consideration. In any event, the absence of any obligation to convey the reasons does not mean that there should not be legitimate or relevant reasons for passing the order.

[Extract from the judgment of Shatrughan Chauhan v. Union of India 2014 (3) SCC 1]

71. Which one of the following statements is correct with respect to the granting of pardon by the President?
- (A) The power to grant pardon is a constitutional duty. Hence, judicial review is available, just as any executive action is.
 - (B) Granting pardon being the privilege of the President, no judicial review is available against the decision of the President in granting or refusing to grant a pardon.
 - (C) The constitution expressly conferred the power to grant to the President hence, the President is not bound to rely on the aid and advice of the executive.
 - (D) The President's power to grant pardon can be reviewed on the grounds of non-application of mind.



72. In the above case the Supreme Court held that a minimum period of _____ days be stipulated between the receipt of communication of the rejection of the mercy petition and the scheduled date of execution.
- (A) 60
 - (B) 30
 - (C) 14
 - (D) No such timeline was fixed
73. What is not true about the pardoning power *vis a vis* Article 21 of Constitution of India?
- (A) Insanity is not a relevant supervening factor for commutation of death sentence.
 - (B) Right to life of a person continues till his last breath and that Court will protect that right even if the noose is being tied on the condemned person's neck.
 - (C) The anguish of alternating hope and despair, the agony of uncertainty and the consequence of such suffering on the mental, emotional and physical integrity and health violates Art. 21 of the prisoners.
 - (D) Article 21 is a substantive right and not merely procedural.
74. In which case, the Supreme Court held that if the crime is brutal and heinous and involves the killing of a large number of innocent people without any reason, delay cannot be the sole factor for the commutation of the death sentence to life imprisonment?
- (A) Devender Pal Singh Bhullar v. State (NCT) of Delhi.
 - (B) V. Sriharan @ Murugan v. Union of India
 - (C) Yakub Abdul Razak Memon v. State of Maharashtra
 - (D) Shatrughan Chauhan v. Union of India
75. The President's power to grant a pardon
- (A) Can be delegated to the Prime Minister and his Council of Ministers
 - (B) Cannot be delegated as it is an essential executive function
 - (C) Cannot be delegated as it is expressly conferred on the President
 - (D) Can be delegated to the Vice-president.



XVI. To recall, the petitioners while challenging the 1951 and 1965 amendments to the AMU Act in *Azeez Basha* argued that the amendments were violative of the right to administration guaranteed by Article 30(1). The Union of India responded to the argument with the submission that the Muslim minority cannot claim the right to administration since it did not ‘establish’ the institution. Opposing this argument, the petitioners in *Azeez Basha*, submitted that Article 30(1) guarantees the ‘right to administer’ an educational institution to minorities even if it was not established by them, if by “some process, it had been administering the same before the Constitution came into force.” The argument of the petitioners was rejected. This Court held that the words “establish” and “administer” must be read conjunctively, that is, the guarantee of the right to administration is contingent on the establishment of the institution by religious or linguistic minorities...

The issue before this Bench is the indicia for an educational institution to be a minority educational institution. Should it be proved that the institution was established by the minority, or it was administered by the minority, or both? The petitioners and the respondents agree that the words ‘establish’ and ‘administer’ must be read conjunctively. They argue that administration is a sequitur to establishment. However, they disagree on the test to be applied to identify a minority education institution. The petitioners argue that the only indicia for a minority educational institution is that it must be established by a minority, while the respondents argue that the dual test of establishment and administration must be satisfied.

(Extracted with edits and revisions from Aligarh Muslim University v. Naresh Agarwal & Ors, 2024 SC 8)

76. Which of the following Supreme Court judgments does not deal with minority educational institution for the purpose of Article 30(1) of the Constitution of India?
- (A) *TMA Pai Foundation v. State of Karnataka* (2002) 8 SCC 481
 - (B) *S Azeez Basha v. Union of India* AIR 1968 SC 662
 - (C) *Rev. Stanislaus v. State of Madhya Pradesh* 1977 SCR (2) 611
 - (D) *Central Board of Dawoodi Bohra Community v. State of Maharashtra* (2005) 2 SCC 673
77. In determining the status of a minority educational institution, Article 30 of the Constitution of India is of significance. Which of the following statements regarding Article 30 is correct?
- I. Article 30 prescribes conditions which must be fulfilled for an educational institution to be considered a minority educational institution.
 - II. Article 30 confers two group rights on all linguistic and religious minorities: the right to establish an educational institution and the right to administer an educational institution.

Select the most appropriate option :

- (A) Only I is correct
- (B) Only II is correct
- (C) Both I and II are correct
- (D) Both I and II are incorrect



78. Which core principle from the 1968 judgment in *S. Azeez Basha v. Union of India* was overruled by the Supreme Court in the 2024 judgment, *Aligarh Muslim University v. Naresh Agarwal & Ors.*?
- (A) That Article 30 protection is not available to 'Universities' established before the commencement of the Constitution.
 - (B) That the words "establish and administer" in Article 30(1) must be read conjunctively.
 - (C) That an educational institution is not established by a minority if it derives its legal character and incorporation through a statute.
 - (D) That legislative amendments to the AMU Act violated Articles 14, 19, 25, 29, and 31 of the Constitution.
79. The court in this case justified application of Article 30(1) to educational institutions established by religious and linguistic minorities before commencement of Constitution through a co-joint reading of Article 30, with Articles 13 and 372. In doing so it observed that 'Article 13(1) has a retroactive effect and not a retrospective effect.' Which of the following statement best captures the difference between the two effects?
- (A) A provision is retrospective if it alters the position of law before its enactment/commencement, it is retroactive if it imposes new results for previous actions
 - (B) A retroactive effect applies only prospectively, whereas retrospective effect alters past rights and liabilities
 - (C) A provision is retrospective if it applies to past and closed transactions, whereas provision is retroactive if it applies only to future cases
 - (D) A retrospective provision alters both substantive and procedural rights in the past, while a retroactive provision affects only substantive law
80. The court observed that a holistic and realistic view should be taken keeping in mind the objective and purpose of the provision. From the judgements referred to by it, which of the following inferences can be drawn:
- I. Existence of religious place for prayer and worship is a necessary indicator of minority character
 - II. Existence of religious symbols in the precincts of the educational institution are necessary to prove minority character
- Select the most appropriate option:
- (A) Only I is correct
 - (B) Only II is correct
 - (C) Both I and II are correct
 - (D) Both I and II are incorrect



XVII. Ahmadi, J. (as he then was) speaking for himself and Punchhi, J., endorsed the recommendations in the following words—The time is ripe for taking stock of the working of the various Tribunals set up in the country after the insertion of Articles 323A and 323B in the Constitution. After the incorporation of these two articles, Acts have been enacted where-under tribunals have been constituted for dispensation of justice. Sufficient time has passed and experience gained in these last few years for taking stock of the situation with a view to finding out if they have served the purpose and objectives for which they were constituted. Complaints have been heard in regard to the functioning of other tribunals as well and it is time that a body like the Law Commission of India has a comprehensive look-in with a view to suggesting measures for their improved functioning. That body can also suggest changes in the different statutes and evolve a model on the basis whereof tribunals may be constituted or reconstituted with a view to ensuring greater independence. An intensive and extensive study needs to be undertaken by the Law Commission in regard to the Constitution of tribunals under various statutes with a view to ensuring their independence so that the public confidence in such tribunals may increase and the quality of their performance may improve.

Before parting with the case it is necessary to express our anguish over the ineffectiveness of the alternative mechanism devised for judicial review. The judicial review and remedy are the fundamental rights of the citizens. The dispensation of justice by the tribunal is much to be desired.

(Extracted with Edits from R.K. Jain v. Union of India, 1993 (4) SCC 119)

81. In which of the following case the Court held that though judicial review is a basic feature of the Constitution, the vesting of the power of judicial review in an alternative institutional mechanism, after taking it away from the High Courts, would not violate the basic structure so long as it was ensured that the alternative mechanism was an effective and real substitute for the High Court.
- (A) L. Chandra Kumar v. Union Of India And Others 1997
 - (B) R.K. Jain v. Union of India : 1993
 - (C) S.P. Sampath Kumar v. Union of India : (1985)
 - (D) Kesvananda Bharti v. State of Kerala. 1973



82. The provisions of the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985 shall NOT apply to-
- (A) Any member of the naval, military or air forces or of any other armed forces of the Union
 - (B) Officer or servant of the Supreme Court or of any High Court or Courts subordinate
 - (C) Person appointed to the secretarial staff of either House of Parliament or to the secretarial staff of any State Legislature or a House thereof or, in the case of a Union Territory having a Legislature, of that Legislature.
 - (D) Officers of the Indian Police Services.
83. The first tribunal established in India is:
- (A) Central Administrative Tribunal
 - (B) Railway Claims Tribunal
 - (C) Armed Forces Tribunal
 - (D) Income tax Appellate Tribunal
84. Article 323A and 323B of the Indian Constitution for the establishment of tribunal to adjudicate disputes in specific matters. While both articles deal with tribunals, there are key differences in their scope and application. Which of the following statements correctly reflect the distinction between Article 323A and 323B?
- (A) Article 323A exclusively deals with administrative tribunals for public service matters, while Article 323B deals with the tribunals for a wider range of subjects including taxation and land reforms.
 - (B) While tribunals under Article 323A can be established only by Parliament, tribunals under Article 323B can only be established by State legislature, with matters falling within their legislative competence.
 - (C) Under Article 323A, only one tribunal for centre and no tribunal for state may be established. As far as Article 323B is concerned, there is no hierarchy of tribunals.
 - (D) Article 323A grant tribunals the power to hear appeals directly from the Supreme Court, by passing the high court. Under Article 323B there is no such power.
85. The creation of Administrative Tribunals to ease the burden of service related cases, on the High Courts and the amendment of the constitution to add articles 323A and 323B were based on the recommendation of :
- (A) Parliamentary Standing Committee
 - (B) National Tribunals Commission
 - (C) Swaran Singh Committee
 - (D) Law commission of India's 272nd Report



XVIII. “Section 55 of the Indian Contract Act says that when a party to a contract promises to do a certain thing within a specified time but fails to do so, the contract or so much of it as has not been performed, becomes voidable at the option of the promisee if the intention of the parties was, that time should be of the essence of the contract. If time is not the essence of the contract, the contract does not become voidable by the failure to do such thing on or before the specified time but the promisee is entitled to compensation from the promisor for any loss occasioned to him by such failure. Further, if in case of a contract voidable on account of the promisor’s failure to perform his promise within the time agreed and the promisee accepts performance of such promise at any time other than that agreed, the promisee cannot claim compensation for any loss occasioned by the non-performance of the promise at the time agreed, unless, at the time of such acceptance he gives notice to the promisor of his intention to do so.

... Sections 73 and 74 deal with consequences of breach of contract. Heading of Section 73 is compensation for loss or damage caused by breach of contract. When a contract is broken, the party who suffers by such breach is entitled to receive from the party who has broken the contract compensation for any loss or damage caused to him thereby which naturally arose in the usual course of things from such breach or which the parties knew when they made the contract to be likely to result from the breach of it. On the other hand, Section 74 deals with compensation for breach of contract where penalty is stipulated for. When a contract is broken, if a sum is mentioned in the contract as the amount to be paid in case of such breach or if the contract contains any other stipulation by way of penalty, the party complaining of the breach is entitled whether or not actually damage or loss is proved to have been caused thereby, to receive from the party who has broken the contract reasonable compensation not exceeding the amount so named or the penalty stipulated for.”

[Extracted from: Consolidated Construction Consortium Limited v Software Technology Parks of India 2025 INSC 574]

86. Whether time is of essence or not is a question of fact, and the real test is the parties’ intention. Which amongst the following is not correct in ascertaining the intention of the parties with respect to “time is of essence”.
- (A) The express words used in the contract.
 - (B) The nature of the property which forms the subject-matter of the contract.
 - (C) The nature of the contract and the surrounding circumstances.
 - (D) The nature of the contract that provides for an extension of time or liquidated damages for delays
87. Which of the following is NOT a leading judgement on section 74 of the Indian Contract Act:
- (A) Kailash Nath Associates v Delhi Development Authority [2015] 1 SCR 627.
 - (B) ONGC Ltd v Saw Pipes Ltd (2003) 5 SCC 705.
 - (C) Fateh Chand v Balkishan Dass (1964) 1 SCR 515.
 - (D) Satyabrata Ghose v MugneeramBangur& Co 1954 SCR 310.



88. Which of the following is a CORRECT proposition as regards award of damages in contract:
- (A) In general, no damages in contract are awarded for injury to plaintiff's feelings or for mental distress, loss of reputation or social discredit caused by the breach of contract.
 - (B) In general, damages in contract are awarded for anguish and vexation caused by the breach of contract.
 - (C) In general, damages in contract are awarded for anguish and loss of reputation, but not for social discredit caused by the breach of contract.
 - (D) In general, damages in contract are awarded for emotional distress, but not for mental agony caused by the breach of contract.
89. Which of the following is/are CORRECT proposition(s) as regards the law on damages for the breach of contract under section 74 of the Indian Contract Act:
- (A) Where a sum is named in the contract as a liquidated amount payable by way of damages, only reasonable compensation can be awarded not exceeding the amount so stated.
 - (B) In cases where the amount fixed is in the nature of penalty, only reasonable compensation can be awarded, not exceeding the penalty so stated.
 - (C) The expression 'whether or not actual damage or loss is proved to have been caused thereby' in section 74 means that in every case the proof of actual damage or loss has been dispensed with.
 - (D) Both (A) and (B).
90. _____ will apply to cases of forfeiture of earnest money under a contract. Where, however, forfeiture takes place under the terms and conditions of a public auction before agreement is reached, section 74 would have no application:
- (A) Section 55.
 - (B) Section 73.
 - (C) Section 74.
 - (D) Section 75.



XIX. “Law treats all contracts with equal respect and unless a contract is proved to suffer from any of the vitiating factors, the terms and conditions have to be enforced regardless of the relative strengths and weakness of the parties.

Section 28 of the Contract Act does not bar exclusive jurisdiction clauses. What has been barred is the absolute restriction of any party from approaching a legal forum. The right to legal adjudication cannot be taken away from any party through contract but can be relegated to a set of Courts for the ease of the parties. In the present dispute, the clause does not take away the right of the employee to pursue a legal claim but only restricts the employee to pursue those claims before the courts in Mumbai alone.

... the Court must already have jurisdiction to entertain such a legal claim. This limb pertains to the fact that a contract cannot confer jurisdiction on a court that did not have such a jurisdiction in the first place.”

[Extracted from: Rakesh Kumar Verma v HDFC Bank Ltd 2025 INSC 473]

91. Which of the following propositions is CORRECT:
- (A) It is, in general, open to the contracting parties to confer by their agreement jurisdiction on a court which does not possess the jurisdiction under the law.
 - (B) It is not open to the contracting parties to confer by their agreement jurisdiction on a court which does not possess the jurisdiction under the law.
 - (C) It is open to the contracting parties to confer by their written and registered agreement jurisdiction on a court which does not possess the jurisdiction under the law.
 - (D) If it is absolutely in the interest of the contracting parties, then only it is open to the contracting parties to confer by their agreement jurisdiction on a court which does not possess the jurisdiction under the law.
92. Which of the following propositions is NOT CORRECT about an ouster clause:
- (A) Jurisdiction of civil courts is created by statute and cannot be created or conferred by consent of the parties upon a court which has not been granted jurisdiction by the law.
 - (B) Where two or more courts have under the law jurisdiction to try a suit or proceeding, an agreement between the parties that the dispute between them will be tried in one of such courts, is not contrary to public policy.
 - (C) Ouster clauses can oust the jurisdiction only of civil courts and not of the High Court, provided such jurisdiction exists in the High Court on account of part of cause of action having arisen within its territorial jurisdiction.
 - (D) An ouster clause is valid even if it confers exclusive jurisdiction on a court that otherwise has no territorial or pecuniary jurisdiction over the matter.



93. Which of the following cannot be a condition for an exclusive jurisdiction clause in a contract to be valid:
- (A) It should be in consonance with section 28 of the Indian Contract Act, i.e. it should not absolutely restrict any party from initiating legal proceedings pertaining to the contract.
 - (B) The court which the parties have chosen for exclusive jurisdiction must be competent to have such jurisdiction.
 - (C) The parties must either impliedly or explicitly agree to subject themselves to the jurisdiction of a specific court for the resolution of their contractual dispute.
 - (D) The parties agree to the jurisdiction of a court that does not have the jurisdiction over the matter under the general law.
94. Section 28 of the Indian Contract Act is subject to _____ appended to it:
- (A) One exception.
 - (B) Two exceptions.
 - (C) Three exceptions.
 - (D) Four exceptions.
95. Which of the following agreements has/have been rendered void by section 28 of the Indian Contract Act:
- (A) An agreement by which any party thereto is restricted absolutely from enforcing his rights under or in respect of any contract, by the usual legal proceedings in the ordinary tribunals.
 - (B) An agreement which limits the time within which any party thereto may enforce his contractual rights.
 - (C) Both (A) and (B).
 - (D) Neither (A) nor (B).



XX. “The law is well settled that a constitutional court can award monetary compensation against the State and its officials for its failure to safeguard fundamental rights of citizens but there is no system or method to measure the damages caused in such situations. Quite often the courts have a difficult task in determining damages in various fact situations. The yardsticks normally adopted for determining the compensation payable in private tort claims are not as such applicable when a constitutional court determines the compensation in cases where there is a violation of fundamental rights guaranteed to its citizens.

... In *D.K. Basu v. State of W.B.* [(1997) SCC 1 416], a Constitution Bench of this Court held that there is no straitjacket formula for computation of damages and we find that there is no uniformity or yardstick followed in awarding damages for violation of fundamental rights. In *Rudul Sah case* [*Rudul Sah v. State of Bihar*, (1983) 4 SCC 141] this Court used the terminology ‘palliative’ for measuring the damages and the formula of ‘ad hoc’ was applied. In *Sebastian Hongray case* [*Sebastian M. Hongray v. Union of India*, (1984) 3 SCC 82] the expression used by this Court for determining the monetary compensation was ‘exemplary’ costs and the formula adopted was ‘punitive’. In *Bhim Singh case* [*Bhim Singh v. State of J & K*, (1985) 4 SCC 677], the expression used by the Court was ‘compensation’ and the method adopted was ‘tortious formula’. In *D.K. Basu v. State of W.B.* [(1997) SCC 1 416] the expression used by this Court for determining the compensation was ‘monetary compensation’. The formula adopted was ‘cost to cost’ method. Courts have not, therefore, adopted a uniform criterion since no statutory formula has been laid down.”

[Extracted from: *Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Delhi v Uphaar Tragedy Victims Association* (2011) 14 SCC 481]

96. The public law proceedings serve a different purpose than the private law proceedings. The relief of monetary compensation, as exemplary damages, in proceedings under article 32 by the Supreme Court or under article 226 by the High Courts, for established infringement of the indefeasible right guaranteed under article 21 of the Constitution is a remedy available in _____ and is based on the strict liability for contravention of the guaranteed basic and indefeasible rights of the citizen:

- (A) Public law.
- (B) Private law.
- (C) Civil law.
- (D) All the above.



97. Choose the IN-CORRECT proposition about 'constitutional tort':
- (A) In essence, it attributes vicarious liability on the State for acts and omissions of its agents which result in violation of fundamental rights of an individual or group.
 - (B) Constitutional law and tort law came to be merged by the Supreme Court which began allowing successful petitioners to recover monetary damages from the State for infraction of their fundamental rights.
 - (C) The causal connection between the act or omission and the resultant infraction of fundamental rights, is central to any determination of an action of constitutional tort.
 - (D) The doctrine of sovereign immunity absolutely protects the State from liability for all acts of its servants, including those that violate fundamental rights.
98. Which of the following cases is NOT related to constitutional tort:
- (A) Kaushal Kishor v State of Uttar Pradesh 2023 INSC 4.
 - (B) Bombay Hospital & Medical Research Centre v Asha Jaiswal 2021 INSC 801.
 - (C) Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Delhi v Uphaar Tragedy Victims Association (2011) 14 SCC 481.
 - (D) DK Basu v State of WB [(1997) SCC 1 416.
99. Which of the following propositions is/are CORRECT about the award of damages in cases where there is violation of fundamental rights:
- (A) Constitutional courts can in appropriate cases of serious violation of life and liberty of the individuals award punitive damages.
 - (B) Owing to lack of legislation, the Courts dealing with the cases of tortious claims against State and its officials are not following a uniform pattern while deciding those claims and this, at times, leads to undesirable consequences and arbitrary fixation of compensation amount.
 - (C) Both (A) and (B).
 - (D) Neither (A) nor (B).
100. The principle of sovereign immunity of the State for the tortious acts of its servant, has been held to be ————— in the case of violation of fundamental rights:
- (A) Always applicable.
 - (B) Inapplicable.
 - (C) A good defence.
 - (D) Occasionally applicable.



XXI. It is well recognized that actionable negligence in context of medical profession involves three constituents (i) duty to exercise due care; (ii) breach of duty and (iii) consequential damage. However, a simple lack of care, an error of judgment or an accident is not sufficient proof of negligence on part of the medical professional so long as the doctor follows the acceptable practice of the medical profession in discharge of his duties. He cannot be held liable for negligence merely because a better alternative treatment or course of treatment was available or that more skilled doctors were there who could have administered better treatment.

A medical professional may be held liable for negligence only when he is not possessed with the requisite qualification or skill or when he fails to exercise reasonable skill which he possesses in giving the treatment. None of the above two essential conditions for establishing negligence stand satisfied in the case at hand as no evidence was brought on record to prove that Dr. Neeraj Sud had not exercised due diligence, care or skill which he possessed in operating the patient and giving treatment to him. When reasonable care, expected of the medical professional, is extended or rendered to the patient unless contrary is proved, it would not be a case for actionable negligence.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from Neeraj Sud v Jaswinder Singh 2024 INSC 825]

101. In which of the following situations, a professional would be held liable for negligence:
- (A) If he was not possessed of the requisite skill which he professed to have possessed, or, he did not exercise, with reasonable competence, in the given case, the skill which he did possess.
 - (B) If he failed to use exceptional or extraordinary precautions which might have prevented the damage (particular happening).
 - (C) Both (A) and (B).
 - (D) Neither (A) nor (B).
102. Which of the following propositions is INCORRECT as regards negligence in civil law and in criminal law:
- (A) The jurisprudential concept of negligence differs in civil law and criminal law.
 - (B) What may be negligence in civil law may not necessarily be negligence in criminal law.
 - (C) For an act to amount to criminal negligence, the degree of negligence should be much higher, i.e. gross or of a very high degree.
 - (D) For negligence to amount to both a 'tort' and an 'offence', the element of mens rea must necessarily be shown to have existed.



103. The basis or the yardstick for judging the performance of the professional proceeded against on indictment of negligence is:
- (A) That of an ordinary and reasonably competent person exercising ordinary skill in that profession.
 - (B) That of a person with the highest level of expertise or skills in that branch which he practices.
 - (C) That of a person with the highest level of expertise or skills in that branch which he practices, and possessing the knowledge of all latest developments.
 - (D) Both (B) and (C).
104. Deviation from normal medical practice is not necessarily evidence of negligence. In order to establish liability of a medical practitioner on that basis, which of the following requirements has/have to be shown:
- (A) That, there is a usual and normal practice; and the medical practitioner (defendant) has not adopted it.
 - (B) That, the course in fact adopted by the medical practitioner (defendant) is one, which no professional man of ordinary skill would have taken, had he been acting with ordinary care.
 - (C) Both (A) and (B).
 - (D) Neither (A) nor (B).
105. A medical practitioner would not be held liable:
- (A) Where his conduct fell below that of the standards of a reasonably competent practitioner in his field.
 - (B) Where things went wrong from mischance or misadventure or through an error of judgment in choosing one reasonable course of treatment in preference of another.
 - (C) Both (A) and (B).
 - (D) Neither (A) nor (B).



XXII. Today, in the year 2025, we have been experiencing the drastic consequences of large scale destruction of environment on human lives in the capital city of our country and in many other cities. At least for a span of two months every year, the residents of Delhi suffocate due to air pollution. The AQI level is either dangerous or very dangerous. They suffer in their health. The other leading cities are not far behind. The air and water pollution in the cities is ever increasing. Therefore, coming out with measures such as the 2021 Official Memorandum is violative of fundamental rights of all persons guaranteed under Article 21 to live in a pollution free environment. It also infringes the right to health guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution.

The 2021 OM talks about the concept of development. Can there be development at the cost of environment? Conservation of environment and its improvement is an essential part of the concept of development. Therefore, going out of the way by issuing such OMs to protect those who have caused harm to the environment has to be deprecated by the Courts which are under a constitutional and statutory mandate to uphold the fundamental right under Article 21 and to protect the environment. In fact, the Courts should comedown heavily on such attempts. As stated earlier, the 2021 OM deals with project proponents who were fully aware of the EIA notification and who have taken conscious risk to flout the EIA notification and go ahead with the construction/continuation/expansion of projects. They have shown scant respect to the law and their duty to protect the environment. Apart from violation of Article 21, such action is completely arbitrary which is violative article 14 of the Constitution of India, besides being violative of the 1986 Act and the EIA notification.

(Extracted with edits from *Vanashakti v. Union of India*, 2025 INSC 718)

106. What was the central controversy in the petition, *Vanashakti v. Union of India*?
- (A) The constitutional validity of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
 - (B) The determination of pollution load standards for Category 'B' projects.
 - (C) The ex post facto grant of Environmental Clearance (EC).
 - (D) The delegation of powers to the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA).
107. The Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, which mandates prior EC, was issued by the Central Government under which primary legislation?
- (A) The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
 - (B) The Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
 - (C) The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
 - (D) The National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.



108. The Supreme Court reiterated a concluded finding that the concept of ex post facto or retrospective Environmental Clearance (EC) is:
- (A) Detrimental to the environment but permissible under Article 142 of the Constitution.
 - (B) Completely alien to environmental jurisprudence and the EIA notification.
 - (C) A necessary measure to bring defaulting entities into regulatory compliance.
 - (D) A valid administrative decision protected by Section 3 of the 1986 Act.
109. The EIA Notification 2006, mandates that prior Environmental Clearance (EC) must be obtained at what stage of a project?
- (A) Before commencing operations or processes.
 - (B) Within six months of a project's completion.
 - (C) After the public hearing but before the final appraisal.
 - (D) Before any construction work, or preparation of land is started on the project.
110. Allowing for ex post facto clearance was held to be contrary to which two fundamental principles of environmental jurisprudence?
- (A) Doctrine of Necessity and Principle of Stare Decisis.
 - (B) Polluter Pays Principle and Public Trust Doctrine.
 - (C) Precautionary Principle and Sustainable Development.
 - (D) Doctrine of Sovereign immunity and doctrine of Public Trust

XXIII. With the Paris Agreement, countries established an enhanced transparency framework (ETF). Under ETF, starting in 2024, countries will report transparently on actions taken and progress in climate change mitigation, adaptation measures and support provided or received. It also provides for international procedures for the review of the submitted reports.

