



## CLAT 2025 MOCK TEST - 16

Instructions:

- Time allowed: 2 hours.
- Total Questions: 120.
- Try to complete the entire mock, do not get disheartened while doing it.
- Try to concentrate properly for 2 hours, we are with you.
- Do not forget to analyse after you are done.

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SCAN ME!

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**ENGLISH LANGUAGE****PASSAGE 1**

Dear Marta,

I found your pictures by chance in a library archive. In one, you're a girl in a gown. Your hand touches a birdcage. In another, you're older. Standing in a simple dress. A cactus and your Amargosa Opera House behind you. You lived in the desert alone, surrounded by the things of your making. You, the once great ghost-town dancer, painter, actress, writer, musician, performer, one-woman show. I danced ballet until my father forbade it. I painted and took acting classes. When you were my age, you left Manhattan to dance your own dances. At night, I drive on the highway. I pull toward exits that go somewhere far. I switch lanes, but never end up leaving. I cannot bring myself to leave the things that make me small. I read your memoir, watched your documentary. Like a time line, I formed a life's shape. I wonder if you, too, are able to see my life in full, and could be brought down to attend to it. I dreamt that we walked through the desert. We shared an apple. Yours, Gia

When I first found Marta's picture she reminded me of my mother. Slim with black hair. My mother didn't have an opera house in the desert, but she had her small bedroom at the front of the house with: two windows plastic solar-powered flowers that "danced" on the windowsill an Audubon clock that played different bird calls on the hour shelves filled with books on gardening and how to teach yourself Hebrew a yarn collection, organized by material the book of Proverbs opened on the table. Similarly alone, my grandmother insisted that she was a burden to others. She banished herself to an apartment with the Catholic TV channel and potato salad. Of my aunts: one was a nun; another cured her depression by swimming with horses and disappearing into the sea. What would become of me, if not follow suit? So I fled them. Marta was different. She built an accessible grand gesture. When she disappeared, she didn't disappear. Like a curtain, concealing and revealing, the opera house tethered her to the public. and her husband, Tom, were vacationing in Nevada, as the story goes. One morning they awoke in a wind-storm to a flat tire on their trailer. On foot, Marta found an empty white adobe complex with an abandoned hotel, offices, a café, and, lastly, through a courtyard of tamarisk trees and a door, she saw a theater, with kangaroo rats and a water-warped stage. "As I peered through the tiny hole," she said, "I had the distinct feeling that I was looking at the other half of my life. The building seemed to be saying, 'Take me. Do something with me. I offer you life.'" Marta and Tom moved into their trailer while they renovated. The desert was occupied by alfalfa and ostrich farms, wild horses, mesquite beans, and wind. Marta hated the wind for how it made emptiness emptier. They purchased lawn chairs and corduroy curtains, turned coffee cans into theater lights. Marta's aloneness became something more permanent. She saw herself mirrored in the discarded buildings and the stray cats in town. She rehearsed all day and sometimes taught ballet to the local children, who would later come to her opening performances dressed in pajamas. Tom changed too, from a big-city businessman into a desert bartender; a man in a cowboy hat who wasn't set up to live in the dust.

**Source: BITTER WATER OPERA, LITERARY HUB, 19 April, 2024.**

Q.1) Based on the passage, which of the following can be inferred about the author's views on solitude?

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- (a) Solitude is a crushing burden that only the weak embrace.
- (b) Solitude is a transformative experience that can lead to self-discovery.
- (c) Solitude is an unnecessary choice in modern society.
- (d) Solitude is best experienced in urban environments.

Q.2) "As I peered through the tiny hole, I had the distinct feeling that I was looking at the other half of my life." In elaboration of this sentence, which of these options follows?

- (a) The author was uncertain and fearful about the future she glimpsed through the hole.
- (b) The author felt a strong premonition that the building and its surroundings would become integral to her future.
- (c) The author regretted her past decisions which led her to that moment.
- (d) The author was reminiscing about her past life in the city as she looked through the hole.

Q.3) Which of the following statements is true about Marta's relationship with the desert environment?

- (a) Marta felt that the desert was an oppressive force that stifled her creativity.
- (b) Marta cherished the desert for its beauty and isolation, which fostered her creativity.
- (c) Marta was indifferent to the desert, focusing solely on her artistic projects.
- (d) Marta planned to leave the desert as soon as her artistic endeavors were recognized.

Q.4) What does the term "accessible grand gesture" refer to in the context of the passage?

- (a) Marta's decision to renovate the abandoned hotel and theater complex.
- (b) The simple life Marta lived in the desert, free from the complications of urban existence.
- (c) The dramatic changes in Tom's lifestyle as he adapted to desert life.
- (d) The communal efforts to maintain the desert's natural landscape.

Q.5) Which of the following words best describes the setting in the passage where Marta and Tom discovered the theater?

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- (a) Metropolitan
- (b) Derelict

- (c) Bustling
- (d) Forested

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#### PASSAGE 2

The building was old, parts of it made of large stones shaped into rough squares. It had been a hotel at one time, then a boardinghouse for derelict men. Now it was the Nine Lives, with a second floor she'd never been to, where you could play on slot machines or have a game of pool, but mostly people did little more than place bets on the day's horse races. The ground floor had a worn mahogany counter, with bottles and glasses stacked along a mirrored wall. The rest of the walls held big-screen televisions, all of them showing races, the same images in motion whichever way you turned. She was breathless as she rounded the corner, her throat shuddering at the sight of the security gate still closed.

"Hey," she called. "Hey, it's time to open."

Isaac looked up from where he was wiping down tables, said, "Sorry, you'll have to wait a bit. Trains weren't running again . . ."

"How long?"

"Five, ten minutes."

"For fuck's sake."

She went to sit at one of four picnic tables outside, swallowing hard to stop the beating in her throat. She lit a cigarette, checked her phone. 11:03. Another missed call, number withheld, a message from her service provider about some or other deal, and one from Monica: "Ugh morning sickness," followed by three green-faced vomiting emojis. She deleted the others, replied, "sorry darling" to Monica and added a heart, returning the phone to her bag.

She inhaled deeply, narrowed her eyes against the noise of the passing cars, more of them than usual. The traffic light was red and a dreadlocked man beckoned to the motorists, trying to sell The Big Issue. There was a face on the cover that she did not recognize, and "Good News at Last." She wondered what the good news was, looked across at the lampposts for the day's headline in case it might be there. There were five poles within her view, each weighed down by party political posters—calls for votes in the up-coming elections, promises of what they would do for the people, the usual bullshit. One of the poles had an advertisement for a comedy show at the Baxter Theatre, another promoted a baby and toddler expo at the Convention Center. There was only one newspaper headline in among all of that: no rain experts say.

She inhaled again, the smoke passing raggedly through her, and called toward the still-closed security gate as she saw Isaac walking by with a crate of glasses, "Come on, man, how much longer?"

"Five minutes."

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The others began to arrive, complaining of the traffic, as though they'd come together, bound to this place at all hours, from all locations.

Ricardo, in his seventies, who always wore the same two hand-knitted pullovers with white-collared shirts. "Mornings, mornings," he said. "People, let me tell you, don't try to

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go to Muizenberg today, there's protests and the trains are on fire and the traffic's backed up like it's the Second Coming."

**Source: CROOKED SEEDS, LITERARY HUB, 18 April, 2024.**

Q.6) What is the main theme discussed in the passage?

- (a) The unpredictability and inconvenience of urban transit.
- (b) The calming routine of morning rituals at a local bar.
- (c) The societal impacts of local elections and political promises.
- (d) The interpersonal dynamics and shared frustrations of the bar's regulars.

Q.7) Which of the following statements are true about the setting described in the passage?

- (a) The setting is primarily residential, with little commercial activity.
- (b) The setting includes a bar called the Nine Lives, which features a variety of gambling activities.
- (c) The setting is characterized by lush greenery and ample outdoor spaces.
- (d) The setting is tranquil and undisturbed by external events.

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Q.8) "For fuck's sake." This sentence implies that:

- (a) The speaker is expressing mild annoyance at a trivial inconvenience.
- (b) The speaker is venting frustration over a repeated and significant delay.
- (c) The speaker is making a casual comment with little emotional impact.
- (d) The speaker is politely requesting faster service.

Q.9) In contemporary literature, how is the relationship between character and setting described in the passage?

- (a) The setting acts as a backdrop that lightly influences the characters' actions.
- (b) The setting is a dynamic entity that actively shapes the characters' experiences and interactions.
- (c) The setting is unrelated to the characters' lives and serves only as a scenic detail.
- (d) The setting is a metaphorical reflection of the characters' internal conflicts.

Q.10) What use was the "mahogany counter" to the author in the context of the passage?

- (a) It served as a barrier between the staff and the patrons, creating a physical and emotional distance.

(b) It was merely decorative, contributing to the aesthetic of the old bar without practical utility. [Telegram - CLAT2025MOCKS](#)

(c) It was used as a functional piece of furniture where beverages were prepared and served.

(d) It symbolized the historical legacy of the bar, connecting present activities to its past as a hotel and boardinghouse.