The information gathered through the ETF will feed into the Global stocktake which will assess the collective progress towards the long-term climate goals. This will lead to recommendations for countries to set more ambitious plans in the next round.

Although climate change action needs to be massively increased to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement, the years since its entry into force have already sparked low-carbon solutions and new markets. More and more countries, regions, cities and companies are establishing carbon neutrality targets. Zero-carbon solutions are becoming competitive across economic sectors representing 25% of emissions. This trend is most noticeable in the power and transport sectors and has created many new business opportunities for early movers. By 2030, zero-carbon solutions could be competitive in sectors representing over 70% of global emissions.

(Extracted with edits from the website UNFCCC.INT)

111. What is the central, long-term temperature goal of the Paris Agreement?
- (A) To limit the global temperature increase to exactly 1.5 degrees
 - (B) To hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 degrees above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5 degrees.
 - (C) To reduce the global average temperature to pre-industrial levels by the year 2100.
 - (D) To limit the global temperature increase to 3 degrees above pre-industrial levels.



112. The Paris Agreement calls for a process to periodically assess the collective progress toward achieving its long-term goals. What is this process called?
- (A) The Compliance Mechanism
 - (B) The Global Stocktake
 - (C) The Transparency Framework
 - (D) The Adaptation Communication
113. Which previous International Climate Treaty did the Paris Agreement succeed and replace in terms of its operational framework after 2020?
- (A) The Montreal Protocol
 - (B) The Basel Convention
 - (C) The Kyoto Protocol
 - (D) The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
114. The Paris Agreement establishes a clear distinction in obligations between developed and developing countries regarding:
- (A) The long-term temperature goal, with different limits for each group.
 - (B) Mitigation efforts, by requiring only developed countries to submit NDCs.
 - (C) Climate finance, by requiring developed countries to provide financial resources to assist developing countries.
 - (D) The principle of sovereignty, by allowing only developing countries to withdraw from the Agreement.
115. The mechanism known as "Loss and Damage" in the context of climate change, which addresses the unavoidable adverse effects of climate change, is reinforced in the Paris Agreement through the:
- (A) Technology Executive Committee.
 - (B) Global Stocktake.
 - (C) Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM).
 - (D) Adaptation Fund.

XXIV. SEBI was established as India's principal capital markets regulator with the aim to protect the interest of investors in securities and promote the development and regulation of the securities market in India. SEBI is empowered to regulate the securities market in India by the SEBI Act 1992, the SCRA and the Depositories Act 1996. SEBI's powers to regulate the securities market are wide and include delegated legislative, administrative, and adjudicatory powers to enforce SEBI's regulations. SEBI exercises its delegated legislative power by inter alia framing regulations and appropriately amending them to keep up with the dynamic nature of the securities' market. SEBI has issued a number of regulations on various areas of security regulation which form the backbone of the framework governing the securities market in India.



Section 11 of the SEBI Act lays down the functions of SEBI and expressly states that it “shall be the duty of the Board to protect the interests of investors in securities and to promote the development of, and to regulate the securities market, by such measures as it thinks fit”. Further, Section 30 of the SEBI Act empowers SEBI to make regulations consistent with the Act. Significantly, while framing these regulations, SEBI consults its advisory committees consisting of domain experts, including market experts, leading market players, legal experts, technology experts, retired Judges of this Court or the High Courts, academicians, representatives of industry associations and investor associations. During the consultative process, SEBI also invites and duly considers comments from the public on their proposed regulations. SEBI follows similar consultative processes while reviewing and amending its regulations.

(Extracted, with edits and revision, from the judgement in Vishal Tiwari v. Union Of India, [2024] 1 S.C.R. 171)

116. What is meant by SCRA in the above passage.
- (A) Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act
 - (B) Securities and Corporate (Registration) Act
 - (C) Securities Compliance (Regulation) Act
 - (D) SEBI and Companies (Regulation) Act
117. Which of the following is not a committee setup by SEBI?
- (A) Technical Advisory Committee
 - (B) Competition Advisory committee
 - (C) Intermediary Advisory Committee
 - (D) Market Data Advisory Committee
118. Which among the following is not a function of SEBI?
- (A) regulating substantial acquisition of shares and take over of companies
 - (B) prohibiting and regulating self-regulatory organisations
 - (C) prohibiting insider trading in securities
 - (D) promoting investors' education and training of intermediaries of securities markets.
119. The process by which an organisation thinks about and evolves its relationships with stakeholders for the common good, and demonstrates its commitment in this regard by adoption of appropriate business processes and strategies is called?
- (A) Annual general meeting
 - (B) Corporate social responsibility
 - (C) Issuing Shelf prospectus
 - (D) Incorporation of a company
120. In which of the following cases did the court struck down the attempt of the government to nationalise banks and pay minimal compensation to the shareholders?
- (A) Shri Sunil Siddharthbhai Etc v. Union of India
 - (B) R.C. Cooper v. Union of India
 - (C) United Bank Of India v. SatyawatiTondon & Ors
 - (D) Punjab National Bank v. Union of India



SPACE FOR ROUGH WORK



SPACE FOR ROUGH WORK



PG 2026

QUESTION BOOKLET NO.

1. **Name of the Candidate :**

2. **Admit Card Number :**

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Duration of the Test : 2 hours (120 minutes) *

Maximum Marks : 120

1. This Question Booklet (QB) contains 120 (One hundred and Twenty) Multiple Choice Questions across 48 (Forty Eight) pages including 2 (Two) blank pages for rough work. No additional sheet(s) of paper will be supplied for rough work.
2. You have to answer ALL questions in the separate carbonised Optical Mark Reader (OMR) Response Sheet supplied along with this QB. You must READ the detailed instructions provided with the OMR Response Sheet on the reverse side of this packet BEFORE you start the test.
3. No clarification can be sought on the QB from anyone. In case of any discrepancy such as printing error or missing pages, in the QB, request the Invigilator to replace the QB and OMR Response Sheet. Do not use the previous OMR Response sheet with the fresh QB.
4. You should write the QB Number, and the OMR Response Sheet Number, and sign in the space/column provided in the Attendance Sheet.
5. The QB for the Post Graduate Programme is for 120 marks. Every **Right Answer** secures 1 mark. Every **Wrong Answer** results in the deduction of 0.25 mark. There shall be no deductions for Unanswered Questions.
6. You may retain the QB and the Candidate's copy of the OMR Response Sheet after the end of the test.
7. The use of any unfair means shall result in your disqualification. Possession of Electronic Devices such as mobile phones, headphones, digital watches, etc., is/are strictly prohibited in the test premises. Impersonation or any other unlawful practice will lead to your disqualification and possibly, appropriate action under the law.

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- I. The Companies Act, 2013 does not deal with insolvency and bankruptcy when the companies are unable to pay their debts or the aspects relating to the revival and rehabilitation of the companies and their winding up if revival and rehabilitation is not possible. In principle, it cannot be doubted that the cases of revival or winding up of the company on the ground of insolvency and inability to pay debts are different from cases where companies are wound up under Section 271 of the Companies Act 2013. The two situations are not identical. Under Section 271 of the Companies Act, 2013, even a running and financially sound company can also be wound up for the reasons in clauses (a) to (e). The reasons and grounds for winding up under Section 271 of the Companies Act, 2013 are vastly different from the reasons and grounds for the revival and rehabilitation scheme as envisaged under the IBC. The two enactments deal with two distinct situations and in our opinion, they cannot be equated when we examine whether there is discrimination or violation of Article 14 of the Constitution of India. For the revival and rehabilitation of the companies, certain sacrifices are required from all quarters, including the workmen. In case of insolvent companies, for the sake of survival and regeneration, everyone, including the secured creditors and the Central and State Government, are required to make sacrifices. The workmen also have a stake and benefit from the revival of the company, and therefore unless it is found that the sacrifices envisaged for the workmen, which certainly form a separate class, are onerous and burdensome so as to be manifestly unjust and arbitrary, we will not set aside the legislation, solely on the ground that some or marginal sacrifice is to be made by the workers. We would also reject the argument that to find out whether there was a violation of Article 14 of the Constitution of India or whether the right to life under Article 21 Constitution of India was infringed, we must word by word examine the waterfall mechanism envisaged under the Companies Act, 2013, where the company is wound up in terms of grounds (a) to (e) of Section 271 of the Companies Act, 2013; and the rights of the workmen when the insolvent company is sought to be revived, rehabilitated or wound up under the Code. The grounds and situations in the context of the objective and purpose of the two enactments are entirely different.

(Extracted, with edits and revision, from Moser Baer Karamchari Union v. Union of India, 2023 SCC Online SC 547)

1. In which of the following cases, it was held by the Supreme Court that although a company is a separate legal entity distinct from that of its members, the corporate veil may be lifted and the corporate personality may be ignored?
 - (A) Life Insurance Corporation of India v. Escorts Ltd. (1986) 59 Comp Case 548
 - (B) R. K. Dalmia vs Delhi Administration, AIR 1962 SC 1821
 - (C) Dale And Carrington Invt. P. Ltd. v. P.K. Prathapan AIR 2005 SC 1624
 - (D) Rohtas Industries Ltd v. S.D. Agarwal, AIR 1969 SC 707



2. The extent to which a Corporation as a legal person can be held criminally liable for its acts and omissions and for those of the natural persons employed by it is called?
 - (A) Corporate manslaughter
 - (B) Lifting the corporate veil
 - (C) Corporate criminal liability
 - (D) Corporate social responsibility

3. In which of the following cases, the constitutionality of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 was upheld by the Supreme Court?
 - (A) RPS Infrastructure Ltd. v. Union of India, 2023 INSC 816
 - (B) Paschimanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd. v. Union of India, AIR 1971 SC 862
 - (C) Union Bank of India v. Financial Creditors of M/s Amtek Auto Limited, (2023) IBC Law.in 85 SC.
 - (D) Swiss Ribbons v. Union of India, (2019) SCC Online SC 73.

4. A director other than a managing director or a whole-time director or a nominee director who does not have any material or pecuniary relationship with the company/ directors other than the remuneration is called
 - (A) Founding Director
 - (B) Promoter Director
 - (C) Independent Director
 - (D) Associate Director

5. Which among the following is not a duty of a Director of the company?
 - (A) To file return of allotments
 - (B) To disclose interest
 - (C) Duty to call upon the shareholders to attend the Board meetings
 - (D) To convene General meeting

II. In his heroic efforts, my learned brother Krishna Iyer, if I may say so with great respect, has not discarded the tests of industry formulated in the past. Indeed, he has actually restored the tests laid down by this Court in *D. N. Banerji's case* and, after that, in the *Corporation of the City of Nagpur v. Its Employees*, and *State of Bombay v. The Hospital Mazdoor Sabha* to their pristine glory. My learned brother has, however, rejected what may appear, to use the word employed recently by an American Jurist, "excrescences" of subjective notions of judges which may have blurred those tests. The temptation is great, in such cases, for us to give expression of what may be purely subjective personal predilections. It has, however, to be resisted if law is to possess a direction in Conformity with Constitutional objectives and criteria which must impart that reasonable state of predictability and certainty to interpretations of the Constitution as well as to the laws made under it which citizens should expect. We have, so to speak, to chart what may appear to be a Sea in which the ship of law like Noah's ark may have to be navigated. Indeed, Lord Sankey on one occasion, said that law itself is like the ark to which people look for some certainty and security amidst the shifting sands of political life and vicissitudes of times. The Constitution and the directive principles of State policy, read with the basic fundamental rights, provide us with a compass.



This Court has tried to indicate in recent cases that the meaning of what could be described as a basic "structure" of the Constitution must necessarily be found in express provisions of the construction and not merely in subjective notions about meanings of words. Similar must be the reasoning we must employ in extracting the core of meaning hidden between the interstices of statutory provisions. Each of us is likely to have a subjective notion about "industry". For objectivity, we have to look first to the, words used in the statutory provision defining industry in an attempt to find the meaning. If that meaning is clear, we need proceed no further. But, the trouble here is that the words found there do not yield a meaning so readily. They refer to what employers or workers may do as parts of their ordinary avocation or business in life.

(Extracted with edits from Bangalore Water Supply v. A. Rajappa & Others, AIR 1978 SC 548)

6. According to the Supreme Court's judgment, what is the most important factor in determining whether an activity constitutes an industry?
 - (A) The profit-making motive of the employer
 - (B) When there are multiple activities carried on by an establishment, its dominant function has to be considered. If the dominant function is not commercial, benefits of a workman of an industry under Industrial Dispute Act may be given.
 - (C) The nature of the activity and the authority of the employer over its employees
 - (D) When there are multiple activities carried on by an establishment, all the activities must be considered. Even if one activity is commercial, the employees will not get the benefit of workman of an industry under the Industrial Dispute Act.

7. Which of the following best describes the broader impact of the judgment?
 - (A) It reduced labour protections for workers
 - (B) It extended labour protections to a broader spectrum of workers
 - (C) It had no significant impact on labour laws
 - (D) It only affected private sector workers

8. Which of the following best describes the term 'industry' as defined by the Supreme Court in this judgment?
 - (A) Any activity involving profit-making
 - (B) Any systematic activity organized by cooperation between an employer and employees for producing or distributing goods and services
 - (C) Only activities conducted by private enterprises
 - (D) Activities limited to manufacturing sectors



9. In which of the following landmark judgements, the Supreme Court held that when an association or society of apartment owners employs workers for personal services to its members, those workers do not qualify as workmen under the Act and the association is not an “Industry” under the Industrial Disputes Act?
- (A) Som Vihar Apartment Owners’ Housing Maintenance Society Ltd v. Workmen, 2009 SC
 - (B) Anand Vihar Apartment Owners’ Society Ltd. V. Workmen, 2024 SC
 - (C) Kanchanjunga Building Employees Union v. Kanchanjunga Flat Owner’s Society &Anr., 2024 SC
 - (D) Workmen represented by Secretary v. Reptakos Brett AIR 1992 SC 504
10. Under the Industrial Dispute Act, 1947, what is the role of the “Works Committee” and which of the following correctly describes its function?
- (A) The works committee is a body formed by the central government to address wage disputes between employer and employee in public sector industries.
 - (B) The works committee is a grievance redressal body constituted by the employer, primarily to promote measures for securing and preserving amity and good relations between the employer and employee.
 - (C) The Works Committee is responsible for making binding decisions on industrial disputes related to layoffs, retrenchment and closure of industrial units.
 - (D) The Works Committee is responsible for adjudicating major industrial disputes regarding wages, bonus or retrenchment.
- III. The Act of 1948 defines “manufacturing process” and we clearly find that “washing, cleaning” and the activities carried out by the respondent with a view to its use, delivery or disposal are squarely attracted. The contention of the respondent that dry cleaning does not make any product usable, saleable or worthy of transport, delivery or disposal has only to be stated to be rejected.
- “Manufacturing process” has been defined to mean any process for washing or cleaning with a view to its use, sale, transport, delivery or disposal. The linen deposited with the launderer is, after washing and cleaning, delivered to the customer for use. The ingredients of the section are fully satisfied. There is nothing in the Act of 1948, which is repugnant in the subject or context, constraining us to jettison the definition. Hence, we reject the findings of the High Court and hold that the activity carried out which on facts is not disputed is clearly covered by the definition of “manufacturing process” under Section 2(k) which, in turn, would bring the premises in question of the respondent under the definition of “factory” under Section 2(m). If that were so, the complaint lodged against the respondent could not have been quashed.
- (Extracted with edits from The State of Goa v. Namita Tripathi, 2025 INSC 306)
11. According to the Supreme Court's interpretation of Section 2(k)(i) of the Factories Act, 1948, the business of a laundry service involving cleaning and washing of clothes is considered a "manufacturing process" primarily because it involves:
- (A) Producing a new marketable commodity through transformation.
 - (B) Washing or cleaning any article or substance with a view to its delivery or use.
 - (C) Carrying on a service and not a manufacturing activity.
 - (D) Employing more than 50 workers, regardless of the activity.



12. What rule of statutory interpretation did the Supreme Court explicitly state should be applied to the Factories Act, 1948, because of its nature?
 - (A) Rule of Literal Interpretation.
 - (B) Doctrine of Stare Decisis.
 - (C) Liberal and Beneficial Construction.
 - (D) Rule of Ejusdem Generis.

13. The Supreme Court used the 'Mischief Rule' of interpretation to analyze the definition of "manufacturing process" by comparing the Factories Act, 1948, with its predecessor. What was the critical difference noted in the 1948 Act's definition (Section 2(k)) compared to the 1934 Act's definition (Section 2(g))?
 - (A) The 1948 Act introduced the concept of "power" being used in the process.
 - (B) The 1948 Act included the words 'washing, cleaning', which were absent in the 1934 Act.
 - (C) The 1948 Act removed the exemption for mobile units of the armed forces.
 - (D) The 1948 Act lowered the minimum age of employment for children.

14. A premises is defined as a "factory" under Section 2(m)(i) of the Factories Act, 1948, if:
 - (A) Twenty or more workers are working without the aid of power.
 - (B) Ten or more workers are working, and a manufacturing process is carried on with the aid of power.
 - (C) Less than ten workers are working, but the process involves hazardous substances.
 - (D) It is a hotel, restaurant, or eating place.

15. The Supreme Court ruled that the Punjab and Haryana High Court judgment in Employees' State Insurance Corporation, Jullundur v. Triplex Dry Cleaners and Others (1982) was not applicable to the present case because:
 - (A) The Triplex Dry Cleaners case was decided under the Shops and Establishments Act, not the Factories Act.
 - (B) The Triplex Dry Cleaners case was decided before the definition of "manufacturing process" under the Factories Act, 1948, was incorporated into the Employees State Insurance Act (ESIC Act).
 - (C) The Triplex Dry Cleaners case dealt with washing, not dry cleaning.
 - (D) The ESIC Act was a penal statute, while the Factories Act, 1948, is a welfare statute.



IV. “Section 55 of the Indian Contract Act says that when a party to a contract promises to do a certain thing within a specified time but fails to do so, the contract or so much of it as has not been performed, becomes voidable at the option of the promisee if the intention of the parties was, that time should be of the essence of the contract. If time is not the essence of the contract, the contract does not become voidable by the failure to do such thing on or before the specified time but the promisee is entitled to compensation from the promisor for any loss occasioned to him by such failure. Further, if in case of a contract voidable on account of the promisor’s failure to perform his promise within the time agreed and the promisee accepts performance of such promise at any time other than that agreed, the promisee cannot claim compensation for any loss occasioned by the non-performance of the promise at the time agreed, unless, at the time of such acceptance he gives notice to the promisor of his intention to do so.

... Sections 73 and 74 deal with consequences of breach of contract. Heading of Section 73 is compensation for loss or damage caused by breach of contract. When a contract is broken, the party who suffers by such breach is entitled to receive from the party who has broken the contract compensation for any loss or damage caused to him thereby which naturally arose in the usual course of things from such breach or which the parties knew when they made the contract to be likely to result from the breach of it. On the other hand, Section 74 deals with compensation for breach of contract where penalty is stipulated for. When a contract is broken, if a sum is mentioned in the contract as the amount to be paid in case of such breach or if the contract contains any other stipulation by way of penalty, the party complaining of the breach is entitled whether or not actually damage or loss is proved to have been caused thereby, to receive from the party who has broken the contract reasonable compensation not exceeding the amount so named or the penalty stipulated for.”

[Extracted from: Consolidated Construction Consortium Limited v Software Technology Parks of India 2025 INSC 574]

16. Whether time is of essence or not is a question of fact, and the real test is the parties’ intention. Which amongst the following is not correct in ascertaining the intention of the parties with respect to “time is of essence”.
- (A) The express words used in the contract.
 - (B) The nature of the property which forms the subject-matter of the contract.
 - (C) The nature of the contract and the surrounding circumstances.
 - (D) The nature of the contract that provides for an extension of time or liquidated damages for delays
17. Which of the following is NOT a leading judgement on section 74 of the Indian Contract Act:
- (A) Kailash Nath Associates v Delhi Development Authority [2015] 1 SCR 627.
 - (B) ONGC Ltd v Saw Pipes Ltd (2003) 5 SCC 705.
 - (C) Fateh Chand v Balkishan Dass (1964) 1 SCR 515.
 - (D) Satyabrata Ghose v MugneeramBangur& Co 1954 SCR 310.



18. Which of the following is a CORRECT proposition as regards award of damages in contract:
- (A) In general, no damages in contract are awarded for injury to plaintiff's feelings or for mental distress, loss of reputation or social discredit caused by the breach of contract.
 - (B) In general, damages in contract are awarded for anguish and vexation caused by the breach of contract.
 - (C) In general, damages in contract are awarded for anguish and loss of reputation, but not for social discredit caused by the breach of contract.
 - (D) In general, damages in contract are awarded for emotional distress, but not for mental agony caused by the breach of contract.
19. Which of the following is/are CORRECT proposition(s) as regards the law on damages for the breach of contract under section 74 of the Indian Contract Act:
- (A) Where a sum is named in the contract as a liquidated amount payable by way of damages, only reasonable compensation can be awarded not exceeding the amount so stated.
 - (B) In cases where the amount fixed is in the nature of penalty, only reasonable compensation can be awarded, not exceeding the penalty so stated.
 - (C) The expression 'whether or not actual damage or loss is proved to have been caused thereby' in section 74 means that in every case the proof of actual damage or loss has been dispensed with.
 - (D) Both (A) and (B).
20. _____ will apply to cases of forfeiture of earnest money under a contract. Where, however, forfeiture takes place under the terms and conditions of a public auction before agreement is reached, section 74 would have no application:
- (A) Section 55.
 - (B) Section 73.
 - (C) Section 74.
 - (D) Section 75.



- V. “Law treats all contracts with equal respect and unless a contract is proved to suffer from any of the vitiating factors, the terms and conditions have to be enforced regardless of the relative strengths and weakness of the parties.

Section 28 of the Contract Act does not bar exclusive jurisdiction clauses. What has been barred is the absolute restriction of any party from approaching a legal forum. The right to legal adjudication cannot be taken away from any party through contract but can be relegated to a set of Courts for the ease of the parties. In the present dispute, the clause does not take away the right of the employee to pursue a legal claim but only restricts the employee to pursue those claims before the courts in Mumbai alone.

... the Court must already have jurisdiction to entertain such a legal claim. This limb pertains to the fact that a contract cannot confer jurisdiction on a court that did not have such a jurisdiction in the first place.”

[Extracted from: Rakesh Kumar Verma v HDFC Bank Ltd 2025 INSC 473]

21. Which of the following propositions is CORRECT:
- (A) It is, in general, open to the contracting parties to confer by their agreement jurisdiction on a court which does not possess the jurisdiction under the law.
 - (B) It is not open to the contracting parties to confer by their agreement jurisdiction on a court which does not possess the jurisdiction under the law.
 - (C) It is open to the contracting parties to confer by their written and registered agreement jurisdiction on a court which does not possess the jurisdiction under the law.
 - (D) If it is absolutely in the interest of the contracting parties, then only it is open to the contracting parties to confer by their agreement jurisdiction on a court which does not possess the jurisdiction under the law.
22. Which of the following propositions is NOT CORRECT about an ouster clause:
- (A) Jurisdiction of civil courts is created by statute and cannot be created or conferred by consent of the parties upon a court which has not been granted jurisdiction by the law.
 - (B) Where two or more courts have under the law jurisdiction to try a suit or proceeding, an agreement between the parties that the dispute between them will be tried in one of such courts, is not contrary to public policy.
 - (C) Ouster clauses can oust the jurisdiction only of civil courts and not of the High Court, provided such jurisdiction exists in the High Court on account of part of cause of action having arisen within its territorial jurisdiction.
 - (D) An ouster clause is valid even if it confers exclusive jurisdiction on a court that otherwise has no territorial or pecuniary jurisdiction over the matter.



23. Which of the following cannot be a condition for an exclusive jurisdiction clause in a contract to be valid:
- (A) It should be in consonance with section 28 of the Indian Contract Act, i.e. it should not absolutely restrict any party from initiating legal proceedings pertaining to the contract.
 - (B) The court which the parties have chosen for exclusive jurisdiction must be competent to have such jurisdiction.
 - (C) The parties must either impliedly or explicitly agree to subject themselves to the jurisdiction of a specific court for the resolution of their contractual dispute.
 - (D) The parties agree to the jurisdiction of a court that does not have the jurisdiction over the matter under the general law.
24. Section 28 of the Indian Contract Act is subject to _____ appended to it:
- (A) One exception.
 - (B) Two exceptions.
 - (C) Three exceptions.
 - (D) Four exceptions.
25. Which of the following agreements has/have been rendered void by section 28 of the Indian Contract Act:
- (A) An agreement by which any party thereto is restricted absolutely from enforcing his rights under or in respect of any contract, by the usual legal proceedings in the ordinary tribunals.
 - (B) An agreement which limits the time within which any party thereto may enforce his contractual rights.
 - (C) Both (A) and (B).
 - (D) Neither (A) nor (B).



VI. “The law is well settled that a constitutional court can award monetary compensation against the State and its officials for its failure to safeguard fundamental rights of citizens but there is no system or method to measure the damages caused in such situations. Quite often the courts have a difficult task in determining damages in various fact situations. The yardsticks normally adopted for determining the compensation payable in private tort claims are not as such applicable when a constitutional court determines the compensation in cases where there is a violation of fundamental rights guaranteed to its citizens.

... In *D.K. Basu v. State of W.B.* [(1997) SCC 1 416], a Constitution Bench of this Court held that there is no straitjacket formula for computation of damages and we find that there is no uniformity or yardstick followed in awarding damages for violation of fundamental rights. In *Rudul Sah case* [*Rudul Sah v. State of Bihar*, (1983) 4 SCC 141] this Court used the terminology ‘palliative’ for measuring the damages and the formula of ‘ad hoc’ was applied. In *Sebastian Hongray case* [*Sebastian M. Hongray v. Union of India*, (1984) 3 SCC 82] the expression used by this Court for determining the monetary compensation was ‘exemplary’ costs and the formula adopted was ‘punitive’. In *Bhim Singh case* [*Bhim Singh v. State of J & K*, (1985) 4 SCC 677], the expression used by the Court was ‘compensation’ and the method adopted was ‘tortious formula’. In *D.K. Basu v. State of W.B.* [(1997) SCC 1 416] the expression used by this Court for determining the compensation was ‘monetary compensation’. The formula adopted was ‘cost to cost’ method. Courts have not, therefore, adopted a uniform criterion since no statutory formula has been laid down.”

[Extracted from: *Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Delhi v Uphaar Tragedy Victims Association* (2011) 14 SCC 481]

26. The public law proceedings serve a different purpose than the private law proceedings. The relief of monetary compensation, as exemplary damages, in proceedings under article 32 by the Supreme Court or under article 226 by the High Courts, for established infringement of the indefeasible right guaranteed under article 21 of the Constitution is a remedy available in _____ and is based on the strict liability for contravention of the guaranteed basic and indefeasible rights of the citizen:

- (A) Public law.
- (B) Private law.
- (C) Civil law.
- (D) All the above.