### PASSAGE 3

On the second day of May, the first Friday of the month, Hal's current account was overdrawn by £291.13, including £120 of fees that had accumulated with each charge past the limit. He used a credit card over the weekend, thinking that the usual £1,500 would be in his account by Monday, and then it wasn't. He made a joke of it with Jack and Poin—"Yeah, he's terminated my contract on a morals clause"—and paid their tab on credit again. Had he not been good enough? He'd attended the Easter Vigil, sober and pious; on Good Friday he'd gone to Westminster for his internship, then stopped at St. Edward's to do the Stations of the Cross.

On May 10, Hal went to the corner shop for cigarettes and a Lucozade, and his cards were declined. He paid with the last £20 he'd got in cash, then sat on a bench on Eel Brook Common, circled by nannies pushing prams and middle-aged women walking toy dogs off-leash, while a whole lot of vocationless Sloanes (and why seest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye) tried to sunbathe on the grass even though the sun was out only intermittently.

When Henry answered Hal's call, he said, "You've been avoiding me."

"Yeah, I've been, uh, I've been a bit . . ."

"I don't want to punish you. But I don't know any other way to get you to talk to me."

"You're talking to me now. What do you want?"

"I'd like to see you. I haven't seen you in so long."

"We just saw each other at Easter."

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"A few weeks is a long time."

"I saw you once every few weeks from the ages of eight to twenty-one, I don't know what's different now."

"You were doing what was asked of you. Now what are you doing? Don't answer, I'll tell you. First of May: £63.46, Boar's Head Pub. £150 cash advance. £16.13, Golden Doner. £27.30, Denmark Off-License. Second of May: £7.17, Costa Coffee. £47.26, Boar's Head. £38.40, Deliveroo. £13.08, Denmark Off-License. Third of May: £4.12, Chelsea Coffeeshouse. £36.25, Boar's Head. £29.32, Denmark—"

"What do you want me to do? I haven't had my allowance since March."

"You and your brothers are bleeding me dry. But at least your brothers spend it decently. I'd hate to know where all those cash advances are going."

"Fresh fruit and veg from the farmers market. Not my fault it's five quid for one aubergine."

"Don't be funny. Why don't you come see me this afternoon?"

"Lunch at your club?"

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"No, I'm not going out, I'm not fit for it. I haven't been sleeping. Last week I took my tablets and got into bed, and when I woke up I was sitting with two policemen in the drawing room. They told me I'd gone out barefoot and tried to get a room at the Cadogan. I'd left the front door open. Thank God no one came in."

"Did you talk to Dr. Bradmore?"

"He told me not to take those ones anymore, and I said I don't know what I can possibly do if I don't, I've tried all the sleeping pills there are in the world. He said that I'm not getting enough exercise. Well, how can I, when I feel like this?"

"If I come, you'll feel worse."

"I won't force you."

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"No, of course not."

"But I haven't got anyone else. The rest of you are at school . . ."

"You could always try your fiancée."

"Better if Jeanne doesn't see me like this yet."

"I'm glad you care so much about her."

"You aren't jealous, are you?"

Hal said, "Not at all. There but for the grace of God go I."

He didn't go to see Henry. He sold one of his wristwatches at a "cash for gold" shop and placed an order with his cheapest dealer. In the evening, he went to the Boar's Head and pretended he didn't know his cards would be declined, and when the manager told him they were, he wheedled and flattered and reminded her how loyal a patron he'd been this past year and a half. Between the hours of about 9:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m., Hal felt greater pleasure than any man on this wretched earth had a right to feel. Across the river, Henry was alone and sleepless, and Hal was here in South London, happy. Then the pubs closed, the clubs closed, the tube stopped running. Golden Doner closed, Denmark Off-License closed. In spring, the sun rose earlier and earlier. The night buses turned back into day buses; the tube started running again. In the twenty-four-hour Tesco, the floor was cleaned, the expired perishables binned, the shelves restocked; the night shift ended and the day shift began. What was Hal going to do with himself? Who would listen to what he said? Who would laugh?

**Source: HENRY HENRY, THE LITERARY HUB, 15 April, 2024.**

Q.11) What is the main theme discussed in the passage?

- (a) The consequences of financial mismanagement and the strain of maintaining appearances.
- (b) The joys of nocturnal life and the freedom it brings from societal norms.
- (c) The importance of family relationships and their influence on personal decisions.
- (d) The detailed description of urban nightlife and its vibrant culture.

Q.12) What use was the "Boar's Head" to the author in the context of the passage?

- (a) It served as a refuge where Hal could find solace and escape from his financial woes.