27. Choose the IN-CORRECT proposition about 'constitutional tort':
- (A) In essence, it attributes vicarious liability on the State for acts and omissions of its agents which result in violation of fundamental rights of an individual or group.
 - (B) Constitutional law and tort law came to be merged by the Supreme Court which began allowing successful petitioners to recover monetary damages from the State for infraction of their fundamental rights.
 - (C) The causal connection between the act or omission and the resultant infraction of fundamental rights, is central to any determination of an action of constitutional tort.
 - (D) The doctrine of sovereign immunity absolutely protects the State from liability for all acts of its servants, including those that violate fundamental rights.
28. Which of the following cases is NOT related to constitutional tort:
- (A) Kaushal Kishor v State of Uttar Pradesh 2023 INSC 4.
 - (B) Bombay Hospital & Medical Research Centre v Asha Jaiswal 2021 INSC 801.
 - (C) Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Delhi v Uphaar Tragedy Victims Association (2011) 14 SCC 481.
 - (D) DK Basu v State of WB [(1997) SCC 1 416.
29. Which of the following propositions is/are CORRECT about the award of damages in cases where there is violation of fundamental rights:
- (A) Constitutional courts can in appropriate cases of serious violation of life and liberty of the individuals award punitive damages.
 - (B) Owing to lack of legislation, the Courts dealing with the cases of tortious claims against State and its officials are not following a uniform pattern while deciding those claims and this, at times, leads to undesirable consequences and arbitrary fixation of compensation amount.
 - (C) Both (A) and (B).
 - (D) Neither (A) nor (B).
30. The principle of sovereign immunity of the State for the tortious acts of its servant, has been held to be _____ in the case of violation of fundamental rights:
- (A) Always applicable.
 - (B) Inapplicable.
 - (C) A good defence.
 - (D) Occasionally applicable.



VII. It is well recognized that actionable negligence in context of medical profession involves three constituents (i) duty to exercise due care; (ii) breach of duty and (iii) consequential damage. However, a simple lack of care, an error of judgment or an accident is not sufficient proof of negligence on part of the medical professional so long as the doctor follows the acceptable practice of the medical profession in discharge of his duties. He cannot be held liable for negligence merely because a better alternative treatment or course of treatment was available or that more skilled doctors were there who could have administered better treatment.

A medical professional may be held liable for negligence only when he is not possessed with the requisite qualification or skill or when he fails to exercise reasonable skill which he possesses in giving the treatment. None of the above two essential conditions for establishing negligence stand satisfied in the case at hand as no evidence was brought on record to prove that Dr. Neeraj Sud had not exercised due diligence, care or skill which he possessed in operating the patient and giving treatment to him. When reasonable care, expected of the medical professional, is extended or rendered to the patient unless contrary is proved, it would not be a case for actionable negligence.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from Neeraj Sud v Jaswinder Singh 2024 INSC 825]

31. In which of the following situations, a professional would be held liable for negligence:
- (A) If he was not possessed of the requisite skill which he professed to have possessed, or, he did not exercise, with reasonable competence, in the given case, the skill which he did possess.
 - (B) If he failed to use exceptional or extraordinary precautions which might have prevented the damage (particular happening).
 - (C) Both (A) and (B).
 - (D) Neither (A) nor (B).
32. Which of the following propositions is INCORRECT as regards negligence in civil law and in criminal law:
- (A) The jurisprudential concept of negligence differs in civil law and criminal law.
 - (B) What may be negligence in civil law may not necessarily be negligence in criminal law.
 - (C) For an act to amount to criminal negligence, the degree of negligence should be much higher, i.e. gross or of a very high degree.
 - (D) For negligence to amount to both a 'tort' and an 'offence', the element of mens rea must necessarily be shown to have existed.



33. The basis or the yardstick for judging the performance of the professional proceeded against on indictment of negligence is:
- (A) That of an ordinary and reasonably competent person exercising ordinary skill in that profession.
 - (B) That of a person with the highest level of expertise or skills in that branch which he practices.
 - (C) That of a person with the highest level of expertise or skills in that branch which he practices, and possessing the knowledge of all latest developments.
 - (D) Both (B) and (C).
34. Deviation from normal medical practice is not necessarily evidence of negligence. In order to establish liability of a medical practitioner on that basis, which of the following requirements has/have to be shown:
- (A) That, there is a usual and normal practice; and the medical practitioner (defendant) has not adopted it.
 - (B) That, the course in fact adopted by the medical practitioner (defendant) is one, which no professional man of ordinary skill would have taken, had he been acting with ordinary care.
 - (C) Both (A) and (B).
 - (D) Neither (A) nor (B).
35. A medical practitioner would not be held liable:
- (A) Where his conduct fell below that of the standards of a reasonably competent practitioner in his field.
 - (B) Where things went wrong from mischance or misadventure or through an error of judgment in choosing one reasonable course of treatment in preference of another.
 - (C) Both (A) and (B).
 - (D) Neither (A) nor (B).



VIII. Today, in the year 2025, we have been experiencing the drastic consequences of large scale destruction of environment on human lives in the capital city of our country and in many other cities. At least for a span of two months every year, the residents of Delhi suffocate due to air pollution. The AQI level is either dangerous or very dangerous. They suffer in their health. The other leading cities are not far behind. The air and water pollution in the cities is ever increasing. Therefore, coming out with measures such as the 2021 Official Memorandum is violative of fundamental rights of all persons guaranteed under Article 21 to live in a pollution free environment. It also infringes the right to health guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution.

The 2021 OM talks about the concept of development. Can there be development at the cost of environment? Conservation of environment and its improvement is an essential part of the concept of development. Therefore, going out of the way by issuing such OMs to protect those who have caused harm to the environment has to be deprecated by the Courts which are under a constitutional and statutory mandate to uphold the fundamental right under Article 21 and to protect the environment. In fact, the Courts should comedown heavily on such attempts. As stated earlier, the 2021 OM deals with project proponents who were fully aware of the EIA notification and who have taken conscious risk to flout the EIA notification and go ahead with the construction/continuation/expansion of projects. They have shown scant respect to the law and their duty to protect the environment. Apart from violation of Article 21, such action is completely arbitrary which is violative article 14 of the Constitution of India, besides being violative of the 1986 Act and the EIA notification.

(Extracted with edits from *Vanashakti v. Union of India*, 2025 INSC 718)

36. What was the central controversy in the petition, *Vanashakti v. Union of India*?
- (A) The constitutional validity of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
 - (B) The determination of pollution load standards for Category 'B' projects.
 - (C) The ex post facto grant of Environmental Clearance (EC).
 - (D) The delegation of powers to the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA).
37. The Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, which mandates prior EC, was issued by the Central Government under which primary legislation?
- (A) The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
 - (B) The Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
 - (C) The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
 - (D) The National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.



38. The Supreme Court reiterated a concluded finding that the concept of ex post facto or retrospective Environmental Clearance (EC) is:
- (A) Detrimental to the environment but permissible under Article 142 of the Constitution.
 - (B) Completely alien to environmental jurisprudence and the EIA notification.
 - (C) A necessary measure to bring defaulting entities into regulatory compliance.
 - (D) A valid administrative decision protected by Section 3 of the 1986 Act.
39. The EIA Notification 2006, mandates that prior Environmental Clearance (EC) must be obtained at what stage of a project?
- (A) Before commencing operations or processes.
 - (B) Within six months of a project's completion.
 - (C) After the public hearing but before the final appraisal.
 - (D) Before any construction work, or preparation of land is started on the project.
40. Allowing for ex post facto clearance was held to be contrary to which two fundamental principles of environmental jurisprudence?
- (A) Doctrine of Necessity and Principle of Stare Decisis.
 - (B) Polluter Pays Principle and Public Trust Doctrine.
 - (C) Precautionary Principle and Sustainable Development.
 - (D) Doctrine of Sovereign immunity and doctrine of Public Trust

- IX. With the Paris Agreement, countries established an enhanced transparency framework (ETF). Under ETF, starting in 2024, countries will report transparently on actions taken and progress in climate change mitigation, adaptation measures and support provided or received. It also provides for international procedures for the review of the submitted reports.

The information gathered through the ETF will feed into the Global stocktake which will assess the collective progress towards the long-term climate goals. This will lead to recommendations for countries to set more ambitious plans in the next round.

Although climate change action needs to be massively increased to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement, the years since its entry into force have already sparked low-carbon solutions and new markets. More and more countries, regions, cities and companies are establishing carbon neutrality targets. Zero-carbon solutions are becoming competitive across economic sectors representing 25% of emissions. This trend is most noticeable in the power and transport sectors and has created many new business opportunities for early movers. By 2030, zero-carbon solutions could be competitive in sectors representing over 70% of global emissions.

(Extracted with edits from the website UNFCCC.INT)

41. What is the central, long-term temperature goal of the Paris Agreement?
- (A) To limit the global temperature increase to exactly 1.5 degrees
 - (B) To hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 degrees above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5 degrees.
 - (C) To reduce the global average temperature to pre-industrial levels by the year 2100.
 - (D) To limit the global temperature increase to 3 degrees above pre-industrial levels.



42. The Paris Agreement calls for a process to periodically assess the collective progress toward achieving its long-term goals. What is this process called?
- (A) The Compliance Mechanism
 - (B) The Global Stocktake
 - (C) The Transparency Framework
 - (D) The Adaptation Communication
43. Which previous International Climate Treaty did the Paris Agreement succeed and replace in terms of its operational framework after 2020?
- (A) The Montreal Protocol
 - (B) The Basel Convention
 - (C) The Kyoto Protocol
 - (D) The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
44. The Paris Agreement establishes a clear distinction in obligations between developed and developing countries regarding:
- (A) The long-term temperature goal, with different limits for each group.
 - (B) Mitigation efforts, by requiring only developed countries to submit NDCs.
 - (C) Climate finance, by requiring developed countries to provide financial resources to assist developing countries.
 - (D) The principle of sovereignty, by allowing only developing countries to withdraw from the Agreement.
45. The mechanism known as "Loss and Damage" in the context of climate change, which addresses the unavoidable adverse effects of climate change, is reinforced in the Paris Agreement through the:
- (A) Technology Executive Committee.
 - (B) Global Stocktake.
 - (C) Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM).
 - (D) Adaptation Fund.
- X. SEBI was established as India's principal capital markets regulator with the aim to protect the interest of investors in securities and promote the development and regulation of the securities market in India. SEBI is empowered to regulate the securities market in India by the SEBI Act 1992, the SCRA and the Depositories Act 1996. SEBI's powers to regulate the securities market are wide and include delegated legislative, administrative, and adjudicatory powers to enforce SEBI's regulations. SEBI exercises its delegated legislative power by inter alia framing regulations and appropriately amending them to keep up with the dynamic nature of the securities' market. SEBI has issued a number of regulations on various areas of security regulation which form the backbone of the framework governing the securities market in India.



Section 11 of the SEBI Act lays down the functions of SEBI and expressly states that it “shall be the duty of the Board to protect the interests of investors in securities and to promote the development of, and to regulate the securities market, by such measures as it thinks fit”. Further, Section 30 of the SEBI Act empowers SEBI to make regulations consistent with the Act. Significantly, while framing these regulations, SEBI consults its advisory committees consisting of domain experts, including market experts, leading market players, legal experts, technology experts, retired Judges of this Court or the High Courts, academicians, representatives of industry associations and investor associations. During the consultative process, SEBI also invites and duly considers comments from the public on their proposed regulations. SEBI follows similar consultative processes while reviewing and amending its regulations.

(Extracted, with edits and revision, from the judgement in Vishal Tiwari v. Union Of India, [2024] 1 S.C.R. 171)

46. What is meant by SCRA in the above passage.
- (A) Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act
 - (B) Securities and Corporate (Registration) Act
 - (C) Securities Compliance (Regulation) Act
 - (D) SEBI and Companies (Regulation) Act
47. Which of the following is not a committee setup by SEBI?
- (A) Technical Advisory Committee
 - (B) Competition Advisory committee
 - (C) Intermediary Advisory Committee
 - (D) Market Data Advisory Committee
48. Which among the following is not a function of SEBI?
- (A) regulating substantial acquisition of shares and take over of companies
 - (B) prohibiting and regulating self-regulatory organisations
 - (C) prohibiting insider trading in securities
 - (D) promoting investors' education and training of intermediaries of securities markets.
49. The process by which an organisation thinks about and evolves its relationships with stakeholders for the common good, and demonstrates its commitment in this regard by adoption of appropriate business processes and strategies is called?
- (A) Annual general meeting
 - (B) Corporate social responsibility
 - (C) Issuing Shelf prospectus
 - (D) Incorporation of a company
50. In which of the following cases did the court struck down the attempt of the government to nationalise banks and pay minimal compensation to the shareholders?
- (A) Shri Sunil Siddharthbhai Etc v. Union of India
 - (B) R.C. Cooper v. Union of India
 - (C) United Bank Of India v. SatyawatiTondon & Ors
 - (D) Punjab National Bank v. Union of India



XI. The element of gift is traceable to both 'settlement' and 'will'. As settled in law, the nomenclature of an instrument is immaterial and the nature of the document is to be derived from its contents. While so, a voluntary disposition can transfer the interest in *praesenti* and in future, in the same document. In such a case, the document would have the elements of both the settlement and will. Such document, then has to be registered and by operation of the doctrine of severability, becomes a composite document and has to be treated as both, a settlement and will and the respective rights will flow with regard to each disposition from the same document. It is pertinent to mention here that the reservation of life interest or any condition in the instrument, even if it postpones the physical delivery of possession to the donee/settlee, cannot be treated as a will, as the property had already been vested with the donee/settlee.

[Extracted from: NP Saseendran v NP Ponnamma 2025 INSC 388.]

51. Which of the following is NOT an essential of a valid gift:
- (A) It is a transfer of certain existing movable or immovable property.
 - (B) It is made voluntarily.
 - (C) It is made without consideration.
 - (D) It must be accepted by or on behalf of the donee during the lifetime of the donor, even if the donor becomes incapable of giving the property.
52. The element of _____ is common to all the three transactions, i.e. Gift, Settlement and Will:
- (A) physical delivery of possession.
 - (B) absence of consideration.
 - (C) voluntary disposition.
 - (D) vesting of the right in *praesenti*.
53. The main test to find out whether a document constitutes a 'Will' or a 'Settlement' is to see whether the disposition of the interest in the property is in *praesenti* in favour of the settlee or whether the disposition is to take effect on the death of the executant. In view of this position of law, choose the CORRECT proposition:
- (A) If the disposition is to take effect on the death of the executant, it will be a Settlement. But, if the executant divests his interest in the property and vests his interest in *praesenti* in the transferee, the document will be a Will.
 - (B) Whether the disposition is to take effect on the death of the executant or the executant divests his interest in the property and vests his interest in *praesenti* in the transferee, the document will nevertheless remain a Settlement.
 - (C) If the disposition is to take effect on the death of the executant, it will be a Will. But, if the executant divests his interest in the property and vests his interest in *praesenti* in the settlee, the document will be a Settlement.
 - (D) If the disposition takes effect on the assumption of death of the executant, it shall be a will.



54. Which of the following propositions is INCORRECT about a valid gift:
- (A) A gift may be suspended or revoked.
 - (B) A gift comprising both existing and future property is valid in totality.
 - (C) Delivery of possession is not a condition *sine qua non* to validate the gift.
 - (D) In so far as gift of an immovable property is concerned, registration is mandatory.
55. Which of the following propositions is CORRECT about a Will:
- (A) It is revocable, as no interest in the property is intended to pass during the lifetime of the testator.
 - (B) It is revocable, despite interest in the property being passed under the Will during the lifetime of the testator.
 - (C) It is revocable because registration is not mandatory.
 - (D) It is irrevocable because registration is not mandatory

XII. "Mortgage inter alia means transfer of interest in the specific immovable property for the purpose of securing the money advanced by way of loan. Section 17(1)(c) of the Registration Act provides that a non-testamentary instrument which acknowledges the receipt or payment of any consideration on account of the creation, declaration, assignment, limitation or extension of any such right, title or interest, requires compulsory registration. Mortgage by deposit of title-deeds in terms of Section 58(f) of the Transfer of Property Act surely acknowledges the receipt and transfer of interest and, therefore, one may contend that its registration is compulsory.

However, Section 59 of the Transfer of Property Act mandates that every mortgage other than a mortgage by deposit of title-deeds can be effected only by a registered instrument. In the face of it, in our opinion, when the debtor deposits with the creditor title-deeds of the property for the purpose of security, it becomes mortgage in terms of Section 58(f) of the Transfer of Property Act and no registered instrument is required under Section 59 thereof as in other classes of mortgage.

The essence of mortgage by deposit of title-deeds is handing over by a borrower to the creditor title-deeds of immovable property with the intention that those documents shall constitute security, enabling the creditor to recover the money lent. After the deposit of the title-deeds the creditor and borrower may record the transaction in a memorandum but such a memorandum would not be an instrument of mortgage. A memorandum reducing other terms and conditions with regard to the deposit in the form of a document, however, shall require registration under Section 17(1)(c) of the Registration Act, but in a case in which such a document does not incorporate any term and condition, it is merely evidential and does not require registration."

[Extracted from: State of Haryana v Narvir Singh (2014) 1 SCC 105]

56. Which of the following is NOT an essential of a mortgage under the Transfer of Property Act, 1882:
- (A) It is a transfer of an interest in specific immovable property.
 - (B) It is for the purpose of securing the payment of money advanced or to be advanced by way of loan.
 - (C) It is always in respect of an existing debt.
 - (D) It is in respect of an existing or future debt, or the performance of an engagement which may give rise to a pecuniary liability.



57. A mortgage by deposit of title-deeds is a form of mortgage recognised by section 58(f) of the Transfer of Property Act, 1882, which provides that:
- (A) When the debtor deposits with the creditor the title-deeds of his property with an intent to create a security, the law implies a contract between the parties to create a mortgage, and no registered instrument is required under section 59 of the Transfer of Property Act, as in other forms of mortgage.
 - (B) When the debtor deposits with the creditor the title-deeds of his property with an intent to create a security, the implication of law (that there exists a contract between the parties to create a mortgage) is excluded, and a registered instrument is required under section 59 of the Transfer of Property Act.
 - (C) When the debtor deposits with the creditor the title-deeds of his property with an intent to create a security, the implication of law (that there exists a contract between the parties to create a mortgage) is excluded, and a registered instrument is required under section 58(f) of the Transfer of Property Act.
 - (D) When the debtor deposits with the creditor the title-deeds of his property with an intent to create a security, the implication of law (that there exists a contract between the parties to create a mortgage) is excluded, and a registered instrument is required under section 17(1)(c) of the Registration Act.
58. As per section 96 of the Transfer of Property Act, the provisions which apply to _____ shall, so far as may be, apply to a mortgage by deposit of title-deeds.
- (A) A simple mortgage.
 - (B) A mortgage by conditional sale.
 - (C) A usufructuary mortgage.
 - (D) An English mortgage.
59. The period of limitation for a suit to enforce payment of money secured by a mortgage or otherwise charged upon immovable property is:
- (A) 30 years.
 - (B) 12 years.
 - (C) 20 years.
 - (D) 3 years.



60. In a mortgage by deposit of title-deeds, after the deposit of the title-deeds, if the creditor and the borrower choose to record their transaction in a memorandum reducing other terms and conditions (in addition to what flow from the mortgage by deposit of title-deeds) with regard to the deposit in the form of a memorandum/document, then the memorandum/document requires registration under section 17(1)(c) of the Registration Act. In this context which among the following propositions is not correct?
- (A) The deposit and the document both form integral parts of the transaction and are essential ingredients in the creation of the mortgage.
 - (B) The deposit alone is not intended to create the charge and the document, which constitutes the bargain regarding the security, is also necessary and operates to create the charge in conjunction with the deposit.
 - (C) The implication of law (that there exists a contract between the parties to create a mortgage) is excluded by their express bargain, and the document becomes the sole evidence of its terms.
 - (D) The deposit and the documents do not form integral parts of the transaction and hence they are not essential ingredients in the creation of the mortgage.

XIII. Having heard the learned Counsels for the parties, and on perusal of the material on record, the primary issue which arises for consideration of this Court is “whether a review or recall of an order passed in a criminal proceeding initiated under section 340 of CrPC is permissible or not?” [...] A careful consideration of the statutory provisions and the aforesaid decisions of this Court clarify the now-well settled position of jurisprudence of Section 362 of CrPC which when summarized would be that the criminal courts, as envisaged under the CrPC, are barred from altering or reviewing in their own judgments except for the exceptions which are explicitly provided by the statute, namely, correction of a clerical or an arithmetical error that might have been committed or the said power is provided under any other law for the time being in force. As the courts become *functus officio* the very moment a judgment or an order is signed, the bar of Section 362 CrPC becomes applicable. Despite the powers provided under Section 482 CrPC which, this veil cannot allow the courts to step beyond or circumvent an explicit bar. It also stands clarified that it is only in situations wherein an application for recall of an order or judgment seeking a procedural review that the bar would not apply and not a substantive review where the bar as contained in Section 362 CrPC is attracted. Numerous decisions of this Court have also elaborated that the bar under said provision is to be applied *stricto sensu*.

(Extracted with edits and revisions from Vikram Bakshi v. RP Khosla 2025 INSC 1020)

61. As per section 362 of Cr. P.C.(equivalent to section 403 of BNSS 2023), a criminal court has power to review or alter its own judgment or order only under the following circumstances.
- (A) If there is an error as to the question of fact.
 - (B) If there is an error as to the question of law.
 - (C) If there is/are clerical and arithmetical errors.
 - (D) If the judgment or order is rendered *per in curium*.



62. The bench in this case referred to a distinction drawn previously in Grindlays Bank case, that of procedural review and substantive review by criminal courts. Which of the following statements most accurately captures the distinction between the two decisions?
- (A) A procedural review is exercised when a higher court finds an error in interpretation, while a substantive review is limited to correcting factual inaccuracies within the same court.
 - (B) A procedural review is available only in appellate courts, whereas a substantive review may be conducted by the original court that issued in court
 - (C) A procedural review is inherent or implied in a court to set aside a palpably erroneous order passed under misapprehension by it. However, a substantive review is when error sought to be corrected is one of law and is apparent on the face of the record.
 - (D) A procedural review involves correcting errors of judgement made after hearing the parties while a substantive review is confined to omissions in recording of legal reasoning.
63. According to the Supreme Court's analysis, under which principle did the High Court claim to recall its Judgment, even though the Supreme Court ultimately rejected this basis?
- (A) *Ex debito justitiae*, to correct a factual error not brought to its notice earlier.
 - (B) Inherent power under Section 482 of the CrPC to prevent the abuse of the process of any Court.
 - (C) The power of a criminal court to conduct a "substantive review" on the merits of the case.
 - (D) The binding nature of the Supreme Court's earlier Judgment which mandated a decision on the perjury application.
64. The court identified certain exceptional circumstances wherein the criminal court is empowered to alter or review its own judgement or a final order under Section 362 (CrPC). Which of the following is NOT one among them:
- (A) Such power is expressly conferred upon court by law
 - (B) The court passing such a judgement or order lacked inherent jurisdiction to do so
 - (C) Fact relating to non-serving of necessary party being non-represented, not brought to notice of court while passing such judgment or order
 - (D) A subsequent judicial precedent renders the earlier judgment legally untenable



65. In relation to exceptional circumstances identified by the court under which the embargo on criminal courts to review or alter their judgement or final order after signing under Section 362 (CrPC) would not apply, which of the following statements is correct?
- I. The exceptions are exercisable only if a ground that is raised was not available or existent at the time of original proceedings before the Court
 - II. The said power cannot be invoked as a means to circumvent the finality of the judicial process or mistakes and/or errors in the decision which are attributable to a conscious omission by the parties.

Select the most appropriate option:

- (A) Only I is correct
 - (B) Only II is correct
 - (C) Both I and II are correct
 - (D) Both I and II are incorrect
- XIV. A glance over all the Sections related to extortion would reveal a clear distinction being carried out between the actual commission of extortion and the process of putting a person in fear for the purpose of committing extortion.

Section 383 defines extortion, the punishment therefor is given in Section 384. Sections 386 and 388 provide for an aggravated form of extortion. These sections deal with the actual commission of an act of extortion, whereas Sections 385, 387 and 389 IPC seek to punish for an act committed for the purpose of extortion even though the act of extortion may not be complete and property not delivered. It is in the process of committing an offence that a person is put in fear of injury, death or grievous hurt. Section 387 IPC provides for a stage prior to committing extortion, which is putting a person in fear of death or grievous hurt 'in order to commit extortion', similar to Section 385 IPC. Hence, Section 387 IPC is an aggravated form of 385 IPC, not 384 IPC.

Having deliberated upon the offence of extortion and its forms, we proceed to analyze the essentials of both Sections, i.e., 383 and 387 IPC, the High Court dealt with.

(Extracted from *Balaji Traders v. State of UP*, 2025 INSC 806)

66. According to the Supreme Court's analysis in the judgment, Section 387 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) deals with:
- (A) The actual commission of the act of extortion by putting a person in fear of death or grievous hurt.
 - (B) The punishment for a completed act of extortion by putting a person in fear of death or grievous hurt.
 - (C) The process or stage prior to committing extortion, specifically putting or attempting to put a person in fear of death or grievous hurt in order to commit extortion.
 - (D) A lesser, non-aggravated form of extortion defined in Section 383 IPC.



67. The core difference between Section 383/384 IPC (Extortion/Punishment) and Section 387 IPC (Putting person in fear of death or grievous hurt, in order to commit extortion), as established by the Supreme Court, is that:
- (A) Section 387 IPC requires the use of firearms, whereas Section 383/384 IPC does not.
 - (B) Section 383/384 IPC deals with the actual commission of extortion and requires delivery of property, while Section 387 IPC deals with the process (putting a person in fear) and does not require the delivery of property.
 - (C) Section 383/384 IPC is an aggravated form of Section 387 IPC.
 - (D) Section 387 IPC involves only an attempt, while Section 383/384 IPC involves a completed offence.
68. What is the minimum essential ingredient that the Supreme Court found *prima facie* disclosed in the complaint for an offence under Section 387 IPC?
- (A) The transfer of at least Rs. 5 lakhs from the complainant to the accused.
 - (B) The use of rifles, a specific type of weapon.
 - (C) Putting the complainant in fear of death or grievous hurt in order to commit extortion, such as by pointing a gun and demanding Rs. 5 lakhs per month.
 - (D) The existence of pending litigation regarding Trademark and Copyright claims.
69. The Supreme Court cites which of the following as a well-settled principle of law regarding the interpretation of penal statutes?
- (A) Penal statutes must be given a wide and flexible interpretation to cover all intended mischief.
 - (B) Courts are competent to stretch the meaning of an expression used by the Legislature to carry out the intention of the Legislature.
 - (C) If two possible and reasonable constructions can be put upon a penal provision, the Court must lean towards the construction that imposes the maximum penalty.
 - (D) If two possible and reasonable constructions can be put upon a penal provision, the Court must lean towards that construction which exempts the subject from penalty rather than the one which imposes penalty.
70. The Supreme Court's final decision on the appeal filed by M/s. Balaji Traders was to:
- (A) Dismiss the appeal and uphold the High Court's quashing order.
 - (B) Dismiss the appeal but modify the charge to Section 384 IPC.
 - (C) Allow the appeal, set aside the High Court's order, and restore the proceedings of Complaint case to the file of the Trial Court.
 - (D) Allow the appeal and transfer the case to the High Court for a fresh hearing on merits.



- XV. The reference essentially raises the following issue: whether a child who is conferred with legislative legitimacy under Section 16(1) or 16(2) is, by reason of Section 16(3), entitled to the ancestral/coparcenary property of the parents or is the child merely entitled to the self-earned/separate property of the parents. The questions that arise before us are - first, whether the legislative intent is to confer legitimacy on a child covered by Section 16 in a manner that makes them coparceners, and thus entitled to initiate or get a share in the partition - actual or notional; second, at what point does a specific property transition into becoming the property of the parent. For, it is solely within such property that children endowed with legislative legitimacy hold entitlement, in accordance with Section 16(3).[.]Holding that the consequence of legitimacy under sub-sections (1) or (2) of Section 16 is to place such an individual on an equal footing as a coparcener in the coparcenary would be contrary to the plain intendment of sub-section (3) of Section 16 of the HMA 1955 which recognises rights to or in the property only of the parents. In fact, the use of language in the negative by Section 16(3) places the position beyond the pale of doubt. We would therefore have to hold that when an individual falls within the protective ambit of sub-section (1) or sub-section (2) of Section 16, they would be entitled to rights in or to the absolute property of the parents and no other person. (Extracted with edits and revisions from *Revanasiddappa&Anr v. Mallikarjun* 2023 INSC 783)
71. When a Hindu Mitakshara coparcener, who has a child legitimised under section 16 of Hindu Marriage Act 1955, dies intestate, after the 2005 Amendment of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, what is the legal mechanism that determines the child's share in the parent's interest in the coparcenary property?
- (A) The Child becomes a coparcener by birth, and the entire coparcenary property is divided equally amongst all the coparceners.
 - (B) The parent's interest devolves by traditional rule of survivorship, and the section 16 child receives no share
 - (C) The parent's interest is first determined through a notional partition immediately before death under section 6 (3) of Hindu Succession Act 1956 and this determined share then devolves by intestate succession to all the deceased's children (including the section 16 child) under section 8/10 of Hindu Succession Act 1956.
 - (D) The share of section 16 child is limited to receiving maintenance from the joint family estate.
72. From the decisions rendered by the Supreme Court on this issue, which of the following correctly states the legal position of a child conferred with legitimacy under section 16 of Hindu Marriage Act
- (A) Such a child is a coparcener
 - (B) Such a child is not a coparcener
 - (C) Such a child is a coparcener, and has the power to seek partition of coparcenary property
 - (D) Such a child is a coparcener, but does not have the power to seek partition of coparcenary property



73. Consider the following statements:

- I. A child born out of a null and void marriage is considered as legitimate by law
- II. Conferment of legitimacy is irrespective of whether such child was born before or after the commencement of the Amending Act 1976

Select the most appropriate option:

- (A) Only I is correct
 - (B) Only II is correct
 - (C) Both I and II are correct
 - (D) Both I and II are incorrect
74. Which of the following statements is correct in relation to the property rights of children from void/voidable marriages
- (A) Such a child can ask for partition of coparcenary property
 - (B) Such a child can claim share in their own right in the undivided coparcenary property of his parents
 - (C) Such a child has rights only to self-acquired property of his parents
 - (D) Such a child cannot ask for partition of coparcenary property
75. Which of the following best summarises the conclusion reached by the Supreme Court regarding children conferred with legitimacy under Section 16 under the Hindu Marriage Act?
- (A) Such children are entitled to coparcenary rights in the ancestral property to their parents, equal to children born within a valid marriage
 - (B) Such children are entitled only to the self-acquired or separate property of their parents, and not to ancestral/coparcenary property
 - (C) Such children are entitled to inherit property only if no legitimate heirs exist from a valid marriage
 - (D) Such children have no rights in any property of the parents, whether self-acquired or ancestral



XVI. Live-in relationship, as such, as already indicated, is a relationship which has not been socially accepted in India, unlike many other countries. In *Lata Singh v. State of U.P.* [(2006) 5 SCC 475 : (2006) 2 SCC (Cri) 478] it was observed that a live-in relationship between two consenting adults of heterosexual sex does not amount to any offence even though it may be perceived as immoral. However, in order to provide a remedy in civil law for protection of women, from being victims of such relationship, and to prevent the occurrence of domestic violence in the society, first time in India, the DV Act has been enacted to cover the couple having relationship in the nature of marriage, persons related by consanguinity, marriages, etc. We have few other legislations also where reliefs have been provided to woman placed in certain vulnerable situations. Section 125 CrPC, of course, provides for maintenance of a destitute wife and Section 498-A IPC is related to mental cruelty inflicted on women by her husband and in-laws. Section 304-B IPC deals with the cases relating to dowry death. The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 was enacted to deal with the cases of dowry demands by the husband and family members. The Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act, 1956 provides for grant of maintenance to a legally wedded Hindu wife, and also deals with rules for adoption. The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 refers to the provisions dealing with solemnisation of marriage also deals with the provisions for divorce. For the first time, though, the DV Act, Parliament has recognised a “relationship in the nature of marriage” and not a live-in relationship simpliciter. We have already stated, when we examine whether a relationship will fall within the expression “relationship in the nature of marriage” within the meaning of Section 2(f) of the DV Act, we should have a close analysis of the entire relationship. Invariably, it may be a question of fact and degree, whether a relationship between two unrelated persons of the opposite sex meets the tests judicially evolved.

(Extracted with edits and revisions from Indra Sarma v. V.K.V. Sarma, (2013) 15 SCC 755)

76. What is the scope of analysis required to determine if a relationship falls within the expression “relationship in the nature of marriage” under Section 2(f) of the DV Act?
- (A) Considering the number of children born in a live in relationship.
 - (B) Considering only the cohabitation period of the relationship and their emotional connectivity.
 - (C) Conducting a close analysis of the entire interpersonal relationship, taking into account all facets.
 - (D) Evaluating only the financial aspects and mutual agreements of the relationship, and if there is any written agreement between the partner.
77. In which of the following cases, the Supreme Court read down the word “adult male” in Section 2(q) of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005?
- (A) *Indra Sarma v. V.K.V. Sarma* (2013) 15 SCC 755
 - (B) *Hiral P Harsora v. Kusum Harsora*, (Manu/SC/1269/2016)
 - (C) *Uma Narayanan v. Priya Krishna Prasad*, (Laws (Mad) 2008-8-28)
 - (D) *D Velusamy v. D Patchaiammal* (AIR 2011 SC 479)



78. As per section 20 of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, while disposing of an application under Section 12(1), the Magistrate may direct the respondent to pay monetary relief to the aggrieved person so that the aggrieved person can:
- (A) Live a life that meets at least the bare minimum needs for survival and basic well-being.
 - (B) Live a life that is consistent with her standard of living which she is accustomed.
 - (C) Live a life that is consistent with her parent's standard of living.
 - (D) Live a life which can cover her medical expenses and expenses incurred due to litigation of domestic violence.
79. In which case, the three judge bench of the Hon'ble Supreme Court has recently interpreted the term "shared household" and has held that "*...lives or at any stage has lived in a domestic relationship...*" have to be given its normal and purposeful meaning. The living of woman in a household has to refer to a living which has some permanency. Mere fleeting or casual living at different places shall not make a shared household.
- (A) Satish Chander Ahuja v. Sneha Ahuja, AIR 2020 SC 2483
 - (B) Rupa Ashok Hurra v. Ashok Hurra AIR 2002 SC 177
 - (C) S.R. Batra v. Tarun Batra (2007) 3 SCC 169
 - (D) B.R. Mehta Vs. Atma Devi (1987) 4 SCC 183
80. Under Indian Law, can a woman in a live in relationship claim maintenance under S. 125, CrPC despite not being a legally wedded wife?
- (A) No, as per the interpretation of statute 'wife' means legally wedded wife and includes who has been divorced by, or has obtained a divorce from her husband.
 - (B) Yes, a woman in a live in relationship can claim maintenance u/s 125, CrPC as strict proof of marriage is not necessary and maintenance cannot be denied if evidence suggests cohabitation.
 - (C) A woman in live in relationship can only claim maintenance if she has been cohabiting for more than five years and dependent children from the relationship.
 - (D) A woman in live in relationship can claim maintenance only through a civil suit as the protection of women from domestic violence act 2005 (PWDVA) does not apply to live in relationships.



XVII. Section 2(47) of the Income Tax Act, 1961, which is an inclusive definition, inter alia, provides that relinquishment of an asset or extinguishment of any right therein amounts to a transfer of a capital asset. While the taxpayer continues to remain a shareholder of the company even with the reduction of share capital, it could not be accepted that there was no extinguishment of any part of his right as a shareholder qua the company.

A company under Section 66 of the Companies Act, 2013 has a right to reduce the share capital and one of the modes which could be adopted is to reduce the face value of the preference share.

When as a result of reducing the face value of the share, the share capital is reduced, the right of the preference shareholder to the dividend or his share capital and the right to share in the distribution of the net assets upon liquidation is extinguished proportionately to the extent of reduction in the capital. Such a reduction of the right of the capital asset clearly amounts to a transfer within the meaning of section 2(47) of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

(Extracted with edits and revisions from Principal Commissioner of Income Tax v. Jupiter Capital Pvt Ltd., (2025 INSC 38)

81. What was the core issue before the Supreme Court in this Special Leave Petition filed by the Income Tax Department?
- (A) Whether the assessee's claim for a long-term capital gain was correctly disallowed by the Assessing Officer.
 - (B) Whether the reduction in the number of shares due to a reduction in share capital amounted to a "transfer" under Section 2(47) of the Income Tax Act, 1961, allowing for a capital loss claim.
 - (C) Whether the High Court of Karnataka correctly relied on the decision of Anarkali Sarabhai v. CIT.
 - (D) Whether the face value of the shares remaining the same after the reduction nullified the claim of capital loss.
82. According to the Supreme Court, why does a reduction in share capital that proportionately reduces a shareholder's rights amount to a "transfer" under Section 2(47) of the Income Tax Act, 1961?
- (A) Because the shareholder's voting percentage remains constant, which is a form of continuous transfer.
 - (B) Because it involves a sale or exchange of the capital asset to another party.
 - (C) Because it is covered under the inclusive definition of "transfer" as an extinguishment of any rights in the capital asset.
 - (D) Because the face value of the shares remains unchanged, constituting a deemed transfer.



83. The Supreme Court clarified a principle regarding the computation of capital gains/loss under Section 48 of the Income Tax Act. What was this clarification?
- (A) That the reduction of share capital must result in a change in the percentage of shareholding.
 - (B) That the face value of the shares must be reduced for the transfer to be valid.
 - (C) That the transfer must be a sale or relinquishment, and not merely an extinguishment of rights.
 - (D) That receipt of some consideration in lieu of the extinguishment of rights is not a condition precedent for the computation of capital gains/loss.
84. The Supreme Court, in its summary of the principles from *Kartikeya V. Sarabhai*, stated that the right of a preference shareholder is extinguished proportionately to the extent of the capital reduction. Which of the following two specific rights were mentioned as being extinguished?
- (A) Right to voting power and right to attend general meetings.
 - (B) Right to proportional share of debt and right to appoint directors.
 - (C) Right to dividend/share capital and right to share in the distribution of net assets upon liquidation.
 - (D) Right to face value of the share and right to receive consideration.
85. The Supreme Court emphasized that the expression "extinguishment of any right therein" is of wide import. What does this expression cover?
- (A) Only transactions involving the sale or exchange of tangible capital assets.
 - (B) Only transactions resulting in the destruction, annihilation, or extinction of the entire capital asset.
 - (C) Every possible transaction that results in the destruction, annihilation, extinction, termination, cessation, or cancellation of all or any of the bundle of rights—qualitative or quantitative—that the assessee has in a capital asset.
 - (D) Only transactions where the face value of the shares is compulsorily reduced by a court order.



XVIII. During Bentham’s lifetime, revolutions occurred in the American colonies and in France, producing the Bill of Rights and the *Déclaration des Droits de l’Homme* (Declaration of the Rights of Man), both of which were based on liberty, equality, and self-determination. Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels published *The Communist Manifesto* in 1848. Revolutionary movements broke out that year in France, Italy, Austria, Poland, and elsewhere. In addition, the Industrial Revolution transformed Great Britain and eventually the rest of Europe from an agrarian (farm-based) society into an industrial one, in which steam and coal increased manufacturing production dramatically, changing the nature of work, property ownership, and family. This period also included advances in chemistry, astronomy, navigation, human anatomy, and immunology, among other sciences.

Given this historical context, it is understandable that Bentham used reason and science to explain human behaviour. His ethical system was an attempt to quantify happiness and the good so they would meet the conditions of the scientific method. Ethics had to be empirical, quantifiable, verifiable, and reproducible across time and space. Just as science was beginning to understand the workings of cause and effect in the body, so ethics would explain the causal relationships of the mind. Bentham rejected religious authority and wrote a rebuttal to the Declaration of Independence in which he railed against natural rights as “rhetorical nonsense, nonsense upon stilts.” Instead, the fundamental unit of human action for him was utility—solid, certain, and factual.

What is utility? Bentham’s fundamental axiom, which underlies utilitarianism, was that all social morals and government legislation should aim for producing the greatest happiness for the greatest number of people. Utilitarianism, therefore, emphasizes the consequences or ultimate purpose of an act rather than the character of the actor, the actor’s motivation, or the particular circumstances surrounding the act. It has these characteristics: (1) universality, because it applies to all acts of human behaviour, even those that appear to be done from altruistic motives; (2) objectivity, meaning it operates beyond individual thought, desire, and perspective; (3) rationality, because it is not based in metaphysics or theology; and (4) quantifiability in its reliance on utility. (353 words)

(Extracted from Michael Quinn, “Jeremy Bentham, ‘The Psychology of Economic Man,’ and Behavioural Economics,” Oeconomia 6, no. 1 (2016): 3–32)

86. According to the text, what did Bentham consider the fundamental unit of human action, replacing concepts like natural rights?
- (A) Liberty (B) Self-determination
(C) Utility (D) Happiness for the greatest number



87. Which of the following is identified as Bentham's fundamental axiom underlying utilitarianism?
- (A) Ethics must be empirical, quantifiable, and reproducible.
 - (B) Utility must be used to reject religious authority.
 - (C) All social morals and government legislation should aim for producing the greatest happiness for the greatest number of people.
 - (D) The character of the actor is the most important aspect of an ethical act.
88. Utilitarianism, as described in the text, emphasizes which aspect of an act over the others listed?
- (A) The character of the actor
 - (B) The actor's motivation
 - (C) The particular circumstances surrounding the act
 - (D) The consequences or ultimate purpose of an act
89. The characteristic of utilitarianism that operates beyond individual thought, desire, and perspective is called:
- (A) Universality
 - (B) Quantifiability
 - (C) Rationality
 - (D) Objectivity
90. Bentham's ethical system attempted to quantify happiness and the good to meet the conditions of the scientific method, which required ethics to be all of the following except:
- (A) Empirical
 - (B) Verifiable
 - (C) Theological
 - (D) Quantifiable

XIX. "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal and are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights".

This statement, in spite of literal inaccuracy in its every phrase, served the purpose for which it was written. It expressed an aspiration, and it was a fighting slogan. In order that slogans may serve their purpose, it is necessary that they shall arouse strong, emotional belief, but it is not at all necessary that they shall be literally accurate. A large part of each human being's time on earth is spent in declaiming about his "rights," asserting their existence, complaining of their violation, describing them as present or future, vested or contingent, absolute or conditional, perfect or inchoate, alienable or inalienable, legal or equitable, in rem or in personam, primary or secondary, moral or jural (legal), inherent or acquired, natural or artificial, human or divine. No doubt still other adjectives are available. Each one expresses some idea, but not always the same idea even when used twice by one and the same person.



They all need definition in the interest of understanding and peace. In his table of correlatives, Hohfeld set "right" over against "duty" as its necessary correlative. This had been done numberless times by other men. He also carefully distinguished it from the concepts expressed in his table by the terms "privilege," "power," and "immunity." To the present writer, the value of his work seems beyond question and the practical convenience of his classification is convincing. However, the adoption of Hohfeld's classification and the correlating of the terms "right" and "duty" do not complete the work of classification and definition.

(Extracted from Arthur L Corbin, Rights and Duties, 33 Yale LJ 501(1923))

91. The author suggests that the statement "all men are created equal and are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights" was effective primarily because:
- (A) It accurately reflects the literal truth of human existence and legal principles.
 - (B) It provided a comprehensive legal definition of natural rights.
 - (C) Its emotional and aspirational content made it a successful "fighting slogan."
 - (D) It meticulously categorized rights using precise jural (legal) terminology.
92. Based on the passage, the primary problem the author identifies with the current discourse surrounding "rights" is the:
- (A) Lack of a comprehensive list of all possible rights.
 - (B) Failure of historical documents to be literally accurate.
 - (C) Proliferation of undefined and inconsistently used qualifying adjectives.
 - (D) Over reliance on Hohfeld's narrow and incomplete classification system.
93. The author's view of Hohfeld's contribution to legal scholarship can best be described as:
- (A) Essential but ultimately incomplete in fully defining and classifying "rights."
 - (B) Flawed because it failed to distinguish "right" from "duty" effectively.
 - (C) Irrelevant, as his classification uses confusing and difficult jargon.
 - (D) Sufficiently exhaustive to complete the work of definition and classification.
94. The phrase "literal inaccuracy in its every phrase" is used by the author to critique the Declaration's statement, suggesting a conflict between its rhetorical power and its:
- (A) Emotional resonance for revolutionaries.
 - (B) Utility as a means for legislative action.
 - (C) Precision as a statement of verifiable facts or legal principles.
 - (D) Acceptance by religious authority and the Creator.
95. Which concept from Hohfeld's table of correlatives is not explicitly mentioned in the passage as a concept "right" was distinguished from?
- (A) Duty
 - (B) Privilege
 - (C) Immunity
 - (D) Disability



XX. The International Law Commission (ILC), in compliance with General Assembly resolution 177 (II), was directed to "formulate the principles of international law recognized in the Charter of the Nuremberg Tribunal and in the judgment of the Tribunal". The ILC's task was to merely formulate the principles not to express an appreciation of them as principles of International law since they had already been affirmed by the General Assembly.

At its second session in 1950, the ILC adopted a formulation of seven Principles of International Law recognized in the Charter and Judgment of the Nuremberg Tribunal.

- * Principle I : Any person who commits an act which constitutes a crime under international law is responsible therefor and liable to punishment. This is based on the general rule that international law may impose duties directly on individuals.
- * Principle II : The fact that internal law does not impose a penalty for an international crime does not relieve the person who committed the act from international responsibility. This implies the "supremacy" of international law over national law.
- * Principle III : The fact that a person acted as Head of State or responsible Government official does not relieve him from responsibility under international law.
- * Principle IV : Acting pursuant to an order of his Government or of a superior does not relieve him from responsibility, provided a moral choice was in fact possible to him.
- * Principle V : Any person charged with a crime under international law has the right to a fair trial on the facts and law
- * Principle VI : sets out the crimes punishable under international law:
 - * Crimes against peace : Includes planning, preparation, initiation, or waging of a war of aggression or a war in violation of international treaties, as well as participation in a conspiracy for these acts. The ILC understands the term "waging of a war of aggression" to refer only to high-ranking military personnel and high State officials. The Tribunal affirmed the illegality of aggressive war based on the Kellogg-Briand Pact.



- * War crimes : Violations of the laws or customs of war, such as murder, ill-treatment, deportation, killing of hostages, and plunder.
- * Crimes against humanity : Murder, extermination, enslavement, deportation, and other inhuman acts or persecutions on political, racial, or religious grounds, when done in execution of or in connection with a crime against peace or a war crime. These acts may constitute crimes against humanity even if committed by the perpetrator against their own population.
- * Principle VII : Complicity in the commission of any of the crimes listed in Principle VI is a crime under international law.

The ILC also considered the General Assembly's invitation to study the desirability and possibility of establishing an international judicial organ for the trial of persons charged with genocide or other crimes. While some members questioned its effectiveness, particularly for grave international crimes, others argued that the creation of such a jurisdiction was desirable as an effective contribution to world peace and security, serving as a deterrent against aggressors. (496 words)

(Summary of the Principles of International Law recognized in the Charter of the Nuremberg Tribunal and in the Judgment of the Tribunal, with commentaries 1950 based on the Text adopted by the International Law Commission at its second session, in 1950)

96. The International Law Commission (ILC) concluded that its task, as directed by General Assembly resolution 177 (II), was primarily:
- (A) To determine the extent to which the Nuremberg principles constituted principles of international law.
 - (B) To formulate the Nuremberg principles, without expressing an appreciation of their status as principles of international law.
 - (C) To assess whether the Charter and judgment were already an expression of positive international law at the time of the Tribunal's establishment.
 - (D) To formulate the general principles of law on which the provisions of the Charter and the Tribunal's decisions were based.
97. Principle IV of the Nuremberg Principles concerning superior orders, differs from Article 8 of the Charter of the Nuremberg Tribunal by:
- (A) Narrowing the application of the principle to exclude high State officials.
 - (B) Adding the condition that "a moral choice was in fact possible" to the accused.
 - (C) Eliminating the reference to the order being considered in mitigation of punishment.
 - (D) Formulating the principle in general terms, unlike the Charter's specific context.



98. The Tribunal, in its judgment, was constrained from making a general declaration that the acts of persecution and murder committed in Germany before 1939 were "crimes against humanity" primarily because:
- (A) Persecution on political, racial, or religious grounds was not yet recognized as an international crime.
 - (B) It could not be satisfactorily proved that these acts were committed in execution of, or in connection with, a crime within the Tribunal's jurisdiction.
 - (C) The definition of crimes against humanity in the Charter explicitly excluded acts committed before the outbreak of the war.
 - (D) International law at the time imposed duties only on States, not on individuals, for these types of crimes.
99. In formulating Principle VI (a), the ILC clarified the term "waging of a war of aggression" because:
- (A) The Charter of the Tribunal had no definition of "war of aggression".
 - (B) Members feared that every combatant in uniform might be charged with the crime.
 - (C) The Tribunal had not made a clear distinction between "planning" and "preparation".
 - (D) The General Assembly had requested a more precise definition for use in future conventions.
100. The debate within the International Law Commission regarding the creation of an international judicial organ (Part IV) centered on the following contrasting positions:
- (A) Whether the judicial organ should be created only for the trial of persons charged with genocide versus all international crimes.
 - (B) Whether the creation of the organ required an amendment to the Charter of the United Nations versus being possible through a convention open to all States.
 - (C) Whether the establishment of the organ was desirable and possible versus being undesirable due to its likely ineffectiveness against grave international crimes.
 - (D) Whether an international criminal court should have a deterrent effect versus serving only to ensure the rule of law in the community of States.



XXI. The document presents a critique of the United Nations (UN) organization, arguing that it has failed to carry out its charter-mandated tasks, specifically to "maintain international peace and security" and "to achieve international cooperation" in solving global problems. The author notes growing public frustration with catastrophic humanitarian situations and the failure of peace-keeping operations, leading to widespread scepticism about the possibility of "revitalization". UN Reform Approaches Discussions on UN reform are divided into two main categories: the conservative approach and the radical approach.

1. Conservative Approach: The conservative view considers the existing Charter "practically untouchable" and believes in improving "collective security" as defined in Chapter VII. Key positions include: US Position: Prioritizes its own interests, supports better management and the creation of an Inspector General, favours enlarging the Security Council (to include Germany and Japan, mainly for financing peace-keeping), and associates the UN with regional organizations like NATO for peace enforcement. The US remains reluctant to allow full application of Chapter VII and views collective security restrictively.

Secretary-General's Position (Boutros Ghali): Advocated for the full implementation of 'collective security' as envisaged in 1945, including the use of the Military Staff Committee (Article 47) and the conclusion of special agreements (Article 43) for providing armed forces. He also proposed 'peace enforcement units' under the command of the Secretary-General and wider use of 'preventive diplomacy'. The report candidly recognized the Security Council's incapacity to deal with threats from a major power.

2. Radical Approach: The radical approach criticizes the principles of the present system and proposes an overhaul. It reflects increasing doubts about the value of the Charter's collective security system, especially in intra-State conflicts. Radical proposals include:

- * Establishing an Economic Security Council.
- * Modifying the Charter with less reluctance.
- * Reforming the IMF and World Bank.
- * Developing a new global security system (e.g., regional models like CSCE/CSCM).
- * The creation of a consultative parliamentary assembly at the world level.

Future Outlook : The author asserts that no major or minor reform has any chance of being implemented now, primarily because the Charter's amendment procedures (requiring a two-thirds majority including all five permanent Security Council members) preclude agreement. However, he concludes that the continuing deterioration of the global situation, driven by economic integration, rising inequality, and intra-State conflicts, will inevitably lead the political establishment to define a new global institutional structure. This future debate will become highly political, opposing the defence of democracy and human rights against nationalism and fascism. (408 words)

(Summary of the article titled "The UN as an organisation. A critique of its functioning" by Maurice Bertrand, published in 6 EJIL (1995) pp-349-359)

101. The author attributes the growing public frustration with the UN primarily to which pair of continuous failures?
 - (A) The inability to define a new institutional structure and the spread of poverty.
 - (B) The persistent reliance on Chapter VII enforcement and the lack of a Central World Bank.
 - (C) The failure of peace-keeping operations and the spread of unemployment at a world level.
 - (D) The supremacy of the US position and the rejection of the Economic Security Council.