- (b) It was a mere backdrop for social interactions, lacking any significant impact on the narrative.
- (c) It acted as a venue for Hal to display his loyalty and charm to negotiate credit.
- (d) It symbolized Hal's reckless spending habits and his disregard for financial responsibility.

Q.13) "There but for the grace of God go I." This sentence implies that:

- (a) Hal feels fortunate and relieved not to be in Henry's troubled situation.
- (b) Hal acknowledges a divine intervention that has spared him from misfortune.
- (c) Hal is expressing a deep sense of empathy and solidarity with Henry.
- (d) Hal is indifferent to Henry's plight and uses the phrase mockingly.

Q.14) In the light of the above passage, what role does Henry play in Hal's life?

- (a) Henry is a stabilizing financial support for Hal, often providing monetary assistance when needed.
- (b) Henry serves as a moral compass for Hal, reminding him of the responsibilities and ethics he should maintain.
- (c) Henry acts as a contrasting character to Hal, showcasing the consequences of a different lifestyle.
- (d) Henry is a distant figure, rarely involved in Hal's daily life or personal struggles.

Q.15) Which of the following options captures the meaning of the last sentence best?

- (a) Hal is considering the impact of his actions on his social connections and future.
- (b) Hal is reflecting on the fleeting nature of joy and the inevitable return to daily responsibilities.
- (c) Hal is lamenting the physical changes in the city as night turns into day.
- (d) Hal is curious about the operational aspects of the city's public transportation system.

#### **PASSAGE 4**

In the charming suburban town of Harmonyville lived a woman named Elimijn, a dedicated and caring housewife. Her days were filled with taking care of her family, managing the household and pursuing her creative hobbies. Two giants, Amazon and Walmart, played unexpected and integral roles in her life's journey. Elimijn was an avid reader and an aspiring artist. She loved exploring different genres of books and finding new sources of inspiration for her art. Amazon became her digital haven, offering an extensive collection of books, art supplies and crafting tools. With a few clicks, Elimijn could order the latest bestseller, a set of watercolour paints or even a specialized easel, all delivered right to her doorstep.



But Elimijn's affection for retail didn't end online. Walmart, with its sprawling store just a short drive away, provided a unique sensory experience. Elimijn enjoyed the tactile pleasure of wandering through its aisles, exploring a vast variety of products. She would often visit with a list in hand, making her way through the neatly organized shelves, hand-picking fresh groceries, household essentials and even some affordable fashion finds. What set Amazon and Walmart apart in Elimijn's heart was their balance in her life. Amazon's convenience saved her time and effort, allowing her to spend more precious moments with her family and immerse herself in her hobbies. On the other hand, Walmart's physical presence gave her a chance to step out, breathe in the air and indulge in a bit of old-fashioned retail therapy.

During holidays, Amazon's quick shipping helped Elimijn avoid the holiday rush. She could order thoughtful gifts for her loved ones, wrapping them up with care and sharing the joy of giving. But the annual tradition of visiting Walmart to select the perfect Christmas tree with her family remained unchanged. The smell of pine needles, the twinkling lights and the festive atmosphere created cherished memories that couldn't be replicated online.

Elimijn's relationship with these retail giants wasn't just about transactions. It was about the roles they played in her life's narrative. Amazon's efficiency became a trusted ally in her daily routine, while Walmart's physical presence provided a sense of connection to her community. In a surprising twist, Elimijn's creative endeavours gained recognition online. Her artwork found a following on social media, and soon enough, she was approached by both Amazon and Walmart to collaborate on exclusive lines of products. Amazon showcased her art supplies and books, while Walmart featured her artwork on select merchandise. Elimijn found herself at the crossroads of the very stores she had come to love. Her story was a reminder that these giants weren't just about commerce—they were about opportunities, experiences and connections. Through Elimijn's journey, Amazon and Walmart became not just retailers, but integral parts of her life, shaping her routines, her passions and even her dreams.

The battle between Amazon and Walmart, or more generally between online retail and physical stores, is often presented as a zero-sum game. It is believed that as online retailing becomes more popular, consumers will increasingly abandon brick-and-mortar stores. Clearly, there is some evidence supporting this as many traditional retail chains have gone bankrupt while online retailers like Amazon and Alibaba continue to deliver dramatic growth numbers. This difference in growth is also reflected, as noted earlier, in the hefty valuation that the markets place on disruptive e-commerce players relative to incumbent physical retailers.

**Source: Amazon Vs Walmart: Who's Winning the Battle for Your Buck?, Penguin.co, 18 March, 2024.**

Q.16) What is the main theme discussed in the passage?

(a) The competitive dynamics between traditional brick-and-mortar stores and online retail giants.

- (b) The personal growth and creative fulfillment of a suburban housewife through her interactions with retail outlets.
- (c) The economic impact of consumer preferences shifting from physical stores to online shopping.
- (d) The technological advancements that have enabled online stores to surpass physical retail in popularity.

Q.17) In the light of the above passage, what role does Amazon play in Elimijn's life?

- (a) Amazon is a mere convenience, providing an alternative to local shopping.
- (b) Amazon serves as a digital haven, enhancing her creative pursuits and simplifying her life.
- (c) Amazon is a secondary option when local stores do not have what she needs.
- (d) Amazon plays a negligible role, mentioned only for contrast with physical stores.

Q.18) Which of the following statements are true about Elimijn's interaction with Walmart?

- (a) Walmart is primarily a place for Elimijn to escape from her daily routines and engage in retail therapy.
- (b) Elimijn uses Walmart exclusively for purchasing groceries and does not explore other product categories.
- (c) Walmart serves as a critical resource for Elimijn, where she participates in the community and feels connected.
- (d) Walmart is visited by Elimijn only during the holiday season for Christmas tree shopping.

Q.19) "Amazon's efficiency became a trusted ally in her daily routine, while Walmart's physical presence provided a sense of connection to her community." In elaboration of this sentence, which of these options follows?

- (a) Amazon and Walmart complement each other in Elimijn's life, each serving distinct yet valuable roles.
- (b) Elimijn prefers Amazon for all her shopping needs, relegating Walmart to occasional community events.
- (c) Amazon is solely used for emergencies, while Walmart is her primary shopping destination.
- (d) Both Amazon and Walmart are seen as interchangeable in their roles in Elimijn's life.

Q.20) What does the term "retail therapy" refer to in the context of the passage?

- (a) A medical approach using shopping as a treatment for Elimijn's chronic conditions.
- (b) A leisure activity where Elimijn engages in shopping to unwind and enjoy herself.
- (c) A strategic method by which Elimijn budgets and plans her family's financial expenditures.
- (d) A professional service offered by Walmart to help customers with personal shopping.

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#### PASSAGE 5

'Baba, what is death? Why did Mom and Dad have such a short life?'

Vivaan had asked his grandfather these questions numerous times to, only to get a more mysterious answer each time. Today too, he was thinking about death. His thoughts came to a sudden halt as the car stopped. He had arrived at 'Vasant iwas. The beautiful childhood he spent with his grandfather, the old man's moist eyes when Vivaan was leaving for London, the spark in his eyes when he returned with a journalism degree and the shock when he announced that he wanted to settle down in Mumbai—the memories were vivid and fresh in Vivaan's mind. He stepped out of the car and stared at the house. He had never ever thought he would come to an empty home in Rajkot.

The vintage-style house was one of its kind in the city. Vivaan opened the huge front door and the light smell of sandalwood hit him immediately. He remembered his grandfather using sandalwood while performing his daily prayers. The scent of the sandalwood reflected Sudhir's subtle presence. The living room had white marble flooring, antique furniture and glass showpieces. There was a huge, embellished living room, prayer room and kitchen on the first floor of the house. Every morning after finishing his daily routine, Sudhir would sit in the prayer room on his mat in a fixed place and was not to be disturbed for an hour—and-a-half. There was another room through the prayer room, the key to which only Sudhir had. Vivaan still did not know what was in that room. He was curious, but after an incident that had happened in his childhood, he had not probed further.

Vivaan was shaking as he entered the living room. It was only last night when Sudhir had taken his last breaths in this very room. Vivaan imagined his grandfather stepping out of the prayer room, giving him a warm smile and offering him some prasaad. Vivaan reckoned that he had lost the pillar of his life.

His entire existence had crumbled in the last twelve hours. Though he had put on a brave face all this while, he was broken from within. He did not know how he would go on with his life without any family. He forced his eyes shut and crumpled to the floor. Fifteen minutes passed in absolute numbness. The sudden and loud ringing of his phone forced him to open his eyes and come back to reality.

'Hello . . .' Vivaan's voice was almost like a whisper.

'Good evening, son. Have you reached home?' Alok Chaudhary said, his tone firm but loving.

'Yes, uncle . . .'

'Freshen up and come to the morgue. I want to talk to you.' There was an urgency in Alok's tone.