102. A primary point of divergence between the US Conservative position and the Secretary-General's Conservative position on security matters, according to the summary is:
- (A) The US supports the creation of 'peace enforcement units,' while the Secretary-General is opposed.
 - (B) The Secretary-General advocates for the full implementation of 'collective security', while the US restricts its participation in peace-keeping.
 - (C) The US views 'preventive diplomacy' as an illusion, whereas the Secretary-General supports its larger use.
 - (D) The US opposes the enlargement of the Security Council, while the Secretary-General supports the entrance of Japan and Germany.
103. According to the critique's conclusion, the immediate, insurmountable barrier preventing the implementation of any reform, major or minor, is:
- (A) The widespread public scepticism and the rise of nationalist political parties.
 - (B) The Secretary-General's reluctance to give up command over new peace enforcement units.
 - (C) The procedural requirements for amending the Charter, specifically requiring the consensus of all five permanent Security Council members.
 - (D) The ideological debate on global governance and the lack of a complete theoretical framework for the radical approach.
104. The Secretary-General's 'Agenda for Peace' proposed a specific military capability intended to address the gap between traditional peace-keeping and full military action. This proposed unit was explicitly characterized by the summary as being:
- (A) Composed of permanent Member State forces under Article 43 agreements.
 - (B) Less heavily armed than peace-keeping forces and under the direction of the Military Staff Committee.
 - (C) More heavily armed than peace-keeping forces and under the command of the Secretary-General.
 - (D) Primarily associated with NATO under a regional security arrangement.
105. The Radical Approach to reform, as outlined in the summary, calls for an institutional overhaul of global economic governance by suggesting which two specific actions related to the Bretton Woods institutions?
- (A) The full use of Article 42 and the reduction of social inequality.
 - (B) The creation of an Economic Security Council and the replacement of the IMF with a Central World Bank.
 - (C) The implementation of international taxation and the institutionalization of G7 summit meetings.
 - (D) The transfer of significant resources from rich to poor countries and the reform of the World Bank's structure.



XXII. “The power to pardon is a part of the constitutional scheme, and we have no doubt, in our mind, that it should be so treated also in the Indian Republic. It has been reposed by the people through the Constitution in the Head of the State, and enjoys high status. It is a constitutional responsibility of great significance, to be exercised when occasion arises in accordance with the discretion contemplated by the context. It is not denied, and indeed it has been repeatedly affirmed in the course of argument by learned counsels appearing for the Petitioner that the power to pardon rests on the advice tendered by the Executive to the President, who subject to the provisions of Article 74(1) of the Constitution, must act in accordance with such advice.....”

We are of the view that it is open to the President in the exercise of the power vested in him by Article 72 of the Constitution to scrutinise the evidence on the record of the criminal case and come to a different conclusion from that recorded by the court in regard to the guilt of, and sentence imposed on the accused. In doing so, the President does not amend or modify or supersede the judicial record. The judicial record remains intact, and undisturbed. The President acts in a wholly different plane from that in which the Court acted. He acts under a constitutional power, the nature of which is entirely different from the judicial power and cannot be regarded as an extension of it. This is so, notwithstanding that the practical effect of the Presidential act is to remove the stigma of guilt from the accused or to remit the sentence imposed on him.

It is apparent that the power under Article 72 entitles the President to examine the record of evidence of the criminal case and to determine for himself whether the case is one deserving the grant of the relief falling within that power. We are of opinion that the President is entitled to go into the merits of the case notwithstanding that it has been judicially concluded by the consideration given to it by this Court. In *Kehar Singh v. Union of India*, 1989 SC, this court stated that the same obviously means that the affected party need not be given the reasons. The question whether reasons can or cannot be disclosed to the Court when the same is challenged was not the subject-matter of consideration. In any event, the absence of any obligation to convey the reasons does not mean that there should not be legitimate or relevant reasons for passing the order.

[Extract from the judgment of Shatrughan Chauhan v. Union of India 2014 (3) SCC 1]

106. Which one of the following statements is correct with respect to the granting of pardon by the President?
- (A) The power to grant pardon is a constitutional duty. Hence, judicial review is available, just as any executive action is.
 - (B) Granting pardon being the privilege of the President, no judicial review is available against the decision of the President in granting or refusing to grant a pardon.
 - (C) The constitution expressly conferred the power to grant to the President hence, the President is not bound to rely on the aid and advice of the executive.
 - (D) The President's power to grant pardon can be reviewed on the grounds of non-application of mind.



107. In the above case the Supreme Court held that a minimum period of _____ days be stipulated between the receipt of communication of the rejection of the mercy petition and the scheduled date of execution.
- (A) 60
 - (B) 30
 - (C) 14
 - (D) No such timeline was fixed
108. What is not true about the pardoning power *vis a vis* Article 21 of Constitution of India?
- (A) Insanity is not a relevant supervening factor for commutation of death sentence.
 - (B) Right to life of a person continues till his last breath and that Court will protect that right even if the noose is being tied on the condemned person's neck.
 - (C) The anguish of alternating hope and despair, the agony of uncertainty and the consequence of such suffering on the mental, emotional and physical integrity and health violates Art. 21 of the prisoners.
 - (D) Article 21 is a substantive right and not merely procedural.
109. In which case, the Supreme Court held that if the crime is brutal and heinous and involves the killing of a large number of innocent people without any reason, delay cannot be the sole factor for the commutation of the death sentence to life imprisonment?
- (A) Devender Pal Singh Bhullar v. State (NCT) of Delhi.
 - (B) V. Sriharan @ Murugan v. Union of India
 - (C) Yakub Abdul Razak Memon v. State of Maharashtra
 - (D) Shatrughan Chauhan v. Union of India
110. The President's power to grant a pardon
- (A) Can be delegated to the Prime Minister and his Council of Ministers
 - (B) Cannot be delegated as it is an essential executive function
 - (C) Cannot be delegated as it is expressly conferred on the President
 - (D) Can be delegated to the Vice-president.



XXIII. To recall, the petitioners while challenging the 1951 and 1965 amendments to the AMU Act in *Azeez Basha* argued that the amendments were violative of the right to administration guaranteed by Article 30(1). The Union of India responded to the argument with the submission that the Muslim minority cannot claim the right to administration since it did not 'establish' the institution. Opposing this argument, the petitioners in *Azeez Basha*, submitted that Article 30(1) guarantees the 'right to administer' an educational institution to minorities even if it was not established by them, if by "some process, it had been administering the same before the Constitution came into force." The argument of the petitioners was rejected. This Court held that the words "establish" and "administer" must be read conjunctively, that is, the guarantee of the right to administration is contingent on the establishment of the institution by religious or linguistic minorities...

The issue before this Bench is the indicia for an educational institution to be a minority educational institution. Should it be proved that the institution was established by the minority, or it was administered by the minority, or both? The petitioners and the respondents agree that the words 'establish' and 'administer' must be read conjunctively. They argue that administration is a sequitur to establishment. However, they disagree on the test to be applied to identify a minority education institution. The petitioners argue that the only indicia for a minority educational institution is that it must be established by a minority, while the respondents argue that the dual test of establishment and administration must be satisfied.

(Extracted with edits and revisions from Aligarh Muslim University v. Naresh Agarwal & Ors, 2024 SC 8)

111. Which of the following Supreme Court judgments does not deal with minority educational institution for the purpose of Article 30(1) of the Constitution of India?
- (A) *TMA Pai Foundation v. State of Karnataka* (2002) 8 SCC 481
 - (B) *S Azeez Basha v. Union of India* AIR 1968 SC 662
 - (C) *Rev. Stanislaus v. State of Madhya Pradesh* 1977 SCR (2) 611
 - (D) *Central Board of Dawoodi Bohra Community v. State of Maharashtra* (2005) 2 SCC 673
112. In determining the status of a minority educational institution, Article 30 of the Constitution of India is of significance. Which of the following statements regarding Article 30 is correct?
- I. Article 30 prescribes conditions which must be fulfilled for an educational institution to be considered a minority educational institution.
 - II. Article 30 confers two group rights on all linguistic and religious minorities: the right to establish an educational institution and the right to administer an educational institution.
- Select the most appropriate option :
- (A) Only I is correct
 - (B) Only II is correct
 - (C) Both I and II are correct
 - (D) Both I and II are incorrect



113. Which core principle from the 1968 judgment in *S. Azeez Basha v. Union of India* was overruled by the Supreme Court in the 2024 judgment, *Aligarh Muslim University v. Naresh Agarwal & Ors.*?
- (A) That Article 30 protection is not available to 'Universities' established before the commencement of the Constitution.
 - (B) That the words "establish and administer" in Article 30(1) must be read conjunctively.
 - (C) That an educational institution is not established by a minority if it derives its legal character and incorporation through a statute.
 - (D) That legislative amendments to the AMU Act violated Articles 14, 19, 25, 29, and 31 of the Constitution.
114. The court in this case justified application of Article 30(1) to educational institutions established by religious and linguistic minorities before commencement of Constitution through a co-joint reading of Article 30, with Articles 13 and 372. In doing so it observed that 'Article 13(1) has a retroactive effect and not a retrospective effect.' Which of the following statement best captures the difference between the two effects?
- (A) A provision is retrospective if it alters the position of law before its enactment/commencement, it is retroactive if it imposes new results for previous actions
 - (B) A retroactive effect applies only prospectively, whereas retrospective effect alters past rights and liabilities
 - (C) A provision is retrospective if it applies to past and closed transactions, whereas provision is retroactive if it applies only to future cases
 - (D) A retrospective provision alters both substantive and procedural rights in the past, while a retroactive provision affects only substantive law
115. The court observed that a holistic and realistic view should be taken keeping in mind the objective and purpose of the provision. From the judgements referred to by it, which of the following inferences can be drawn:
- I. Existence of religious place for prayer and worship is a necessary indicator of minority character
 - II. Existence of religious symbols in the precincts of the educational institution are necessary to prove minority character
- Select the most appropriate option:
- (A) Only I is correct
 - (B) Only II is correct
 - (C) Both I and II are correct
 - (D) Both I and II are incorrect



XXIV. Ahmadi, J.(as he then was) speaking for himself and Punchhi, J., endorsed the recommendations in the following words-The time is ripe for taking stock of the working of the various Tribunals set up in the country after the insertion of Articles 323A and 323B in the Constitution. After the incorporation of these two articles, Acts have been enacted where-under tribunals have been constituted for dispensation of justice. Sufficient time has passed and experience gained in these last few years for taking stock of the situation with a view to finding out if they have served the purpose and objectives for which they were constituted. Complaints have been heard in regard to the functioning of other tribunals as well and it is time that a body like the Law Commission of India has a comprehensive look-in with a view to suggesting measures for their improved functioning. That body can also suggest changes in the different statutes and evolve a model on the basis whereof tribunals may be constituted or reconstituted with a view to ensuring greater independence. An intensive and extensive study needs to be undertaken by the Law Commission in regard to the Constitution of tribunals under various statutes with a view to ensuring their independence so that the public confidence in such tribunals may increase and the quality of their performance may improve.

Before parting with the case it is necessary to express our anguish over the ineffectiveness of the alternative mechanism devised for judicial review. The judicial review and remedy are the fundamental rights of the citizens. The dispensation of justice by the tribunal is much to be desired.

(Extracted with Edits from R.K. Jain v. Union of India, 1993 (4) SCC 119)

116. In which of the following case the Court held that though judicial review is a basic feature of the Constitution, the vesting of the power of judicial review in an alternative institutional mechanism, after taking it away from the High Courts, would not violate the basic structure so long as it was ensured that the alternative mechanism was an effective and real substitute for the High Court.
- (A) L. Chandra Kumar v. Union Of India And Others 1997
 - (B) R.K. Jain v. Union of India : 1993
 - (C) S.P. Sampath Kumar v. Union of India : (1985)
 - (D) Kesvananda Bharti v. State of Kerala. 1973



117. The provisions of the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985 shall NOT apply to-
- (A) Any member of the naval, military or air forces or of any other armed forces of the Union
 - (B) Officer or servant of the Supreme Court or of any High Court or Courts subordinate
 - (C) Person appointed to the secretarial staff of either House of Parliament or to the secretarial staff of any State Legislature or a House thereof or, in the case of a Union Territory having a Legislature, of that Legislature.
 - (D) Officers of the Indian Police Services.
118. The first tribunal established in India is:
- (A) Central Administrative Tribunal
 - (B) Railway Claims Tribunal
 - (C) Armed Forces Tribunal
 - (D) Income tax Appellate Tribunal
119. Article 323A and 323B of the Indian Constitution for the establishment of tribunal to adjudicate disputes in specific matters. While both articles deal with tribunals, there are key differences in their scope and application. Which of the following statements correctly reflect the distinction between Article 323A and 323B?
- (A) Article 323A exclusively deals with administrative tribunals for public service matters, while Article 323B deals with the tribunals for a wider range of subjects including taxation and land reforms.
 - (B) While tribunals under Article 323A can be established only by Parliament, tribunals under Article 323B can only be established by State legislature, with matters falling within their legislative competence.
 - (C) Under Article 323A, only one tribunal for centre and no tribunal for state may be established. As far as Article 323B is concerned, there is no hierarchy of tribunals.
 - (D) Article 323A grant tribunals the power to hear appeals directly from the Supreme Court, by passing the high court. Under Article 323B there is no such power.
120. The creation of Administrative Tribunals to ease the burden of service related cases, on the High Courts and the amendment of the constitution to add articles 323A and 323B were based on the recommendation of :
- (A) Parliamentary Standing Committee
 - (B) National Tribunals Commission
 - (C) Swaran Singh Committee
 - (D) Law commission of India's 272nd Report
-



SPACE FOR ROUGH WORK



SPACE FOR ROUGH WORK



PG 2026

QUESTION BOOKLET NO.

1. **Name of the Candidate :**

2. **Admit Card Number :**

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Duration of the Test : 2 hours (120 minutes) *

Maximum Marks : 120

1. This Question Booklet (QB) contains 120 (One hundred and Twenty) Multiple Choice Questions across 48 (Forty Eight) pages including 2 (Two) blank pages for rough work. No additional sheet(s) of paper will be supplied for rough work.
2. You have to answer ALL questions in the separate carbonised Optical Mark Reader (OMR) Response Sheet supplied along with this QB. You must READ the detailed instructions provided with the OMR Response Sheet on the reverse side of this packet BEFORE you start the test.
3. No clarification can be sought on the QB from anyone. In case of any discrepancy such as printing error or missing pages, in the QB, request the Invigilator to replace the QB and OMR Response Sheet. Do not use the previous OMR Response sheet with the fresh QB.
4. You should write the QB Number, and the OMR Response Sheet Number, and sign in the space/column provided in the Attendance Sheet.
5. The QB for the Post Graduate Programme is for 120 marks. Every **Right Answer** secures 1 mark. Every **Wrong Answer** results in the deduction of 0.25 mark. There shall be no deductions for Unanswered Questions.
6. You may retain the QB and the Candidate's copy of the OMR Response Sheet after the end of the test.
7. The use of any unfair means shall result in your disqualification. Possession of Electronic Devices such as mobile phones, headphones, digital watches, etc., is/are strictly prohibited in the test premises. Impersonation or any other unlawful practice will lead to your disqualification and possibly, appropriate action under the law.

DO NOT OPEN TILL 2 P.M.

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- I. “Section 55 of the Indian Contract Act says that when a party to a contract promises to do a certain thing within a specified time but fails to do so, the contract or so much of it as has not been performed, becomes voidable at the option of the promisee if the intention of the parties was, that time should be of the essence of the contract. If time is not the essence of the contract, the contract does not become voidable by the failure to do such thing on or before the specified time but the promisee is entitled to compensation from the promisor for any loss occasioned to him by such failure. Further, if in case of a contract voidable on account of the promisor’s failure to perform his promise within the time agreed and the promisee accepts performance of such promise at any time other than that agreed, the promisee cannot claim compensation for any loss occasioned by the non-performance of the promise at the time agreed, unless, at the time of such acceptance he gives notice to the promisor of his intention to do so.

... Sections 73 and 74 deal with consequences of breach of contract. Heading of Section 73 is compensation for loss or damage caused by breach of contract. When a contract is broken, the party who suffers by such breach is entitled to receive from the party who has broken the contract compensation for any loss or damage caused to him thereby which naturally arose in the usual course of things from such breach or which the parties knew when they made the contract to be likely to result from the breach of it. On the other hand, Section 74 deals with compensation for breach of contract where penalty is stipulated for. When a contract is broken, if a sum is mentioned in the contract as the amount to be paid in case of such breach or if the contract contains any other stipulation by way of penalty, the party complaining of the breach is entitled whether or not actually damage or loss is proved to have been caused thereby, to receive from the party who has broken the contract reasonable compensation not exceeding the amount so named or the penalty stipulated for.”

[Extracted from: Consolidated Construction Consortium Limited v Software Technology Parks of India 2025 INSC 574]

1. Whether time is of essence or not is a question of fact, and the real test is the parties’ intention. Which amongst the following is not correct in ascertaining the intention of the parties with respect to “time is of essence”.
 - (A) The express words used in the contract.
 - (B) The nature of the property which forms the subject-matter of the contract.
 - (C) The nature of the contract and the surrounding circumstances.
 - (D) The nature of the contract that provides for an extension of time or liquidated damages for delays

2. Which of the following is NOT a leading judgement on section 74 of the Indian Contract Act:
 - (A) Kailash Nath Associates v Delhi Development Authority [2015] 1 SCR 627.
 - (B) ONGC Ltd v Saw Pipes Ltd (2003) 5 SCC 705.
 - (C) Fateh Chand v Balkishan Dass (1964) 1 SCR 515.
 - (D) Satyabrata Ghose v MugneeramBangur& Co 1954 SCR 310.



3. Which of the following is a CORRECT proposition as regards award of damages in contract:
- (A) In general, no damages in contract are awarded for injury to plaintiff's feelings or for mental distress, loss of reputation or social discredit caused by the breach of contract.
 - (B) In general, damages in contract are awarded for anguish and vexation caused by the breach of contract.
 - (C) In general, damages in contract are awarded for anguish and loss of reputation, but not for social discredit caused by the breach of contract.
 - (D) In general, damages in contract are awarded for emotional distress, but not for mental agony caused by the breach of contract.
4. Which of the following is/are CORRECT proposition(s) as regards the law on damages for the breach of contract under section 74 of the Indian Contract Act:
- (A) Where a sum is named in the contract as a liquidated amount payable by way of damages, only reasonable compensation can be awarded not exceeding the amount so stated.
 - (B) In cases where the amount fixed is in the nature of penalty, only reasonable compensation can be awarded, not exceeding the penalty so stated.
 - (C) The expression 'whether or not actual damage or loss is proved to have been caused thereby' in section 74 means that in every case the proof of actual damage or loss has been dispensed with.
 - (D) Both (A) and (B).
5. _____ will apply to cases of forfeiture of earnest money under a contract. Where, however, forfeiture takes place under the terms and conditions of a public auction before agreement is reached, section 74 would have no application:
- (A) Section 55.
 - (B) Section 73.
 - (C) Section 74.
 - (D) Section 75.



- II. “Law treats all contracts with equal respect and unless a contract is proved to suffer from any of the vitiating factors, the terms and conditions have to be enforced regardless of the relative strengths and weakness of the parties.

Section 28 of the Contract Act does not bar exclusive jurisdiction clauses. What has been barred is the absolute restriction of any party from approaching a legal forum. The right to legal adjudication cannot be taken away from any party through contract but can be relegated to a set of Courts for the ease of the parties. In the present dispute, the clause does not take away the right of the employee to pursue a legal claim but only restricts the employee to pursue those claims before the courts in Mumbai alone.

... the Court must already have jurisdiction to entertain such a legal claim. This limb pertains to the fact that a contract cannot confer jurisdiction on a court that did not have such a jurisdiction in the first place.”

[Extracted from: Rakesh Kumar Verma v HDFC Bank Ltd 2025 INSC 473]

6. Which of the following propositions is CORRECT:
- (A) It is, in general, open to the contracting parties to confer by their agreement jurisdiction on a court which does not possess the jurisdiction under the law.
 - (B) It is not open to the contracting parties to confer by their agreement jurisdiction on a court which does not possess the jurisdiction under the law.
 - (C) It is open to the contracting parties to confer by their written and registered agreement jurisdiction on a court which does not possess the jurisdiction under the law.
 - (D) If it is absolutely in the interest of the contracting parties, then only it is open to the contracting parties to confer by their agreement jurisdiction on a court which does not possess the jurisdiction under the law.
7. Which of the following propositions is NOT CORRECT about an ouster clause:
- (A) Jurisdiction of civil courts is created by statute and cannot be created or conferred by consent of the parties upon a court which has not been granted jurisdiction by the law.
 - (B) Where two or more courts have under the law jurisdiction to try a suit or proceeding, an agreement between the parties that the dispute between them will be tried in one of such courts, is not contrary to public policy.
 - (C) Ouster clauses can oust the jurisdiction only of civil courts and not of the High Court, provided such jurisdiction exists in the High Court on account of part of cause of action having arisen within its territorial jurisdiction.
 - (D) An ouster clause is valid even if it confers exclusive jurisdiction on a court that otherwise has no territorial or pecuniary jurisdiction over the matter.



8. Which of the following cannot be a condition for an exclusive jurisdiction clause in a contract to be valid:
- (A) It should be in consonance with section 28 of the Indian Contract Act, i.e. it should not absolutely restrict any party from initiating legal proceedings pertaining to the contract.
 - (B) The court which the parties have chosen for exclusive jurisdiction must be competent to have such jurisdiction.
 - (C) The parties must either impliedly or explicitly agree to subject themselves to the jurisdiction of a specific court for the resolution of their contractual dispute.
 - (D) The parties agree to the jurisdiction of a court that does not have the jurisdiction over the matter under the general law.
9. Section 28 of the Indian Contract Act is subject to _____ appended to it:
- (A) One exception.
 - (B) Two exceptions.
 - (C) Three exceptions.
 - (D) Four exceptions.
10. Which of the following agreements has/have been rendered void by section 28 of the Indian Contract Act:
- (A) An agreement by which any party thereto is restricted absolutely from enforcing his rights under or in respect of any contract, by the usual legal proceedings in the ordinary tribunals.
 - (B) An agreement which limits the time within which any party thereto may enforce his contractual rights.
 - (C) Both (A) and (B).
 - (D) Neither (A) nor (B).



III. “The law is well settled that a constitutional court can award monetary compensation against the State and its officials for its failure to safeguard fundamental rights of citizens but there is no system or method to measure the damages caused in such situations. Quite often the courts have a difficult task in determining damages in various fact situations. The yardsticks normally adopted for determining the compensation payable in private tort claims are not as such applicable when a constitutional court determines the compensation in cases where there is a violation of fundamental rights guaranteed to its citizens.

... In *D.K. Basu v. State of W.B.* [(1997) SCC 1 416], a Constitution Bench of this Court held that there is no straitjacket formula for computation of damages and we find that there is no uniformity or yardstick followed in awarding damages for violation of fundamental rights. In *Rudul Sah case* [*Rudul Sah v. State of Bihar*, (1983) 4 SCC 141] this Court used the terminology ‘palliative’ for measuring the damages and the formula of ‘ad hoc’ was applied. In *Sebastian Hongray case* [*Sebastian M. Hongray v. Union of India*, (1984) 3 SCC 82] the expression used by this Court for determining the monetary compensation was ‘exemplary’ costs and the formula adopted was ‘punitive’. In *Bhim Singh case* [*Bhim Singh v. State of J & K*, (1985) 4 SCC 677], the expression used by the Court was ‘compensation’ and the method adopted was ‘tortious formula’. In *D.K. Basu v. State of W.B.* [(1997) SCC 1 416] the expression used by this Court for determining the compensation was ‘monetary compensation’. The formula adopted was ‘cost to cost’ method. Courts have not, therefore, adopted a uniform criterion since no statutory formula has been laid down.”

[Extracted from: *Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Delhi v Uphaar Tragedy Victims Association* (2011) 14 SCC 481]

11. The public law proceedings serve a different purpose than the private law proceedings. The relief of monetary compensation, as exemplary damages, in proceedings under article 32 by the Supreme Court or under article 226 by the High Courts, for established infringement of the indefeasible right guaranteed under article 21 of the Constitution is a remedy available in _____ and is based on the strict liability for contravention of the guaranteed basic and indefeasible rights of the citizen:

- (A) Public law.
- (B) Private law.
- (C) Civil law.
- (D) All the above.



12. Choose the IN-CORRECT proposition about 'constitutional tort':
- (A) In essence, it attributes vicarious liability on the State for acts and omissions of its agents which result in violation of fundamental rights of an individual or group.
 - (B) Constitutional law and tort law came to be merged by the Supreme Court which began allowing successful petitioners to recover monetary damages from the State for infraction of their fundamental rights.
 - (C) The causal connection between the act or omission and the resultant infraction of fundamental rights, is central to any determination of an action of constitutional tort.
 - (D) The doctrine of sovereign immunity absolutely protects the State from liability for all acts of its servants, including those that violate fundamental rights.
13. Which of the following cases is NOT related to constitutional tort:
- (A) Kaushal Kishor v State of Uttar Pradesh 2023 INSC 4.
 - (B) Bombay Hospital & Medical Research Centre v Asha Jaiswal 2021 INSC 801.
 - (C) Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Delhi v Uphaar Tragedy Victims Association (2011) 14 SCC 481.
 - (D) DK Basu v State of WB [(1997) SCC 1 416.
14. Which of the following propositions is/are CORRECT about the award of damages in cases where there is violation of fundamental rights:
- (A) Constitutional courts can in appropriate cases of serious violation of life and liberty of the individuals award punitive damages.
 - (B) Owing to lack of legislation, the Courts dealing with the cases of tortious claims against State and its officials are not following a uniform pattern while deciding those claims and this, at times, leads to undesirable consequences and arbitrary fixation of compensation amount.
 - (C) Both (A) and (B).
 - (D) Neither (A) nor (B).
15. The principle of sovereign immunity of the State for the tortious acts of its servant, has been held to be ————— in the case of violation of fundamental rights:
- (A) Always applicable.
 - (B) Inapplicable.
 - (C) A good defence.
 - (D) Occasionally applicable.



- IV. It is well recognized that actionable negligence in context of medical profession involves three constituents (i) duty to exercise due care; (ii) breach of duty and (iii) consequential damage. However, a simple lack of care, an error of judgment or an accident is not sufficient proof of negligence on part of the medical professional so long as the doctor follows the acceptable practice of the medical profession in discharge of his duties. He cannot be held liable for negligence merely because a better alternative treatment or course of treatment was available or that more skilled doctors were there who could have administered better treatment.

A medical professional may be held liable for negligence only when he is not possessed with the requisite qualification or skill or when he fails to exercise reasonable skill which he possesses in giving the treatment. None of the above two essential conditions for establishing negligence stand satisfied in the case at hand as no evidence was brought on record to prove that Dr. Neeraj Sud had not exercised due diligence, care or skill which he possessed in operating the patient and giving treatment to him. When reasonable care, expected of the medical professional, is extended or rendered to the patient unless contrary is proved, it would not be a case for actionable negligence.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from Neeraj Sud v Jaswinder Singh 2024 INSC 825]

16. In which of the following situations, a professional would be held liable for negligence:
- (A) If he was not possessed of the requisite skill which he professed to have possessed, or, he did not exercise, with reasonable competence, in the given case, the skill which he did possess.
 - (B) If he failed to use exceptional or extraordinary precautions which might have prevented the damage (particular happening).
 - (C) Both (A) and (B).
 - (D) Neither (A) nor (B).
17. Which of the following propositions is INCORRECT as regards negligence in civil law and in criminal law:
- (A) The jurisprudential concept of negligence differs in civil law and criminal law.
 - (B) What may be negligence in civil law may not necessarily be negligence in criminal law.
 - (C) For an act to amount to criminal negligence, the degree of negligence should be much higher, i.e. gross or of a very high degree.
 - (D) For negligence to amount to both a 'tort' and an 'offence', the element of mens rea must necessarily be shown to have existed.