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Alok Chaudhary, commissioner of the Rajkot Police, was a close friend of Sudhir Arya's. Though they were years apart, they got along well. At fifty-seven, Alok was a year away from retirement. He had achieved the position of commissioner after several years of hard work and was well respected by his department for his excellent observation skills. Many believed that Alok should be in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and use his reasoning and intellect for national security. But Alok had decided that after the wedding of his daughter, Riya, he wanted a peaceful life. He was no longer the same person he had been at the start of his professional journey, mainly due to the emotional turmoil he had gone through in his life. Alok had a profound reverence for Sudhir. Every evening after work, he would visit Vasant Niwas. He had a thirst to learn about history and mythology. And Sudhir Arya was a treasure trove of knowledge! Though he was fifty-seven, Alok would listen prudently to everything Sudhir said. Their discussions would range from ancient history to the multinational companies that Vivaan ran. He had always addressed Sudhir as 'Dada.' When he heard the news of Dada's death that morning, he could not believe it.

**Source: Mrityunjay: Can Vivaan Unravel The Truth Behind His Grandfather's Mysterious Death?, Penguin.co, 26 March, 2024.**

Q.21) In contemporary literature, how is the relationship between character and setting described in the passage?

- (a) The setting is a backdrop that passively contextualizes the character's emotional state without influencing the narrative.
- (b) The setting actively reflects and enhances the protagonist's internal conflict, creating a mood that mirrors his emotional turmoil.
- (c) The setting is irrelevant to the character's development, serving only as a location for the action to take place.
- (d) The setting serves as a contrast to the protagonist's emotions, highlighting his stability in an otherwise chaotic environment.

Q.22) What is the central thesis of the above extract?

- (a) The emotional journey of a man reconnecting with his past and facing the realities of loss and heritage.
- (b) An exploration of the logistical challenges faced by individuals when returning to their familial homes.
- (c) A detailed account of the architectural uniqueness of a vintage house in Rajkot.
- (d) The impact of professional achievements on personal relationships and family dynamics.

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Q.23) "Vivaan was shaking as he entered the living room. It was only last night when Sudhir had taken his last breaths in this very room." In elaboration of this sentence, which of these options follows?

- (a) Vivaan's emotional response is heightened by the recent loss of his grandfather, illustrating his deep attachment and grief.
- (b) The shaking signifies Vivaan's fear of inheriting the house, indicating his reluctance to take over family responsibilities.
- (c) Vivaan's reaction is due to the cold temperature in the living room, suggesting a lack of warmth and welcome.
- (d) The description of Vivaan shaking is a metaphor for the instability in his life, showing his uncertain future.

Q.24) Which of the following words best describes the setting in "Vasant Niwas"?

- (a) Modern
- (b) Opulent
- (c) Vintage
- (d) Sparse

Q.25) What does the term "prasaad" refer to in the context of the passage?

- (a) A traditional Indian ritual involving meditation and prayer.
- (b) A type of furniture found commonly in South Asian homes.
- (c) A religious offering typically distributed after prayers in Hindu culture.
- (d) A personal item belonging to Vivaan's grandfather that holds sentimental value.

## GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

### PASSAGE 6

UNICEF India, along with the International Institute of Health Management Research (IIHMR) Delhi and the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay), has unveiled a comprehensive online course on digital health, the organisation informed in a press statement on Thursday. Scheduled to commence from April 17, 2024, the 'Digital Health Enterprise Planning Course' spans over 10 weeks and targets healthcare professionals, policymakers, IT experts, and individuals involved in healthcare technology implementation. The course covers diverse topics including digital health interventions, telemedicine, health informatics, and cybersecurity, the press statement further informed. This initiative aligns with UNICEF India's commitment to the Global Initiative on Digital Health (GIDH), focusing on leveraging digital technologies effectively to enhance healthcare delivery in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Cynthia Mc

Caffrey, UNICEF India Representative, emphasised the course's role in fostering digital innovation in the health system, aiming to strengthen healthcare delivery and ensure equitable access to quality healthcare across India. She said, "The transformative journey we embark on is focused on equity, its success will not be gauged by the technologies we employ but by the impact made on lives on every girl, boy and on the communities that we empower."

Prof. Sutapa B. Neogi, Director of IIHMR Delhi, highlighted the importance of equipping healthcare professionals with digital skills to optimise healthcare delivery systems, especially in underserved communities.

The course curriculum, developed in consultation with experts from IIHMR Delhi, IIT Mumbai, and with technical inputs from UNICEF India, is tailored to the Indian context. It draws from a global program offered by the Digital Health Centre of Excellence (DICE), a consortium co-led by UNICEF and WHO, the statement read. Dr Santosh Noronha of IIT Mumbai stressed the collaborative efforts toward building a robust digital health ecosystem, aiming to empower healthcare professionals for a healthier and more inclusive future stating, "The launch of this digital health course is a testament to the collaborative efforts towards building a robust digital health ecosystem in India. By empowering healthcare professionals with digital skills, we are paving the way for a healthier and more inclusive future."