18. The basis or the yardstick for judging the performance of the professional proceeded against on indictment of negligence is:
- (A) That of an ordinary and reasonably competent person exercising ordinary skill in that profession.
 - (B) That of a person with the highest level of expertise or skills in that branch which he practices.
 - (C) That of a person with the highest level of expertise or skills in that branch which he practices, and possessing the knowledge of all latest developments.
 - (D) Both (B) and (C).
19. Deviation from normal medical practice is not necessarily evidence of negligence. In order to establish liability of a medical practitioner on that basis, which of the following requirements has/have to be shown:
- (A) That, there is a usual and normal practice; and the medical practitioner (defendant) has not adopted it.
 - (B) That, the course in fact adopted by the medical practitioner (defendant) is one, which no professional man of ordinary skill would have taken, had he been acting with ordinary care.
 - (C) Both (A) and (B).
 - (D) Neither (A) nor (B).
20. A medical practitioner would not be held liable:
- (A) Where his conduct fell below that of the standards of a reasonably competent practitioner in his field.
 - (B) Where things went wrong from mischance or misadventure or through an error of judgment in choosing one reasonable course of treatment in preference of another.
 - (C) Both (A) and (B).
 - (D) Neither (A) nor (B).



- V. Today, in the year 2025, we have been experiencing the drastic consequences of large scale destruction of environment on human lives in the capital city of our country and in many other cities. At least for a span of two months every year, the residents of Delhi suffocate due to air pollution. The AQI level is either dangerous or very dangerous. They suffer in their health. The other leading cities are not far behind. The air and water pollution in the cities is ever increasing. Therefore, coming out with measures such as the 2021 Official Memorandum is violative of fundamental rights of all persons guaranteed under Article 21 to live in a pollution free environment. It also infringes the right to health guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution.

The 2021 OM talks about the concept of development. Can there be development at the cost of environment? Conservation of environment and its improvement is an essential part of the concept of development. Therefore, going out of the way by issuing such OMs to protect those who have caused harm to the environment has to be deprecated by the Courts which are under a constitutional and statutory mandate to uphold the fundamental right under Article 21 and to protect the environment. In fact, the Courts should comedown heavily on such attempts. As stated earlier, the 2021 OM deals with project proponents who were fully aware of the EIA notification and who have taken conscious risk to flout the EIA notification and go ahead with the construction/continuation/expansion of projects. They have shown scant respect to the law and their duty to protect the environment. Apart from violation of Article 21, such action is completely arbitrary which is violative article 14 of the Constitution of India, besides being violative of the 1986 Act and the EIA notification.

(Extracted with edits from *Vanashakti v. Union of India*, 2025 INSC 718)

21. What was the central controversy in the petition, *Vanashakti v. Union of India*?
- (A) The constitutional validity of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
 - (B) The determination of pollution load standards for Category 'B' projects.
 - (C) The ex post facto grant of Environmental Clearance (EC).
 - (D) The delegation of powers to the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA).
22. The Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, which mandates prior EC, was issued by the Central Government under which primary legislation?
- (A) The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
 - (B) The Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
 - (C) The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
 - (D) The National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.



23. The Supreme Court reiterated a concluded finding that the concept of ex post facto or retrospective Environmental Clearance (EC) is:
- (A) Detrimental to the environment but permissible under Article 142 of the Constitution.
 - (B) Completely alien to environmental jurisprudence and the EIA notification.
 - (C) A necessary measure to bring defaulting entities into regulatory compliance.
 - (D) A valid administrative decision protected by Section 3 of the 1986 Act.
24. The EIA Notification 2006, mandates that prior Environmental Clearance (EC) must be obtained at what stage of a project?
- (A) Before commencing operations or processes.
 - (B) Within six months of a project's completion.
 - (C) After the public hearing but before the final appraisal.
 - (D) Before any construction work, or preparation of land is started on the project.
25. Allowing for ex post facto clearance was held to be contrary to which two fundamental principles of environmental jurisprudence?
- (A) Doctrine of Necessity and Principle of Stare Decisis.
 - (B) Polluter Pays Principle and Public Trust Doctrine.
 - (C) Precautionary Principle and Sustainable Development.
 - (D) Doctrine of Sovereign immunity and doctrine of Public Trust

- VI. With the Paris Agreement, countries established an enhanced transparency framework (ETF). Under ETF, starting in 2024, countries will report transparently on actions taken and progress in climate change mitigation, adaptation measures and support provided or received. It also provides for international procedures for the review of the submitted reports.

The information gathered through the ETF will feed into the Global stocktake which will assess the collective progress towards the long-term climate goals. This will lead to recommendations for countries to set more ambitious plans in the next round.

Although climate change action needs to be massively increased to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement, the years since its entry into force have already sparked low-carbon solutions and new markets. More and more countries, regions, cities and companies are establishing carbon neutrality targets. Zero-carbon solutions are becoming competitive across economic sectors representing 25% of emissions. This trend is most noticeable in the power and transport sectors and has created many new business opportunities for early movers. By 2030, zero-carbon solutions could be competitive in sectors representing over 70% of global emissions.

(Extracted with edits from the website UNFCCC.INT)

26. What is the central, long-term temperature goal of the Paris Agreement?
- (A) To limit the global temperature increase to exactly 1.5 degrees
 - (B) To hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 degrees above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5 degrees.
 - (C) To reduce the global average temperature to pre-industrial levels by the year 2100.
 - (D) To limit the global temperature increase to 3 degrees above pre-industrial levels.



27. The Paris Agreement calls for a process to periodically assess the collective progress toward achieving its long-term goals. What is this process called?
- (A) The Compliance Mechanism
 - (B) The Global Stocktake
 - (C) The Transparency Framework
 - (D) The Adaptation Communication
28. Which previous International Climate Treaty did the Paris Agreement succeed and replace in terms of its operational framework after 2020?
- (A) The Montreal Protocol
 - (B) The Basel Convention
 - (C) The Kyoto Protocol
 - (D) The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
29. The Paris Agreement establishes a clear distinction in obligations between developed and developing countries regarding:
- (A) The long-term temperature goal, with different limits for each group.
 - (B) Mitigation efforts, by requiring only developed countries to submit NDCs.
 - (C) Climate finance, by requiring developed countries to provide financial resources to assist developing countries.
 - (D) The principle of sovereignty, by allowing only developing countries to withdraw from the Agreement.
30. The mechanism known as "Loss and Damage" in the context of climate change, which addresses the unavoidable adverse effects of climate change, is reinforced in the Paris Agreement through the:
- (A) Technology Executive Committee.
 - (B) Global Stocktake.
 - (C) Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM).
 - (D) Adaptation Fund.

VII. SEBI was established as India's principal capital markets regulator with the aim to protect the interest of investors in securities and promote the development and regulation of the securities market in India. SEBI is empowered to regulate the securities market in India by the SEBI Act 1992, the SCRA and the Depositories Act 1996. SEBI's powers to regulate the securities market are wide and include delegated legislative, administrative, and adjudicatory powers to enforce SEBI's regulations. SEBI exercises its delegated legislative power by inter alia framing regulations and appropriately amending them to keep up with the dynamic nature of the securities' market. SEBI has issued a number of regulations on various areas of security regulation which form the backbone of the framework governing the securities market in India.



Section 11 of the SEBI Act lays down the functions of SEBI and expressly states that it “shall be the duty of the Board to protect the interests of investors in securities and to promote the development of, and to regulate the securities market, by such measures as it thinks fit”. Further, Section 30 of the SEBI Act empowers SEBI to make regulations consistent with the Act. Significantly, while framing these regulations, SEBI consults its advisory committees consisting of domain experts, including market experts, leading market players, legal experts, technology experts, retired Judges of this Court or the High Courts, academicians, representatives of industry associations and investor associations. During the consultative process, SEBI also invites and duly considers comments from the public on their proposed regulations. SEBI follows similar consultative processes while reviewing and amending its regulations.

(Extracted, with edits and revision, from the judgement in Vishal Tiwari v. Union Of India, [2024] 1 S.C.R. 171)

31. What is meant by SCRA in the above passage.
 - (A) Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act
 - (B) Securities and Corporate (Registration) Act
 - (C) Securities Compliance (Regulation) Act
 - (D) SEBI and Companies (Regulation) Act

32. Which of the following is not a committee setup by SEBI?
 - (A) Technical Advisory Committee
 - (B) Competition Advisory committee
 - (C) Intermediary Advisory Committee
 - (D) Market Data Advisory Committee

33. Which among the following is not a function of SEBI?
 - (A) regulating substantial acquisition of shares and take over of companies
 - (B) prohibiting and regulating self-regulatory organisations
 - (C) prohibiting insider trading in securities
 - (D) promoting investors' education and training of intermediaries of securities markets.

34. The process by which an organisation thinks about and evolves its relationships with stakeholders for the common good, and demonstrates its commitment in this regard by adoption of appropriate business processes and strategies is called?
 - (A) Annual general meeting
 - (B) Corporate social responsibility
 - (C) Issuing Shelf prospectus
 - (D) Incorporation of a company

35. In which of the following cases did the court struck down the attempt of the government to nationalise banks and pay minimal compensation to the shareholders?
 - (A) Shri Sunil Siddharthbhai Etc v. Union of India
 - (B) R.C. Cooper v. Union of India
 - (C) United Bank Of India v. SatyawatiTondon & Ors
 - (D) Punjab National Bank v. Union of India



VIII. During Bentham’s lifetime, revolutions occurred in the American colonies and in France, producing the Bill of Rights and the *Déclaration des Droits de l’Homme* (Declaration of the Rights of Man), both of which were based on liberty, equality, and self-determination. Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels published *The Communist Manifesto* in 1848. Revolutionary movements broke out that year in France, Italy, Austria, Poland, and elsewhere. In addition, the Industrial Revolution transformed Great Britain and eventually the rest of Europe from an agrarian (farm-based) society into an industrial one, in which steam and coal increased manufacturing production dramatically, changing the nature of work, property ownership, and family. This period also included advances in chemistry, astronomy, navigation, human anatomy, and immunology, among other sciences.

Given this historical context, it is understandable that Bentham used reason and science to explain human behaviour. His ethical system was an attempt to quantify happiness and the good so they would meet the conditions of the scientific method. Ethics had to be empirical, quantifiable, verifiable, and reproducible across time and space. Just as science was beginning to understand the workings of cause and effect in the body, so ethics would explain the causal relationships of the mind. Bentham rejected religious authority and wrote a rebuttal to the Declaration of Independence in which he railed against natural rights as “rhetorical nonsense, nonsense upon stilts.” Instead, the fundamental unit of human action for him was utility—solid, certain, and factual.

What is utility? Bentham’s fundamental axiom, which underlies utilitarianism, was that all social morals and government legislation should aim for producing the greatest happiness for the greatest number of people. Utilitarianism, therefore, emphasizes the consequences or ultimate purpose of an act rather than the character of the actor, the actor’s motivation, or the particular circumstances surrounding the act. It has these characteristics: (1) universality, because it applies to all acts of human behaviour, even those that appear to be done from altruistic motives; (2) objectivity, meaning it operates beyond individual thought, desire, and perspective; (3) rationality, because it is not based in metaphysics or theology; and (4) quantifiability in its reliance on utility. (353 words)

(Extracted from Michael Quinn, “Jeremy Bentham, ‘The Psychology of Economic Man,’ and Behavioural Economics,” Oeconomia 6, no. 1 (2016): 3–32)

36. According to the text, what did Bentham consider the fundamental unit of human action, replacing concepts like natural rights?
- (A) Liberty (B) Self-determination
(C) Utility (D) Happiness for the greatest number



37. Which of the following is identified as Bentham's fundamental axiom underlying utilitarianism?
- (A) Ethics must be empirical, quantifiable, and reproducible.
 - (B) Utility must be used to reject religious authority.
 - (C) All social morals and government legislation should aim for producing the greatest happiness for the greatest number of people.
 - (D) The character of the actor is the most important aspect of an ethical act.
38. Utilitarianism, as described in the text, emphasizes which aspect of an act over the others listed?
- (A) The character of the actor
 - (B) The actor's motivation
 - (C) The particular circumstances surrounding the act
 - (D) The consequences or ultimate purpose of an act
39. The characteristic of utilitarianism that operates beyond individual thought, desire, and perspective is called:
- (A) Universality
 - (B) Quantifiability
 - (C) Rationality
 - (D) Objectivity
40. Bentham's ethical system attempted to quantify happiness and the good to meet the conditions of the scientific method, which required ethics to be all of the following except:
- (A) Empirical
 - (B) Verifiable
 - (C) Theological
 - (D) Quantifiable

IX. "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal and are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights".

This statement, in spite of literal inaccuracy in its every phrase, served the purpose for which it was written. It expressed an aspiration, and it was a fighting slogan. In order that slogans may serve their purpose, it is necessary that they shall arouse strong, emotional belief, but it is not at all necessary that they shall be literally accurate. A large part of each human being's time on earth is spent in declaiming about his "rights," asserting their existence, complaining of their violation, describing them as present or future, vested or contingent, absolute or conditional, perfect or inchoate, alienable or inalienable, legal or equitable, in rem or in personam, primary or secondary, moral or jural (legal), inherent or acquired, natural or artificial, human or divine. No doubt still other adjectives are available. Each one expresses some idea, but not always the same idea even when used twice by one and the same person.



They all need definition in the interest of understanding and peace. In his table of correlatives, Hohfeld set "right" over against "duty" as its necessary correlative. This had been done numberless times by other men. He also carefully distinguished it from the concepts expressed in his table by the terms "privilege," "power," and "immunity." To the present writer, the value of his work seems beyond question and the practical convenience of his classification is convincing. However, the adoption of Hohfeld's classification and the correlating of the terms "right" and "duty" do not complete the work of classification and definition.

(Extracted from Arthur L Corbin, Rights and Duties, 33 Yale LJ 501(1923))

41. The author suggests that the statement "all men are created equal and are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights" was effective primarily because:
 - (A) It accurately reflects the literal truth of human existence and legal principles.
 - (B) It provided a comprehensive legal definition of natural rights.
 - (C) Its emotional and aspirational content made it a successful "fighting slogan."
 - (D) It meticulously categorized rights using precise jural (legal) terminology.
42. Based on the passage, the primary problem the author identifies with the current discourse surrounding "rights" is the:
 - (A) Lack of a comprehensive list of all possible rights.
 - (B) Failure of historical documents to be literally accurate.
 - (C) Proliferation of undefined and inconsistently used qualifying adjectives.
 - (D) Over reliance on Hohfeld's narrow and incomplete classification system.
43. The author's view of Hohfeld's contribution to legal scholarship can best be described as:
 - (A) Essential but ultimately incomplete in fully defining and classifying "rights."
 - (B) Flawed because it failed to distinguish "right" from "duty" effectively.
 - (C) Irrelevant, as his classification uses confusing and difficult jargon.
 - (D) Sufficiently exhaustive to complete the work of definition and classification.
44. The phrase "literal inaccuracy in its every phrase" is used by the author to critique the Declaration's statement, suggesting a conflict between its rhetorical power and its:
 - (A) Emotional resonance for revolutionaries.
 - (B) Utility as a means for legislative action.
 - (C) Precision as a statement of verifiable facts or legal principles.
 - (D) Acceptance by religious authority and the Creator.
45. Which concept from Hohfeld's table of correlatives is not explicitly mentioned in the passage as a concept "right" was distinguished from?
 - (A) Duty
 - (B) Privilege
 - (C) Immunity
 - (D) Disability



X. The International Law Commission (ILC), in compliance with General Assembly resolution 177 (II), was directed to "formulate the principles of international law recognized in the Charter of the Nuremberg Tribunal and in the judgment of the Tribunal". The ILC's task was to merely formulate the principles not to express an appreciation of them as principles of International law since they had already been affirmed by the General Assembly.

At its second session in 1950, the ILC adopted a formulation of seven Principles of International Law recognized in the Charter and Judgment of the Nuremberg Tribunal.

- * Principle I : Any person who commits an act which constitutes a crime under international law is responsible therefor and liable to punishment. This is based on the general rule that international law may impose duties directly on individuals.
- * Principle II : The fact that internal law does not impose a penalty for an international crime does not relieve the person who committed the act from international responsibility. This implies the "supremacy" of international law over national law.
- * Principle III : The fact that a person acted as Head of State or responsible Government official does not relieve him from responsibility under international law.
- * Principle IV : Acting pursuant to an order of his Government or of a superior does not relieve him from responsibility, provided a moral choice was in fact possible to him.
- * Principle V : Any person charged with a crime under international law has the right to a fair trial on the facts and law
- * Principle VI : sets out the crimes punishable under international law:
 - * Crimes against peace : Includes planning, preparation, initiation, or waging of a war of aggression or a war in violation of international treaties, as well as participation in a conspiracy for these acts. The ILC understands the term "waging of a war of aggression" to refer only to high-ranking military personnel and high State officials. The Tribunal affirmed the illegality of aggressive war based on the Kellogg-Briand Pact.



- * War crimes : Violations of the laws or customs of war, such as murder, ill-treatment, deportation, killing of hostages, and plunder.
- * Crimes against humanity : Murder, extermination, enslavement, deportation, and other inhuman acts or persecutions on political, racial, or religious grounds, when done in execution of or in connection with a crime against peace or a war crime. These acts may constitute crimes against humanity even if committed by the perpetrator against their own population.
- * Principle VII : Complicity in the commission of any of the crimes listed in Principle VI is a crime under international law.

The ILC also considered the General Assembly's invitation to study the desirability and possibility of establishing an international judicial organ for the trial of persons charged with genocide or other crimes. While some members questioned its effectiveness, particularly for grave international crimes, others argued that the creation of such a jurisdiction was desirable as an effective contribution to world peace and security, serving as a deterrent against aggressors. (496 words)

(Summary of the Principles of International Law recognized in the Charter of the Nuremberg Tribunal and in the Judgment of the Tribunal, with commentaries 1950 based on the Text adopted by the International Law Commission at its second session, in 1950)

46. The International Law Commission (ILC) concluded that its task, as directed by General Assembly resolution 177 (II), was primarily:
 - (A) To determine the extent to which the Nuremberg principles constituted principles of international law.
 - (B) To formulate the Nuremberg principles, without expressing an appreciation of their status as principles of international law.
 - (C) To assess whether the Charter and judgment were already an expression of positive international law at the time of the Tribunal's establishment.
 - (D) To formulate the general principles of law on which the provisions of the Charter and the Tribunal's decisions were based.
47. Principle IV of the Nuremberg Principles concerning superior orders, differs from Article 8 of the Charter of the Nuremberg Tribunal by:
 - (A) Narrowing the application of the principle to exclude high State officials.
 - (B) Adding the condition that "a moral choice was in fact possible" to the accused.
 - (C) Eliminating the reference to the order being considered in mitigation of punishment.
 - (D) Formulating the principle in general terms, unlike the Charter's specific context.



48. The Tribunal, in its judgment, was constrained from making a general declaration that the acts of persecution and murder committed in Germany before 1939 were "crimes against humanity" primarily because:
- (A) Persecution on political, racial, or religious grounds was not yet recognized as an international crime.
 - (B) It could not be satisfactorily proved that these acts were committed in execution of, or in connection with, a crime within the Tribunal's jurisdiction.
 - (C) The definition of crimes against humanity in the Charter explicitly excluded acts committed before the outbreak of the war.
 - (D) International law at the time imposed duties only on States, not on individuals, for these types of crimes.
49. In formulating Principle VI (a), the ILC clarified the term "waging of a war of aggression" because:
- (A) The Charter of the Tribunal had no definition of "war of aggression".
 - (B) Members feared that every combatant in uniform might be charged with the crime.
 - (C) The Tribunal had not made a clear distinction between "planning" and "preparation".
 - (D) The General Assembly had requested a more precise definition for use in future conventions.
50. The debate within the International Law Commission regarding the creation of an international judicial organ (Part IV) centered on the following contrasting positions:
- (A) Whether the judicial organ should be created only for the trial of persons charged with genocide versus all international crimes.
 - (B) Whether the creation of the organ required an amendment to the Charter of the United Nations versus being possible through a convention open to all States.
 - (C) Whether the establishment of the organ was desirable and possible versus being undesirable due to its likely ineffectiveness against grave international crimes.
 - (D) Whether an international criminal court should have a deterrent effect versus serving only to ensure the rule of law in the community of States.



XI. The document presents a critique of the United Nations (UN) organization, arguing that it has failed to carry out its charter-mandated tasks, specifically to "maintain international peace and security" and "to achieve international cooperation" in solving global problems. The author notes growing public frustration with catastrophic humanitarian situations and the failure of peace-keeping operations, leading to widespread scepticism about the possibility of "revitalization". UN Reform Approaches Discussions on UN reform are divided into two main categories: the conservative approach and the radical approach.

1. Conservative Approach: The conservative view considers the existing Charter "practically untouchable" and believes in improving "collective security" as defined in Chapter VII. Key positions include: US Position: Prioritizes its own interests, supports better management and the creation of an Inspector General, favours enlarging the Security Council (to include Germany and Japan, mainly for financing peace-keeping), and associates the UN with regional organizations like NATO for peace enforcement. The US remains reluctant to allow full application of Chapter VII and views collective security restrictively.

Secretary-General's Position (Boutros Ghali): Advocated for the full implementation of 'collective security' as envisaged in 1945, including the use of the Military Staff Committee (Article 47) and the conclusion of special agreements (Article 43) for providing armed forces. He also proposed 'peace enforcement units' under the command of the Secretary-General and wider use of 'preventive diplomacy'. The report candidly recognized the Security Council's incapacity to deal with threats from a major power.

2. Radical Approach: The radical approach criticizes the principles of the present system and proposes an overhaul. It reflects increasing doubts about the value of the Charter's collective security system, especially in intra-State conflicts. Radical proposals include:

- * Establishing an Economic Security Council.
- * Modifying the Charter with less reluctance.
- * Reforming the IMF and World Bank.
- * Developing a new global security system (e.g., regional models like CSCE/CSCM).
- * The creation of a consultative parliamentary assembly at the world level.

Future Outlook : The author asserts that no major or minor reform has any chance of being implemented now, primarily because the Charter's amendment procedures (requiring a two-thirds majority including all five permanent Security Council members) preclude agreement. However, he concludes that the continuing deterioration of the global situation, driven by economic integration, rising inequality, and intra-State conflicts, will inevitably lead the political establishment to define a new global institutional structure. This future debate will become highly political, opposing the defence of democracy and human rights against nationalism and fascism. (408 words)

(Summary of the article titled "The UN as an organisation. A critique of its functioning" by Maurice Bertrand, published in 6 EJIL (1995) pp-349-359)

51. The author attributes the growing public frustration with the UN primarily to which pair of continuous failures?
 - (A) The inability to define a new institutional structure and the spread of poverty.
 - (B) The persistent reliance on Chapter VII enforcement and the lack of a Central World Bank.
 - (C) The failure of peace-keeping operations and the spread of unemployment at a world level.
 - (D) The supremacy of the US position and the rejection of the Economic Security Council.



52. A primary point of divergence between the US Conservative position and the Secretary-General's Conservative position on security matters, according to the summary is:
- (A) The US supports the creation of 'peace enforcement units,' while the Secretary-General is opposed.
 - (B) The Secretary-General advocates for the full implementation of 'collective security', while the US restricts its participation in peace-keeping.
 - (C) The US views 'preventive diplomacy' as an illusion, whereas the Secretary-General supports its larger use.
 - (D) The US opposes the enlargement of the Security Council, while the Secretary-General supports the entrance of Japan and Germany.
53. According to the critique's conclusion, the immediate, insurmountable barrier preventing the implementation of any reform, major or minor, is:
- (A) The widespread public scepticism and the rise of nationalist political parties.
 - (B) The Secretary-General's reluctance to give up command over new peace enforcement units.
 - (C) The procedural requirements for amending the Charter, specifically requiring the consensus of all five permanent Security Council members.
 - (D) The ideological debate on global governance and the lack of a complete theoretical framework for the radical approach.
54. The Secretary-General's 'Agenda for Peace' proposed a specific military capability intended to address the gap between traditional peace-keeping and full military action. This proposed unit was explicitly characterized by the summary as being:
- (A) Composed of permanent Member State forces under Article 43 agreements.
 - (B) Less heavily armed than peace-keeping forces and under the direction of the Military Staff Committee.
 - (C) More heavily armed than peace-keeping forces and under the command of the Secretary-General.
 - (D) Primarily associated with NATO under a regional security arrangement.
55. The Radical Approach to reform, as outlined in the summary, calls for an institutional overhaul of global economic governance by suggesting which two specific actions related to the Bretton Woods institutions?
- (A) The full use of Article 42 and the reduction of social inequality.
 - (B) The creation of an Economic Security Council and the replacement of the IMF with a Central World Bank.
 - (C) The implementation of international taxation and the institutionalization of G7 summit meetings.
 - (D) The transfer of significant resources from rich to poor countries and the reform of the World Bank's structure.



XII. “The power to pardon is a part of the constitutional scheme, and we have no doubt, in our mind, that it should be so treated also in the Indian Republic. It has been reposed by the people through the Constitution in the Head of the State, and enjoys high status. It is a constitutional responsibility of great significance, to be exercised when occasion arises in accordance with the discretion contemplated by the context. It is not denied, and indeed it has been repeatedly affirmed in the course of argument by learned counsels appearing for the Petitioner that the power to pardon rests on the advice tendered by the Executive to the President, who subject to the provisions of Article 74(1) of the Constitution, must act in accordance with such advice.....”

We are of the view that it is open to the President in the exercise of the power vested in him by Article 72 of the Constitution to scrutinise the evidence on the record of the criminal case and come to a different conclusion from that recorded by the court in regard to the guilt of, and sentence imposed on the accused. In doing so, the President does not amend or modify or supersede the judicial record. The judicial record remains intact, and undisturbed. The President acts in a wholly different plane from that in which the Court acted. He acts under a constitutional power, the nature of which is entirely different from the judicial power and cannot be regarded as an extension of it. This is so, notwithstanding that the practical effect of the Presidential act is to remove the stigma of guilt from the accused or to remit the sentence imposed on him.

It is apparent that the power under Article 72 entitles the President to examine the record of evidence of the criminal case and to determine for himself whether the case is one deserving the grant of the relief falling within that power. We are of opinion that the President is entitled to go into the merits of the case notwithstanding that it has been judicially concluded by the consideration given to it by this Court. In *Kehar Singh v. Union of India*, 1989 SC, this court stated that the same obviously means that the affected party need not be given the reasons. The question whether reasons can or cannot be disclosed to the Court when the same is challenged was not the subject-matter of consideration. In any event, the absence of any obligation to convey the reasons does not mean that there should not be legitimate or relevant reasons for passing the order.

[Extract from the judgment of Shatrughan Chauhan v. Union of India 2014 (3) SCC 1]

56. Which one of the following statements is correct with respect to the granting of pardon by the President?
- (A) The power to grant pardon is a constitutional duty. Hence, judicial review is available, just as any executive action is.
 - (B) Granting pardon being the privilege of the President, no judicial review is available against the decision of the President in granting or refusing to grant a pardon.
 - (C) The constitution expressly conferred the power to grant to the President hence, the President is not bound to rely on the aid and advice of the executive.
 - (D) The President's power to grant pardon can be reviewed on the grounds of non-application of mind.



57. In the above case the Supreme Court held that a minimum period of _____ days be stipulated between the receipt of communication of the rejection of the mercy petition and the scheduled date of execution.
- (A) 60
 - (B) 30
 - (C) 14
 - (D) No such timeline was fixed
58. What is not true about the pardoning power *vis a vis* Article 21 of Constitution of India?
- (A) Insanity is not a relevant supervening factor for commutation of death sentence.
 - (B) Right to life of a person continues till his last breath and that Court will protect that right even if the noose is being tied on the condemned person's neck.
 - (C) The anguish of alternating hope and despair, the agony of uncertainty and the consequence of such suffering on the mental, emotional and physical integrity and health violates Art. 21 of the prisoners.
 - (D) Article 21 is a substantive right and not merely procedural.
59. In which case, the Supreme Court held that if the crime is brutal and heinous and involves the killing of a large number of innocent people without any reason, delay cannot be the sole factor for the commutation of the death sentence to life imprisonment?
- (A) Devender Pal Singh Bhullar v. State (NCT) of Delhi.
 - (B) V. Sriharan @ Murugan v. Union of India
 - (C) Yakub Abdul Razak Memon v. State of Maharashtra
 - (D) Shatrughan Chauhan v. Union of India
60. The President's power to grant a pardon
- (A) Can be delegated to the Prime Minister and his Council of Ministers
 - (B) Cannot be delegated as it is an essential executive function
 - (C) Cannot be delegated as it is expressly conferred on the President
 - (D) Can be delegated to the Vice-president.



XIII. To recall, the petitioners while challenging the 1951 and 1965 amendments to the AMU Act in *Azeez Basha* argued that the amendments were violative of the right to administration guaranteed by Article 30(1). The Union of India responded to the argument with the submission that the Muslim minority cannot claim the right to administration since it did not 'establish' the institution. Opposing this argument, the petitioners in *Azeez Basha*, submitted that Article 30(1) guarantees the 'right to administer' an educational institution to minorities even if it was not established by them, if by "some process, it had been administering the same before the Constitution came into force." The argument of the petitioners was rejected. This Court held that the words "establish" and "administer" must be read conjunctively, that is, the guarantee of the right to administration is contingent on the establishment of the institution by religious or linguistic minorities...

The issue before this Bench is the indicia for an educational institution to be a minority educational institution. Should it be proved that the institution was established by the minority, or it was administered by the minority, or both? The petitioners and the respondents agree that the words 'establish' and 'administer' must be read conjunctively. They argue that administration is a sequitur to establishment. However, they disagree on the test to be applied to identify a minority education institution. The petitioners argue that the only indicia for a minority educational institution is that it must be established by a minority, while the respondents argue that the dual test of establishment and administration must be satisfied.

(Extracted with edits and revisions from Aligarh Muslim University v. Naresh Agarwal & Ors, 2024 SC 8)

61. Which of the following Supreme Court judgments does not deal with minority educational institution for the purpose of Article 30(1) of the Constitution of India?
- (A) *TMA Pai Foundation v. State of Karnataka* (2002) 8 SCC 481
 - (B) *S Azeez Basha v. Union of India* AIR 1968 SC 662
 - (C) *Rev. Stanislaus v. State of Madhya Pradesh* 1977 SCR (2) 611
 - (D) *Central Board of Dawoodi Bohra Community v. State of Maharashtra* (2005) 2 SCC 673
62. In determining the status of a minority educational institution, Article 30 of the Constitution of India is of significance. Which of the following statements regarding Article 30 is correct?
- I. Article 30 prescribes conditions which must be fulfilled for an educational institution to be considered a minority educational institution.
 - II. Article 30 confers two group rights on all linguistic and religious minorities: the right to establish an educational institution and the right to administer an educational institution.

Select the most appropriate option :

- (A) Only I is correct
- (B) Only II is correct
- (C) Both I and II are correct
- (D) Both I and II are incorrect



63. Which core principle from the 1968 judgment in *S. Azeez Basha v. Union of India* was overruled by the Supreme Court in the 2024 judgment, *Aligarh Muslim University v. Naresh Agarwal & Ors.*?
- (A) That Article 30 protection is not available to 'Universities' established before the commencement of the Constitution.
 - (B) That the words "establish and administer" in Article 30(1) must be read conjunctively.
 - (C) That an educational institution is not established by a minority if it derives its legal character and incorporation through a statute.
 - (D) That legislative amendments to the AMU Act violated Articles 14, 19, 25, 29, and 31 of the Constitution.
64. The court in this case justified application of Article 30(1) to educational institutions established by religious and linguistic minorities before commencement of Constitution through a co-joint reading of Article 30, with Articles 13 and 372. In doing so it observed that 'Article 13(1) has a retroactive effect and not a retrospective effect.' Which of the following statement best captures the difference between the two effects?
- (A) A provision is retrospective if it alters the position of law before its enactment/commencement, it is retroactive if it imposes new results for previous actions
 - (B) A retroactive effect applies only prospectively, whereas retrospective effect alters past rights and liabilities
 - (C) A provision is retrospective if it applies to past and closed transactions, whereas provision is retroactive if it applies only to future cases
 - (D) A retrospective provision alters both substantive and procedural rights in the past, while a retroactive provision affects only substantive law
65. The court observed that a holistic and realistic view should be taken keeping in mind the objective and purpose of the provision. From the judgements referred to by it, which of the following inferences can be drawn:
- I. Existence of religious place for prayer and worship is a necessary indicator of minority character
 - II. Existence of religious symbols in the precincts of the educational institution are necessary to prove minority character
- Select the most appropriate option:
- (A) Only I is correct
 - (B) Only II is correct
 - (C) Both I and II are correct
 - (D) Both I and II are incorrect



XIV. Ahmadi, J.(as he then was) speaking for himself and Punchhi, J., endorsed the recommendations in the following words-The time is ripe for taking stock of the working of the various Tribunals set up in the country after the insertion of Articles 323A and 323B in the Constitution. After the incorporation of these two articles, Acts have been enacted where-under tribunals have been constituted for dispensation of justice. Sufficient time has passed and experience gained in these last few years for taking stock of the situation with a view to finding out if they have served the purpose and objectives for which they were constituted. Complaints have been heard in regard to the functioning of other tribunals as well and it is time that a body like the Law Commission of India has a comprehensive look-in with a view to suggesting measures for their improved functioning. That body can also suggest changes in the different statutes and evolve a model on the basis whereof tribunals may be constituted or reconstituted with a view to ensuring greater independence. An intensive and extensive study needs to be undertaken by the Law Commission in regard to the Constitution of tribunals under various statutes with a view to ensuring their independence so that the public confidence in such tribunals may increase and the quality of their performance may improve.

Before parting with the case it is necessary to express our anguish over the ineffectiveness of the alternative mechanism devised for judicial review. The judicial review and remedy are the fundamental rights of the citizens. The dispensation of justice by the tribunal is much to be desired.

(Extracted with Edits from R.K. Jain v. Union of India, 1993 (4) SCC 119)

66. In which of the following case the Court held that though judicial review is a basic feature of the Constitution, the vesting of the power of judicial review in an alternative institutional mechanism, after taking it away from the High Courts, would not violate the basic structure so long as it was ensured that the alternative mechanism was an effective and real substitute for the High Court.
- (A) L. Chandra Kumar v. Union Of India And Others 1997
 - (B) R.K. Jain v. Union of India : 1993
 - (C) S.P. Sampath Kumar v. Union of India : (1985)
 - (D) Kesvananda Bharti v. State of Kerala. 1973



67. The provisions of the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985 shall NOT apply to-
- (A) Any member of the naval, military or air forces or of any other armed forces of the Union
 - (B) Officer or servant of the Supreme Court or of any High Court or Courts subordinate
 - (C) Person appointed to the secretarial staff of either House of Parliament or to the secretarial staff of any State Legislature or a House thereof or, in the case of a Union Territory having a Legislature, of that Legislature.
 - (D) Officers of the Indian Police Services.
68. The first tribunal established in India is:
- (A) Central Administrative Tribunal
 - (B) Railway Claims Tribunal
 - (C) Armed Forces Tribunal
 - (D) Income tax Appellate Tribunal
69. Article 323A and 323B of the Indian Constitution for the establishment of tribunal to adjudicate disputes in specific matters. While both articles deal with tribunals, there are key differences in their scope and application. Which of the following statements correctly reflect the distinction between Article 323A and 323B?
- (A) Article 323A exclusively deals with administrative tribunals for public service matters, while Article 323B deals with the tribunals for a wider range of subjects including taxation and land reforms.
 - (B) While tribunals under Article 323A can be established only by Parliament, tribunals under Article 323B can only be established by State legislature, with matters falling within their legislative competence.
 - (C) Under Article 323A, only one tribunal for centre and no tribunal for state may be established. As far as Article 323B is concerned, there is no hierarchy of tribunals.
 - (D) Article 323A grant tribunals the power to hear appeals directly from the Supreme Court, by passing the high court. Under Article 323B there is no such power.
70. The creation of Administrative Tribunals to ease the burden of service related cases, on the High Courts and the amendment of the constitution to add articles 323A and 323B were based on the recommendation of :
- (A) Parliamentary Standing Committee
 - (B) National Tribunals Commission
 - (C) Swaran Singh Committee
 - (D) Law commission of India's 272nd Report



XV. The Companies Act, 2013 does not deal with insolvency and bankruptcy when the companies are unable to pay their debts or the aspects relating to the revival and rehabilitation of the companies and their winding up if revival and rehabilitation is not possible. In principle, it cannot be doubted that the cases of revival or winding up of the company on the ground of insolvency and inability to pay debts are different from cases where companies are wound up under Section 271 of the Companies Act 2013. The two situations are not identical. Under Section 271 of the Companies Act, 2013, even a running and financially sound company can also be wound up for the reasons in clauses (a) to (e). The reasons and grounds for winding up under Section 271 of the Companies Act, 2013 are vastly different from the reasons and grounds for the revival and rehabilitation scheme as envisaged under the IBC. The two enactments deal with two distinct situations and in our opinion, they cannot be equated when we examine whether there is discrimination or violation of Article 14 of the Constitution of India. For the revival and rehabilitation of the companies, certain sacrifices are required from all quarters, including the workmen. In case of insolvent companies, for the sake of survival and regeneration, everyone, including the secured creditors and the Central and State Government, are required to make sacrifices. The workmen also have a stake and benefit from the revival of the company, and therefore unless it is found that the sacrifices envisaged for the workmen, which certainly form a separate class, are onerous and burdensome so as to be manifestly unjust and arbitrary, we will not set aside the legislation, solely on the ground that some or marginal sacrifice is to be made by the workers. We would also reject the argument that to find out whether there was a violation of Article 14 of the Constitution of India or whether the right to life under Article 21 Constitution of India was infringed, we must word by word examine the waterfall mechanism envisaged under the Companies Act, 2013, where the company is wound up in terms of grounds (a) to (e) of Section 271 of the Companies Act, 2013; and the rights of the workmen when the insolvent company is sought to be revived, rehabilitated or wound up under the Code. The grounds and situations in the context of the objective and purpose of the two enactments are entirely different.

(Extracted, with edits and revision, from Moser Baer Karamchhari Union v. Union of India, 2023 SCC Online SC 547)

71. In which of the following cases, it was held by the Supreme Court that although a company is a separate legal entity distinct from that of its members, the corporate veil may be lifted and the corporate personality may be ignored?
- (A) Life Insurance Corporation of India v. Escorts Ltd. (1986) 59 Comp Case 548
 - (B) R. K. Dalmia vs Delhi Administration, AIR 1962 SC 1821
 - (C) Dale And Carrington Invt. P. Ltd. v. P.K. Prathapan AIR 2005 SC 1624
 - (D) Rohtas Industries Ltd v. S.D. Agarwal, AIR 1969 SC 707



72. The extent to which a Corporation as a legal person can be held criminally liable for its acts and omissions and for those of the natural persons employed by it is called?
- (A) Corporate manslaughter (B) Lifting the corporate veil
(C) Corporate criminal liability (D) Corporate social responsibility
73. In which of the following cases, the constitutionality of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 was upheld by the Supreme Court?
- (A) RPS Infrastructure Ltd. v. Union of India, 2023 INSC 816
(B) Paschimanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd. v. Union of India, AIR 1971 SC 862
(C) Union Bank of India v. Financial Creditors of M/s Amtek Auto Limited, (2023) IBC Law.in 85 SC.
(D) Swiss Ribbons v. Union of India, (2019) SCC Online SC 73.
74. A director other than a managing director or a whole-time director or a nominee director who does not have any material or pecuniary relationship with the company/ directors other than the remuneration is called
- (A) Founding Director (B) Promoter Director
(C) Independent Director (D) Associate Director
75. Which among the following is not a duty of a Director of the company?
- (A) To file return of allotments
(B) To disclose interest
(C) Duty to call upon the shareholders to attend the Board meetings
(D) To convene General meeting
- XVI. In his heroic efforts, my learned brother Krishna Iyer, if I may say so with great respect, has not discarded the tests of industry formulated in the past. Indeed, he has actually restored the tests laid down by this Court in *D. N. Banerji's* case and, after that, in the *Corporation of the City of Nagpur v. Its Employees*, and *State of Bombay v. The Hospital Mazdoor Sabha* to their pristine glory. My learned brother has, however, rejected what may appear, to use the word employed recently by an American Jurist, "excrescences" of subjective notions of judges which may have blurred those tests. The temptation is great, in such cases, for us to give expression of what may be purely subjective personal predilections. It has, however, to be resisted if law is to possess a direction in Conformity with Constitutional objectives and criteria which must impart that reasonable state of predictability and certainty to interpretations of the Constitution as well as to the laws made under it which citizens should expect. We have, so to speak, to chart what may appear to be a Sea in which the ship of law like Noah's ark may have to be navigated. Indeed, Lord Sankey on one occasion, said that law itself is like the ark to which people look for some certainty and security amidst the shifting sands of political life and vicissitudes of times. The Constitution and the directive principles of State policy, read with the basic fundamental rights, provide us with a compass.



This Court has tried to indicate in recent cases that the meaning of what could be described as a basic "structure" of the Constitution must necessarily be found in express provisions of the construction and not merely in subjective notions about meanings of words. Similar must be the reasoning we must employ in extracting the core of meaning hidden between the interstices of statutory provisions. Each of us is likely to have a subjective notion about "industry". For objectivity, we have to look first to the, words used in the statutory provision defining industry in an attempt to find the meaning. If that meaning is clear, we need proceed no further. But, the trouble here is that the words found there do not yield a meaning so readily. They refer to what employers or workers may do as parts of their ordinary avocation or business in life.

(Extracted with edits from Bangalore Water Supply v. A. Rajappa & Others, AIR 1978 SC 548)

76. According to the Supreme Court's judgment, what is the most important factor in determining whether an activity constitutes an industry?
- (A) The profit-making motive of the employer
 - (B) When there are multiple activities carried on by an establishment, its dominant function has to be considered. If the dominant function is not commercial, benefits of a workman of an industry under Industrial Dispute Act may be given.
 - (C) The nature of the activity and the authority of the employer over its employees
 - (D) When there are multiple activities carried on by an establishment, all the activities must be considered. Even if one activity is commercial, the employees will not get the benefit of workman of an industry under the Industrial Dispute Act.
77. Which of the following best describes the broader impact of the judgment?
- (A) It reduced labour protections for workers
 - (B) It extended labour protections to a broader spectrum of workers
 - (C) It had no significant impact on labour laws
 - (D) It only affected private sector workers
78. Which of the following best describes the term 'industry' as defined by the Supreme Court in this judgment?
- (A) Any activity involving profit-making
 - (B) Any systematic activity organized by cooperation between an employer and employees for producing or distributing goods and services
 - (C) Only activities conducted by private enterprises
 - (D) Activities limited to manufacturing sectors



79. In which of the following landmark judgements, the Supreme Court held that when an association or society of apartment owners employs workers for personal services to its members, those workers do not qualify as workmen under the Act and the association is not an “Industry” under the Industrial Disputes Act?
- (A) Som Vihar Apartment Owners’ Housing Maintenance Society Ltd v. Workmen, 2009 SC
 - (B) Anand Vihar Apartment Owners’ Society Ltd. V. Workmen, 2024 SC
 - (C) Kanchanjunga Building Employees Union v. Kanchanjunga Flat Owner’s Society &Anr., 2024 SC
 - (D) Workmen represented by Secretary v. Reptakos Brett AIR 1992 SC 504
80. Under the Industrial Dispute Act, 1947, what is the role of the “Works Committee” and which of the following correctly describes its function?
- (A) The works committee is a body formed by the central government to address wage disputes between employer and employee in public sector industries.
 - (B) The works committee is a grievance redressal body constituted by the employer, primarily to promote measures for securing and preserving amity and good relations between the employer and employee.
 - (C) The Works Committee is responsible for making binding decisions on industrial disputes related to layoffs, retrenchment and closure of industrial units.
 - (D) The Works Committee is responsible for adjudicating major industrial disputes regarding wages, bonus or retrenchment.

XVII. The Act of 1948 defines “manufacturing process” and we clearly find that “washing, cleaning” and the activities carried out by the respondent with a view to its use, delivery or disposal are squarely attracted. The contention of the respondent that dry cleaning does not make any product usable, saleable or worthy of transport, delivery or disposal has only to be stated to be rejected.

“Manufacturing process” has been defined to mean any process for washing or cleaning with a view to its use, sale, transport, delivery or disposal. The linen deposited with the launderer is, after washing and cleaning, delivered to the customer for use. The ingredients of the section are fully satisfied. There is nothing in the Act of 1948, which is repugnant in the subject or context, constraining us to jettison the definition. Hence, we reject the findings of the High Court and hold that the activity carried out which on facts is not disputed is clearly covered by the definition of “manufacturing process” under Section 2(k) which, in turn, would bring the premises in question of the respondent under the definition of “factory” under Section 2(m). If that were so, the complaint lodged against the respondent could not have been quashed.

(Extracted with edits from *The State of Goa v. Namita Tripathi*, 2025 INSC 306)

81. According to the Supreme Court's interpretation of Section 2(k)(i) of the Factories Act, 1948, the business of a laundry service involving cleaning and washing of clothes is considered a "manufacturing process" primarily because it involves:
- (A) Producing a new marketable commodity through transformation.
 - (B) Washing or cleaning any article or substance with a view to its delivery or use.
 - (C) Carrying on a service and not a manufacturing activity.
 - (D) Employing more than 50 workers, regardless of the activity.



82. What rule of statutory interpretation did the Supreme Court explicitly state should be applied to the Factories Act, 1948, because of its nature?
- (A) Rule of Literal Interpretation.
 - (B) Doctrine of Stare Decisis.
 - (C) Liberal and Beneficial Construction.
 - (D) Rule of Ejusdem Generis.
83. The Supreme Court used the 'Mischief Rule' of interpretation to analyze the definition of "manufacturing process" by comparing the Factories Act, 1948, with its predecessor. What was the critical difference noted in the 1948 Act's definition (Section 2(k)) compared to the 1934 Act's definition (Section 2(g))?
- (A) The 1948 Act introduced the concept of "power" being used in the process.
 - (B) The 1948 Act included the words 'washing, cleaning', which were absent in the 1934 Act.
 - (C) The 1948 Act removed the exemption for mobile units of the armed forces.
 - (D) The 1948 Act lowered the minimum age of employment for children.
84. A premises is defined as a "factory" under Section 2(m)(i) of the Factories Act, 1948, if:
- (A) Twenty or more workers are working without the aid of power.
 - (B) Ten or more workers are working, and a manufacturing process is carried on with the aid of power.
 - (C) Less than ten workers are working, but the process involves hazardous substances.
 - (D) It is a hotel, restaurant, or eating place.
85. The Supreme Court ruled that the Punjab and Haryana High Court judgment in Employees' State Insurance Corporation, Jullundur v. Triplex Dry Cleaners and Others (1982) was not applicable to the present case because:
- (A) The Triplex Dry Cleaners case was decided under the Shops and Establishments Act, not the Factories Act.
 - (B) The Triplex Dry Cleaners case was decided before the definition of "manufacturing process" under the Factories Act, 1948, was incorporated into the Employees State Insurance Act (ESIC Act).
 - (C) The Triplex Dry Cleaners case dealt with washing, not dry cleaning.
 - (D) The ESIC Act was a penal statute, while the Factories Act, 1948, is a welfare statute.



XVIII. The element of gift is traceable to both 'settlement' and 'will'. As settled in law, the nomenclature of an instrument is immaterial and the nature of the document is to be derived from its contents. While so, a voluntary disposition can transfer the interest in *praesenti* and in future, in the same document. In such a case, the document would have the elements of both the settlement and will. Such document, then has to be registered and by operation of the doctrine of severability, becomes a composite document and has to be treated as both, a settlement and will and the respective rights will flow with regard to each disposition from the same document. It is pertinent to mention here that the reservation of life interest or any condition in the instrument, even if it postpones the physical delivery of possession to the donee/settlee, cannot be treated as a will, as the property had already been vested with the donee/settlee.

[Extracted from: NP Saseendran v NP Ponnamma 2025 INSC 388.]

86. Which of the following is NOT an essential of a valid gift:
- (A) It is a transfer of certain existing movable or immovable property.
 - (B) It is made voluntarily.
 - (C) It is made without consideration.
 - (D) It must be accepted by or on behalf of the donee during the lifetime of the donor, even if the donor becomes incapable of giving the property.
87. The element of _____ is common to all the three transactions, i.e. Gift, Settlement and Will:
- (A) physical delivery of possession.
 - (B) absence of consideration.
 - (C) voluntary disposition.
 - (D) vesting of the right in *praesenti*.
88. The main test to find out whether a document constitutes a 'Will' or a 'Settlement' is to see whether the disposition of the interest in the property is in *praesenti* in favour of the settlee or whether the disposition is to take effect on the death of the executant. In view of this position of law, choose the CORRECT proposition:
- (A) If the disposition is to take effect on the death of the executant, it will be a Settlement. But, if the executant divests his interest in the property and vests his interest in *praesenti* in the transferee, the document will be a Will.
 - (B) Whether the disposition is to take effect on the death of the executant or the executant divests his interest in the property and vests his interest in *praesenti* in the transferee, the document will nevertheless remain a Settlement.
 - (C) If the disposition is to take effect on the death of the executant, it will be a Will. But, if the executant divests his interest in the property and vests his interest in *praesenti* in the settlee, the document will be a Settlement.
 - (D) If the disposition takes effect on the assumption of death of the executant, it shall be a will.



89. Which of the following propositions is INCORRECT about a valid gift:
- (A) A gift may be suspended or revoked.
 - (B) A gift comprising both existing and future property is valid in totality.
 - (C) Delivery of possession is not a condition *sine qua non* to validate the gift.
 - (D) In so far as gift of an immovable property is concerned, registration is mandatory.
90. Which of the following propositions is CORRECT about a Will:
- (A) It is revocable, as no interest in the property is intended to pass during the lifetime of the testator.
 - (B) It is revocable, despite interest in the property being passed under the Will during the lifetime of the testator.
 - (C) It is revocable because registration is not mandatory.
 - (D) It is irrevocable because registration is not mandatory

XIX. "Mortgage inter alia means transfer of interest in the specific immovable property for the purpose of securing the money advanced by way of loan. Section 17(1)(c) of the Registration Act provides that a non-testamentary instrument which acknowledges the receipt or payment of any consideration on account of the creation, declaration, assignment, limitation or extension of any such right, title or interest, requires compulsory registration. Mortgage by deposit of title-deeds in terms of Section 58(f) of the Transfer of Property Act surely acknowledges the receipt and transfer of interest and, therefore, one may contend that its registration is compulsory.

However, Section 59 of the Transfer of Property Act mandates that every mortgage other than a mortgage by deposit of title-deeds can be effected only by a registered instrument. In the face of it, in our opinion, when the debtor deposits with the creditor title-deeds of the property for the purpose of security, it becomes mortgage in terms of Section 58(f) of the Transfer of Property Act and no registered instrument is required under Section 59 thereof as in other classes of mortgage.

The essence of mortgage by deposit of title-deeds is handing over by a borrower to the creditor title-deeds of immovable property with the intention that those documents shall constitute security, enabling the creditor to recover the money lent. After the deposit of the title-deeds the creditor and borrower may record the transaction in a memorandum but such a memorandum would not be an instrument of mortgage. A memorandum reducing other terms and conditions with regard to the deposit in the form of a document, however, shall require registration under Section 17(1)(c) of the Registration Act, but in a case in which such a document does not incorporate any term and condition, it is merely evidential and does not require registration."

[Extracted from: State of Haryana v Narvir Singh (2014) 1 SCC 105]

91. Which of the following is NOT an essential of a mortgage under the Transfer of Property Act, 1882:
- (A) It is a transfer of an interest in specific immovable property.
 - (B) It is for the purpose of securing the payment of money advanced or to be advanced by way of loan.
 - (C) It is always in respect of an existing debt.
 - (D) It is in respect of an existing or future debt, or the performance of an engagement which may give rise to a pecuniary liability.



92. A mortgage by deposit of title-deeds is a form of mortgage recognised by section 58(f) of the Transfer of Property Act, 1882, which provides that:
- (A) When the debtor deposits with the creditor the title-deeds of his property with an intent to create a security, the law implies a contract between the parties to create a mortgage, and no registered instrument is required under section 59 of the Transfer of Property Act, as in other forms of mortgage.
 - (B) When the debtor deposits with the creditor the title-deeds of his property with an intent to create a security, the implication of law (that there exists a contract between the parties to create a mortgage) is excluded, and a registered instrument is required under section 59 of the Transfer of Property Act.
 - (C) When the debtor deposits with the creditor the title-deeds of his property with an intent to create a security, the implication of law (that there exists a contract between the parties to create a mortgage) is excluded, and a registered instrument is required under section 58(f) of the Transfer of Property Act.
 - (D) When the debtor deposits with the creditor the title-deeds of his property with an intent to create a security, the implication of law (that there exists a contract between the parties to create a mortgage) is excluded, and a registered instrument is required under section 17(1)(c) of the Registration Act.
93. As per section 96 of the Transfer of Property Act, the provisions which apply to _____ shall, so far as may be, apply to a mortgage by deposit of title-deeds.
- (A) A simple mortgage.
 - (B) A mortgage by conditional sale.
 - (C) A usufructuary mortgage.
 - (D) An English mortgage.
94. The period of limitation for a suit to enforce payment of money secured by a mortgage or otherwise charged upon immovable property is:
- (A) 30 years.
 - (B) 12 years.
 - (C) 20 years.
 - (D) 3 years.