**Source: UNICEF India, IIHMR Delhi & IIT Mumbai Collaborate To Launch Digital Health Course, BW Healthcare World, 1 April, 2024.**

Q.26) \_\_\_\_\_ is the Director General of WHO

- (a) Margaret Chan
- (b) Anthony Fauci
- (c) Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
- (d) Gro Harlem Brundtland

Q.27) Who is the director of UNICEF?

- (a) Henrietta H. Fore
- (b) Catherine M. Russell
- (c) Anthony Lake
- (d) Carol Bellamy

Q.28) What does UNICEF stand for?

- (a) United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
- (b) United Nations Intercontinental Cultural Education Fund
- (c) Universal Nations Initiative for Child Empowerment Foundation
- (d) United National Industrialized Child Educational Facility

Q.29) When was UNICEF established?



- (a) 1946
- (b) 1950
- (c) 1965
- (d) 1972

Q.30) In which city is UNICEF's headquarters located?

- (a) London, United Kingdom
- (b) New York, USA
- (c) Geneva, Switzerland
- (d) Paris, France

Q.31) What unique program is UNICEF known for launching that focuses on child survival and development?

- (a) Education Cannot Wait
- (b) Global Goals
- (c) Every Child Alive
- (d) Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF

### **PASSAGE 7**

The World Health Organization (WHO) has launched a global network of laboratories to identify and monitor potentially novel coronaviruses that could emerge shortly. Besides SARS-CoV-2, the new WHO Coronavirus Network, called CoViNet, will assess other coronaviruses, including MERS-CoV, with enhanced laboratory capacity. The international agency widened its focus by building on its earlier collaboration with the WHO COVID-19 reference laboratory network, which was set up in January 2020 during the pandemic to confirm the disease. The network will now have animal health and environmental surveillance and timely risk assessment to feed WHO policies and protective measures. In low- and middle-income countries, CoViNet will support the building of more laboratories to monitor MERS-CoV and novel coronaviruses of public health importance. "Coronaviruses have time and again demonstrated their epidemic and pandemic risk," Dr Maria Van Kerkhove, acting director of WHO's department of epidemic and pandemic preparedness and prevention, said in a statement. She added, "This new global network for coronaviruses will ensure timely detection, monitoring, and assessment of coronaviruses of public health importance." The world has witnessed four influenza pandemics, varying in severity, over the last 100 years, but the last pandemic has put the WHO on alert for detecting novel coronaviruses. CoViNet comprises 36 laboratories from 21 countries in all six WHO regions, including three Indian laboratories. These are the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, the Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Virology in Pune, and the Translational Health Science and Technology Institute. At a meeting on March 26-27, 2024 in Geneva, Switzerland, representatives of the laboratories finalised

an action plan for 2024-2025 to respond to health challenges brought on by novel coronaviruses.

Further, virus sequencing and data gathered through the network will guide the WHO's Technical Advisory Groups on Viral Evolution formed to assess the SARS-CoV-2 mutations and variants, as well as the expert advisory group on COVID-19 vaccine composition.

COVID-19 was the first 'Disease X' and it may happen again, warned WHO's Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus at a recent event hosted by the World Economic Forum. Disease X is a placeholder for an unknown disease anticipated by the WHO to be of unprecedented magnitude. It is mostly likely to be a zoonotic disease with a ribonucleic acid (RNA) virus. Coronaviruses are a large family of RNA viruses.

**Source: WHO launches 'CoViNet' — a global laboratory to monitor emerging coronaviruses, Down to Earth, 1 April, 2024.**

Q.32) When was the World Health Organization (WHO) established?

- (a) 1945
- (b) 1948
- (c) 1950
- (d) 1963

Q.33) What significant global health emergency did WHO declare over the Zika virus outbreak?

- (a) International Health Emergency
- (b) Global Health Crisis
- (c) Public Health Emergency of International Concern
- (d) World Health Alert

Q.34) What is the full form of COVID-19?

- (a) Coronavirus Disease 2019
- (b) Corona Vaccine Disease 2019
- (c) Covert Virus Data 2019
- (d) None of the above

Q.35) What is the main transmission route of the coronavirus responsible for COVID-19?

- (a) Contaminated water
- (b) Airborne droplets from coughs or sneezes
- (c) Direct sunlight
- (d) Touching surfaces

Q.36) Which type of vaccine technology is used in the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine?

- (a) Viral vector

- (b) mRNA
- (c) Protein subunit
- (d) Inactivated virus

Q.37) Where is the headquarters of the World Health Organization located?