95. In a mortgage by deposit of title-deeds, after the deposit of the title-deeds, if the creditor and the borrower choose to record their transaction in a memorandum reducing other terms and conditions (in addition to what flow from the mortgage by deposit of title-deeds) with regard to the deposit in the form of a memorandum/document, then the memorandum/document requires registration under section 17(1)(c) of the Registration Act. In this context which among the following propositions is not correct?
- (A) The deposit and the document both form integral parts of the transaction and are essential ingredients in the creation of the mortgage.
 - (B) The deposit alone is not intended to create the charge and the document, which constitutes the bargain regarding the security, is also necessary and operates to create the charge in conjunction with the deposit.
 - (C) The implication of law (that there exists a contract between the parties to create a mortgage) is excluded by their express bargain, and the document becomes the sole evidence of its terms.
 - (D) The deposit and the documents do not form integral parts of the transaction and hence they are not essential ingredients in the creation of the mortgage.

XX. Having heard the learned Counsels for the parties, and on perusal of the material on record, the primary issue which arises for consideration of this Court is “whether a review or recall of an order passed in a criminal proceeding initiated under section 340 of CrPC is permissible or not?” [...] A careful consideration of the statutory provisions and the aforesaid decisions of this Court clarify the now-well settled position of jurisprudence of Section 362 of CrPC which when summarized would be that the criminal courts, as envisaged under the CrPC, are barred from altering or reviewing in their own judgments except for the exceptions which are explicitly provided by the statute, namely, correction of a clerical or an arithmetical error that might have been committed or the said power is provided under any other law for the time being in force. As the courts become *functus officio* the very moment a judgment or an order is signed, the bar of Section 362 CrPC becomes applicable. Despite the powers provided under Section 482 CrPC which, this veil cannot allow the courts to step beyond or circumvent an explicit bar. It also stands clarified that it is only in situations wherein an application for recall of an order or judgment seeking a procedural review that the bar would not apply and not a substantive review where the bar as contained in Section 362 CrPC is attracted. Numerous decisions of this Court have also elaborated that the bar under said provision is to be applied *stricto sensu*.

(Extracted with edits and revisions from *Vikram Bakshi v. RP Khosla* 2025 INSC 1020)

96. As per section 362 of Cr. P.C.(equivalent to section 403 of BNSS 2023), a criminal court has power to review or alter its own judgment or order only under the following circumstances.
- (A) If there is an error as to the question of fact.
 - (B) If there is an error as to the question of law.
 - (C) If there is/are clerical and arithmetical errors.
 - (D) If the judgment or order is rendered *per in curium*.



97. The bench in this case referred to a distinction drawn previously in *Grindlays Bank* case, that of procedural review and substantive review by criminal courts. Which of the following statements most accurately captures the distinction between the two decisions?
- (A) A procedural review is exercised when a higher court finds an error in interpretation, while a substantive review is limited to correcting factual inaccuracies within the same court.
 - (B) A procedural review is available only in appellate courts, whereas a substantive review may be conducted by the original court that issued in court
 - (C) A procedural review is inherent or implied in a court to set aside a palpably erroneous order passed under misapprehension by it. However, a substantive review is when error sought to be corrected is one of law and is apparent on the face of the record.
 - (D) A procedural review involves correcting errors of judgement made after hearing the parties while a substantive review is confined to omissions in recording of legal reasoning.
98. According to the Supreme Court's analysis, under which principle did the High Court claim to recall its Judgment, even though the Supreme Court ultimately rejected this basis?
- (A) *Ex debito justitiae*, to correct a factual error not brought to its notice earlier.
 - (B) Inherent power under Section 482 of the CrPC to prevent the abuse of the process of any Court.
 - (C) The power of a criminal court to conduct a "substantive review" on the merits of the case.
 - (D) The binding nature of the Supreme Court's earlier Judgment which mandated a decision on the perjury application.
99. The court identified certain exceptional circumstances wherein the criminal court is empowered to alter or review its own judgement or a final order under Section 362 (CrPC). Which of the following is NOT one among them:
- (A) Such power is expressly conferred upon court by law
 - (B) The court passing such a judgement or order lacked inherent jurisdiction to do so
 - (C) Fact relating to non-serving of necessary party being non-represented, not brought to notice of court while passing such judgment or order
 - (D) A subsequent judicial precedent renders the earlier judgment legally untenable



100. In relation to exceptional circumstances identified by the court under which the embargo on criminal courts to review or alter their judgement or final order after signing under Section 362 (CrPC) would not apply, which of the following statements is correct?

- I. The exceptions are exercisable only if a ground that is raised was not available or existent at the time of original proceedings before the Court
- II. The said power cannot be invoked as a means to circumvent the finality of the judicial process or mistakes and/or errors in the decision which are attributable to a conscious omission by the parties.

Select the most appropriate option:

- (A) Only I is correct
- (B) Only II is correct
- (C) Both I and II are correct
- (D) Both I and II are incorrect

XXI. A glance over all the Sections related to extortion would reveal a clear distinction being carried out between the actual commission of extortion and the process of putting a person in fear for the purpose of committing extortion.

Section 383 defines extortion, the punishment therefor is given in Section 384. Sections 386 and 388 provide for an aggravated form of extortion. These sections deal with the actual commission of an act of extortion, whereas Sections 385, 387 and 389 IPC seek to punish for an act committed for the purpose of extortion even though the act of extortion may not be complete and property not delivered. It is in the process of committing an offence that a person is put in fear of injury, death or grievous hurt. Section 387 IPC provides for a stage prior to committing extortion, which is putting a person in fear of death or grievous hurt 'in order to commit extortion', similar to Section 385 IPC. Hence, Section 387 IPC is an aggravated form of 385 IPC, not 384 IPC.

Having deliberated upon the offence of extortion and its forms, we proceed to analyze the essentials of both Sections, i.e., 383 and 387 IPC, the High Court dealt with.

(Extracted from *Balaji Traders v. State of UP*, 2025 INSC 806)

101. According to the Supreme Court's analysis in the judgment, Section 387 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) deals with:

- (A) The actual commission of the act of extortion by putting a person in fear of death or grievous hurt.
- (B) The punishment for a completed act of extortion by putting a person in fear of death or grievous hurt.
- (C) The process or stage prior to committing extortion, specifically putting or attempting to put a person in fear of death or grievous hurt in order to commit extortion.
- (D) A lesser, non-aggravated form of extortion defined in Section 383 IPC.



102. The core difference between Section 383/384 IPC (Extortion/Punishment) and Section 387 IPC (Putting person in fear of death or grievous hurt, in order to commit extortion), as established by the Supreme Court, is that:
- (A) Section 387 IPC requires the use of firearms, whereas Section 383/384 IPC does not.
 - (B) Section 383/384 IPC deals with the actual commission of extortion and requires delivery of property, while Section 387 IPC deals with the process (putting a person in fear) and does not require the delivery of property.
 - (C) Section 383/384 IPC is an aggravated form of Section 387 IPC.
 - (D) Section 387 IPC involves only an attempt, while Section 383/384 IPC involves a completed offence.
103. What is the minimum essential ingredient that the Supreme Court found *prima facie* disclosed in the complaint for an offence under Section 387 IPC?
- (A) The transfer of at least Rs. 5 lakhs from the complainant to the accused.
 - (B) The use of rifles, a specific type of weapon.
 - (C) Putting the complainant in fear of death or grievous hurt in order to commit extortion, such as by pointing a gun and demanding Rs. 5 lakhs per month.
 - (D) The existence of pending litigation regarding Trademark and Copyright claims.
104. The Supreme Court cites which of the following as a well-settled principle of law regarding the interpretation of penal statutes?
- (A) Penal statutes must be given a wide and flexible interpretation to cover all intended mischief.
 - (B) Courts are competent to stretch the meaning of an expression used by the Legislature to carry out the intention of the Legislature.
 - (C) If two possible and reasonable constructions can be put upon a penal provision, the Court must lean towards the construction that imposes the maximum penalty.
 - (D) If two possible and reasonable constructions can be put upon a penal provision, the Court must lean towards that construction which exempts the subject from penalty rather than the one which imposes penalty.
105. The Supreme Court's final decision on the appeal filed by M/s. Balaji Traders was to:
- (A) Dismiss the appeal and uphold the High Court's quashing order.
 - (B) Dismiss the appeal but modify the charge to Section 384 IPC.
 - (C) Allow the appeal, set aside the High Court's order, and restore the proceedings of Complaint case to the file of the Trial Court.
 - (D) Allow the appeal and transfer the case to the High Court for a fresh hearing on merits.



XXII. The reference essentially raises the following issue: whether a child who is conferred with legislative legitimacy under Section 16(1) or 16(2) is, by reason of Section 16(3), entitled to the ancestral/coparcenary property of the parents or is the child merely entitled to the self-earned/separate property of the parents. The questions that arise before us are - first, whether the legislative intent is to confer legitimacy on a child covered by Section 16 in a manner that makes them coparceners, and thus entitled to initiate or get a share in the partition - actual or notional; second, at what point does a specific property transition into becoming the property of the parent. For, it is solely within such property that children endowed with legislative legitimacy hold entitlement, in accordance with Section 16(3).[...] Holding that the consequence of legitimacy under sub-sections (1) or (2) of Section 16 is to place such an individual on an equal footing as a coparcener in the coparcenary would be contrary to the plain intendment of sub-section (3) of Section 16 of the HMA 1955 which recognises rights to or in the property only of the parents. In fact, the use of language in the negative by Section 16(3) places the position beyond the pale of doubt. We would therefore have to hold that when an individual falls within the protective ambit of sub-section (1) or sub-section (2) of Section 16, they would be entitled to rights in or to the absolute property of the parents and no other person. (Extracted with edits and revisions from *Revanasiddappa & Anr v. Mallikarjun* 2023 INSC 783)

106. When a Hindu Mitakshara coparcener, who has a child legitimised under section 16 of Hindu Marriage Act 1955, dies intestate, after the 2005 Amendment of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, what is the legal mechanism that determines the child's share in the parent's interest in the coparcenary property?
- (A) The Child becomes a coparcener by birth, and the entire coparcenary property is divided equally amongst all the coparceners.
 - (B) The parent's interest devolves by traditional rule of survivorship, and the section 16 child receives no share
 - (C) The parent's interest is first determined through a notional partition immediately before death under section 6 (3) of Hindu Succession Act 1956 and this determined share then devolves by intestate succession to all the deceased's children (including the section 16 child) under section 8/10 of Hindu Succession Act 1956.
 - (D) The share of section 16 child is limited to receiving maintenance from the joint family estate.
107. From the decisions rendered by the Supreme Court on this issue, which of the following correctly states the legal position of a child conferred with legitimacy under section 16 of Hindu Marriage Act
- (A) Such a child is a coparcener
 - (B) Such a child is not a coparcener
 - (C) Such a child is a coparcener, and has the power to seek partition of coparcenary property
 - (D) Such a child is a coparcener, but does not have the power to seek partition of coparcenary property



108. Consider the following statements:

- I. A child born out of a null and void marriage is considered as legitimate by law
- II. Conferment of legitimacy is irrespective of whether such child was born before or after the commencement of the Amending Act 1976

Select the most appropriate option:

- (A) Only I is correct
- (B) Only II is correct
- (C) Both I and II are correct
- (D) Both I and II are incorrect

109. Which of the following statements is correct in relation to the property rights of children from void/voidable marriages

- (A) Such a child can ask for partition of coparcenary property
- (B) Such a child can claim share in their own right in the undivided coparcenary property of his parents
- (C) Such a child has rights only to self-acquired property of his parents
- (D) Such a child cannot ask for partition of coparcenary property

110. Which of the following best summarises the conclusion reached by the Supreme Court regarding children conferred with legitimacy under Section 16 under the Hindu Marriage Act?

- (A) Such children are entitled to coparcenary rights in the ancestral property to their parents, equal to children born within a valid marriage
- (B) Such children are entitled only to the self-acquired or separate property of their parents, and not to ancestral/coparcenary property
- (C) Such children are entitled to inherit property only if no legitimate heirs exist from a valid marriage
- (D) Such children have no rights in any property of the parents, whether self-acquired or ancestral



XXIII. Live-in relationship, as such, as already indicated, is a relationship which has not been socially accepted in India, unlike many other countries. In *Lata Singh v. State of U.P.* [(2006) 5 SCC 475 : (2006) 2 SCC (Cri) 478] it was observed that a live-in relationship between two consenting adults of heterosexual sex does not amount to any offence even though it may be perceived as immoral. However, in order to provide a remedy in civil law for protection of women, from being victims of such relationship, and to prevent the occurrence of domestic violence in the society, first time in India, the DV Act has been enacted to cover the couple having relationship in the nature of marriage, persons related by consanguinity, marriages, etc. We have few other legislations also where reliefs have been provided to woman placed in certain vulnerable situations. Section 125 CrPC, of course, provides for maintenance of a destitute wife and Section 498-A IPC is related to mental cruelty inflicted on women by her husband and in-laws. Section 304-B IPC deals with the cases relating to dowry death. The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 was enacted to deal with the cases of dowry demands by the husband and family members. The Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act, 1956 provides for grant of maintenance to a legally wedded Hindu wife, and also deals with rules for adoption. The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 refers to the provisions dealing with solemnisation of marriage also deals with the provisions for divorce. For the first time, though, the DV Act, Parliament has recognised a “relationship in the nature of marriage” and not a live-in relationship simpliciter. We have already stated, when we examine whether a relationship will fall within the expression “relationship in the nature of marriage” within the meaning of Section 2(f) of the DV Act, we should have a close analysis of the entire relationship. Invariably, it may be a question of fact and degree, whether a relationship between two unrelated persons of the opposite sex meets the tests judicially evolved.

(Extracted with edits and revisions from Indra Sarma v. V.K.V. Sarma, (2013) 15 SCC 755)

111. What is the scope of analysis required to determine if a relationship falls within the expression “relationship in the nature of marriage” under Section 2(f) of the DV Act?
- (A) Considering the number of children born in a live in relationship.
 - (B) Considering only the cohabitation period of the relationship and their emotional connectivity.
 - (C) Conducting a close analysis of the entire interpersonal relationship, taking into account all facets.
 - (D) Evaluating only the financial aspects and mutual agreements of the relationship, and if there is any written agreement between the partner.
112. In which of the following cases, the Supreme Court read down the word “adult male” in Section 2(q) of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005?
- (A) *Indra Sarma v. V.K.V. Sarma* (2013) 15 SCC 755
 - (B) *Hiral P Harsora v. Kusum Harsora*, (Manu/SC/1269/2016)
 - (C) *Uma Narayanan v. Priya Krishna Prasad*, (Laws (Mad) 2008-8-28)
 - (D) *D Velusamy v. D Patchaiammal* (AIR 2011 SC 479)



113. As per section 20 of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, while disposing of an application under Section 12(1), the Magistrate may direct the respondent to pay monetary relief to the aggrieved person so that the aggrieved person can:
- (A) Live a life that meets at least the bare minimum needs for survival and basic well-being.
 - (B) Live a life that is consistent with her standard of living which she is accustomed.
 - (C) Live a life that is consistent with her parent's standard of living.
 - (D) Live a life which can cover her medical expenses and expenses incurred due to litigation of domestic violence.
114. In which case, the three judge bench of the Hon'ble Supreme Court has recently interpreted the term "shared household" and has held that "*...lives or at any stage has lived in a domestic relationship...*" have to be given its normal and purposeful meaning. The living of woman in a household has to refer to a living which has some permanency. Mere fleeting or casual living at different places shall not make a shared household.
- (A) Satish Chander Ahuja v. Sneha Ahuja, AIR 2020 SC 2483
 - (B) Rupa Ashok Hurra v. Ashok Hurra AIR 2002 SC 177
 - (C) S.R. Batra v. Tarun Batra (2007) 3 SCC 169
 - (D) B.R. Mehta Vs. Atma Devi (1987) 4 SCC 183
115. Under Indian Law, can a woman in a live in relationship claim maintenance under S. 125, CrPC despite not being a legally wedded wife?
- (A) No, as per the interpretation of statute 'wife' means legally wedded wife and includes who has been divorced by, or has obtained a divorce from her husband.
 - (B) Yes, a woman in a live in relationship can claim maintenance u/s 125, CrPC as strict proof of marriage is not necessary and maintenance cannot be denied if evidence suggests cohabitation.
 - (C) A woman in live in relationship can only claim maintenance if she has been cohabiting for more than five years and dependent children from the relationship.
 - (D) A woman in live in relationship can claim maintenance only through a civil suit as the protection of women from domestic violence act 2005 (PWDVA) does not apply to live in relationships.



XXIV. Section 2(47) of the Income Tax Act, 1961, which is an inclusive definition, inter alia, provides that relinquishment of an asset or extinguishment of any right therein amounts to a transfer of a capital asset. While the taxpayer continues to remain a shareholder of the company even with the reduction of share capital, it could not be accepted that there was no extinguishment of any part of his right as a shareholder qua the company.

A company under Section 66 of the Companies Act, 2013 has a right to reduce the share capital and one of the modes which could be adopted is to reduce the face value of the preference share.

When as a result of reducing the face value of the share, the share capital is reduced, the right of the preference shareholder to the dividend or his share capital and the right to share in the distribution of the net assets upon liquidation is extinguished proportionately to the extent of reduction in the capital. Such a reduction of the right of the capital asset clearly amounts to a transfer within the meaning of section 2(47) of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

(Extracted with edits and revisions from Principal Commissioner of Income Tax v. Jupiter Capital Pvt Ltd., (2025 INSC 38)

116. What was the core issue before the Supreme Court in this Special Leave Petition filed by the Income Tax Department?
- (A) Whether the assessee's claim for a long-term capital gain was correctly disallowed by the Assessing Officer.
 - (B) Whether the reduction in the number of shares due to a reduction in share capital amounted to a "transfer" under Section 2(47) of the Income Tax Act, 1961, allowing for a capital loss claim.
 - (C) Whether the High Court of Karnataka correctly relied on the decision of Anarkali Sarabhai v. CIT.
 - (D) Whether the face value of the shares remaining the same after the reduction nullified the claim of capital loss.
117. According to the Supreme Court, why does a reduction in share capital that proportionately reduces a shareholder's rights amount to a "transfer" under Section 2(47) of the Income Tax Act, 1961?
- (A) Because the shareholder's voting percentage remains constant, which is a form of continuous transfer.
 - (B) Because it involves a sale or exchange of the capital asset to another party.
 - (C) Because it is covered under the inclusive definition of "transfer" as an extinguishment of any rights in the capital asset.
 - (D) Because the face value of the shares remains unchanged, constituting a deemed transfer.



118. The Supreme Court clarified a principle regarding the computation of capital gains/loss under Section 48 of the Income Tax Act. What was this clarification?
- (A) That the reduction of share capital must result in a change in the percentage of shareholding.
 - (B) That the face value of the shares must be reduced for the transfer to be valid.
 - (C) That the transfer must be a sale or relinquishment, and not merely an extinguishment of rights.
 - (D) That receipt of some consideration in lieu of the extinguishment of rights is not a condition precedent for the computation of capital gains/loss.
119. The Supreme Court, in its summary of the principles from *Kartikeya V. Sarabhai*, stated that the right of a preference shareholder is extinguished proportionately to the extent of the capital reduction. Which of the following two specific rights were mentioned as being extinguished?
- (A) Right to voting power and right to attend general meetings.
 - (B) Right to proportional share of debt and right to appoint directors.
 - (C) Right to dividend/share capital and right to share in the distribution of net assets upon liquidation.
 - (D) Right to face value of the share and right to receive consideration.
120. The Supreme Court emphasized that the expression "extinguishment of any right therein" is of wide import. What does this expression cover?
- (A) Only transactions involving the sale or exchange of tangible capital assets.
 - (B) Only transactions resulting in the destruction, annihilation, or extinction of the entire capital asset.
 - (C) Every possible transaction that results in the destruction, annihilation, extinction, termination, cessation, or cancellation of all or any of the bundle of rights—qualitative or quantitative—that the assessee has in a capital asset.
 - (D) Only transactions where the face value of the shares is compulsorily reduced by a court order.
-



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COMMON LAW ADMISSION TEST (CLAT) 2026

Sunday, December 7, 2025, 02:00 P.M. – 04:00 P.M

APPENDIX IV: PROVISIONAL ANSWER KEY FOR THE QUESTION BOOKLET

WITH SYMBOL (p) -SET A: CLAT 2026-POSTGRADUATE

Q. No.	Correct Answer Option	Q. No.	Correct Answer Option	Q. No.	Correct Answer Option
1	C	41	C	81	A
2	C	42	A	82	D
3	D	43	A	83	B
4	D	44	B	84	C
5	C	45	D	85	B
6	C	46	C	86	A
7	C	47	C	87	D
8	A	48	A	88	A
9	C	49	D	89	C
10	D	50	C	90	B
11	B	51	C	91	C
12	B	52	B	92	C
13	B	53	C	93	B
14	B	54	D	94	D
15	C	55	C	95	C
16	C	56	C	96	B
17	B	57	B	97	B
18	C	58	C	98	C
19	C	59	D	99	C
20	B	60	B	100	C
21	D	61	C	101	A
22	C	62	B	102	B
23	A	63	B	103	B
24	A	64	A	104	B
25	C	65	B	105	B
26	C	66	B	106	A
27	B	67	C	107	C
28	C	68	D	108	D
29	A	69	C	109	C
30	D	70	C	110	C
31	A	71	D	111	B
32	Withdrawn	72	D	112	B



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Sunday, December 7, 2025, 02:00 P.M. – 04:00 P.M

33	D	73	A	113	B
34	A	74	D	114	A
35	C	75	C	115	B
36	D	76	B	116	B
37	C	77	D	117	C
38	C	78	D	118	B
39	B	79	C	119	B
40	A	80	C	120	B

Question Number 32 of Symbol (p) -SET A has been withdrawn. The final answer key will be released, and the results will be calculated based on 119 questions for now.



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COMMON LAW ADMISSION TEST (CLAT) 2026

Sunday, December 7, 2025, 02:00 P.M. – 04:00 P.M

APPENDIX IV: PROVISIONAL ANSWER KEY FOR THE QUESTION BOOKLET

WITH SYMBOL (σ)-SET B: CLAT 2026-POSTGRADUATE

Q. No.	Correct Answer Option	Q. No.	Correct Answer Option	Q. No.	Correct Answer Option
1	D	41	B	81	A
2	C	42	B	82	Withdrawn
3	C	43	B	83	D
4	B	44	A	84	A
5	A	45	B	85	C
6	C	46	B	86	D
7	A	47	C	87	D
8	A	48	B	88	A
9	B	49	B	89	D
10	D	50	B	90	C
11	C	51	C	91	B
12	C	52	C	92	D
13	A	53	D	93	D
14	D	54	D	94	C
15	C	55	C	95	C
16	C	56	C	96	A
17	B	57	C	97	D
18	C	58	A	98	B
19	D	59	C	99	C
20	C	60	D	100	B
21	C	61	B	101	A
22	B	62	B	102	D
23	C	63	B	103	A
24	D	64	B	104	C
25	B	65	C	105	B
26	C	66	C	106	C
27	B	67	B	107	C
28	B	68	C	108	B
29	A	69	C	109	D
30	B	70	B	110	C
31	B	71	D	111	B
32	C	72	C	112	B



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33	D	73	A	113	C
34	C	74	A	114	C
35	C	75	C	115	C
36	A	76	C	116	A
37	C	77	B	117	B
38	D	78	C	118	B
39	C	79	A	119	B
40	C	80	D	120	B

Question Number 82 of Symbol (σ) -SET B has been withdrawn. The final answer key will be released, and the results will be calculated based on 119 questions for now.



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APPENDIX IV: PROVISIONAL ANSWER KEY FOR THE QUESTION BOOKLET

WITH SYMBOL (τ) -SET C: CLAT 2026-POSTGRADUATE

Q. No.	Correct Answer Option	Q. No.	Correct Answer Option	Q. No.	Correct Answer Option
1	A	41	B	81	B
2	C	42	B	82	C
3	D	43	C	83	D
4	C	44	C	84	C
5	C	45	C	85	C
6	B	46	A	86	C
7	B	47	B	87	C
8	B	48	B	88	D
9	A	49	B	89	D
10	B	50	B	90	C
11	B	51	D	91	C
12	C	52	C	92	C
13	B	53	C	93	A
14	B	54	B	94	C
15	B	55	A	95	D
16	D	56	C	96	B
17	D	57	A	97	B
18	A	58	A	98	B
19	D	59	B	99	B
20	C	60	D	100	C
21	B	61	C	101	C
22	D	62	C	102	B
23	D	63	A	103	C
24	C	64	D	104	C
25	C	65	C	105	B
26	A	66	C	106	D
27	D	67	B	107	C
28	B	68	C	108	A
29	C	69	D	109	A
30	B	70	C	110	C
31	A	71	C	111	C
32	D	72	B	112	B



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33	A	73	C	113	C
34	C	74	D	114	A
35	B	75	B	115	D
36	C	76	C	116	A
37	C	77	B	117	Withdrawn
38	B	78	B	118	D
39	D	79	A	119	A
40	C	80	B	120	C

Question Number 117 of Symbol (τ)-SET C has been withdrawn. The final answer key will be released, and the results will be calculated based on 119 questions for now.



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COMMON LAW ADMISSION TEST (CLAT) 2026

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APPENDIX IV: PROVISIONAL ANSWER KEY FOR THE QUESTION BOOKLET

WITH SYMBOL (v) -SET D: CLAT 2026-POSTGRADUATE

Q. No.	Correct Answer Option	Q. No.	Correct Answer Option	Q. No.	Correct Answer Option
1	D	41	C	81	B
2	D	42	C	82	C
3	A	43	A	83	B
4	D	44	C	84	B
5	C	45	D	85	B
6	B	46	B	86	D
7	D	47	B	87	C
8	D	48	B	88	C
9	C	49	B	89	B
10	C	50	C	90	A
11	A	51	C	91	C
12	D	52	B	92	A
13	B	53	C	93	A
14	C	54	C	94	B
15	B	55	B	95	D
16	A	56	D	96	C
17	D	57	C	97	C
18	A	58	A	98	A
19	C	59	A	99	D
20	B	60	C	100	C
21	C	61	C	101	C
22	C	62	B	102	B
23	B	63	C	103	C
24	D	64	A	104	D
25	C	65	D	105	C
26	B	66	A	106	C
27	B	67	Withdrawn	107	B
28	C	68	D	108	C
29	C	69	A	109	D
30	C	70	C	110	B
31	A	71	A	111	C
32	B	72	C	112	B



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33	B	73	D	113	B
34	B	74	C	114	A
35	B	75	C	115	B
36	C	76	B	116	B
37	C	77	B	117	C
38	D	78	B	118	D
39	D	79	A	119	C
40	C	80	B	120	C

Question Number 67 of Symbol (v) -SET D has been withdrawn. The final answer key will be released, and the results will be calculated based on 119 questions for now.