- (a) New York, USA
- (b) Geneva, Switzerland
- (c) Paris, France
- (d) London, United Kingdom

### PASSAGE 8

SIA-India, India's leading space association, and ABRASAT, Brazil's prominent Satellite Communications Association, have today forged a partnership through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This collaboration aims to enhance cooperation and progress in the space sector of both countries. The MoU signifies the mutual commitment of both associations to strengthen their strategic collaboration in space. It lays the groundwork for innovative projects and technological collaboration. This partnership is anticipated to facilitate business expansion and mutual cooperation between India and Brazil across various domains such as satellite communication, rocket launches, payload development, and ground instrumentation[1], President of SIA-India, highlighted the longstanding alliance between India and Brazil. And stated the potential for deeper cooperation in satellite communication, encompassing a wide range of technologies and services, from broadband connectivity to emergency response systems.

Mauro Wajnberg, President of ABRASAT, acknowledged the successful history of space collaboration between Brazil and India, exemplified by the launch of the Amazonia 1 satellite. He views the MoU as a significant step forward in strengthening ties and unlocking new opportunities for collaboration.

Anil Prakash, DG of SIA-India, commended India's progressive FDI policy in the space sector, which allows 100 percent FDI. He sees it as a catalyst for job creation, technological advancement, and self-reliance, aligning with India's initiatives for innovation and economic empowerment.

**Source: Fostering Space Collaboration: SIA-India and ABRASAT Partnership, Financial Express, 1 April, 2024.**

Q.38) \_\_\_\_\_ is the president of SIA-India, as indicated by [1] in the passage

- (a) Dr. K. Sivan
- (b) Dr. Subba Rao Pavuluri
- (c) Nambi Narayanan
- (d) Dr. A. S. Kiran Kumar

Q.39) When was the Satcom Industry Association of India officially launched?

- (a) 2015

- (b) 2017
- (c) 2019
- (d) 2022

Q.40) What is the primary purpose of communication satellites?

- (a) To conduct atmospheric research
- (b) To facilitate telecommunications across large distances
- (c) To monitor meteorological conditions
- (d) To perform deep space exploration

Q.41) Which country launched the first artificial satellite into space?

- (a) United States
- (b) Soviet Union
- (c) China
- (d) France

Q.42) What is the term used to describe a satellite's path around a planet?

- (a) Trajectory
- (b) Orbit
- (c) Flight path
- (d) Route

Q.43) Which type of orbit is commonly used for weather satellites, providing consistent, real-time data over a specific area?

- (a) Low Earth Orbit (LEO)
- (b) Medium Earth Orbit (MEO)
- (c) Geostationary Orbit (GEO)
- (d) Polar Orbit

### **PASSAGE 9**

Team India have ended their Youth Boxing World Cup 2024 campaign in Budva, Montenegro, with 26 medals. They finished as the runners-up in the competition, having won five gold medals, nine silver medals, and 12 bronze medals. They won 15 medals in the youth women's category and 11 medals in the youth men's category in Montenegro. India won four gold medals in the youth women's category and one in the youth men's category. Chanchal Chaudhary won a gold medal in the 50kg category, while Nikita Chand secured a gold medal in the 60kg category. Parthavi Grewal and Phalaswal Akansha also clinched gold medals for India in the 66kg and 70kg categories, respectively.

Brajesh Tamta secured the lone gold medal for India in the youth men's category. The young Indian pugilist competed in the 48kg category and brought glory. Youth Women's

50kg gold medalist Nikita Chand was also adjudged as the 'Best Boxer' of the Youth Boxing World Cup 2024.

**Source: Team India win 26 medals at Youth Boxing World Cup 2024, Sportskeeda, 11 March, 2024.**

Q.44) Who is known as "The Greatest" and is considered one of the most significant sports figures of the 20th century in boxing?

- (a) Mike Tyson
- (b) Floyd Mayweather
- (c) Muhammad Ali
- (d) Manny Pacquiao

Q.45) Which boxing class is immediately above lightweight?

- (a) Featherweight
- (b) Welterweight
- (c) Middleweight
- (d) Super lightweight

Q.46) What is the standard length of a professional boxing round?

- (a) 2 minutes
- (b) 3 minutes
- (c) 5 minutes
- (d) 4 minutes

Q.47) What is the name given to the area where boxers rest during intervals between rounds?

- (a) Ring corner
- (b) Boxer's lounge
- (c) The pit
- (d) Fighter's square

Q.48) What does AIBA stand for in the context of international boxing?

- (a) Association of International Boxing Amateurs
- (b) Association of International Boxing Athletes
- (c) International Amateur Boxing Association
- (d) International Association of Boxing Athletes

Q.49) When was AIBA founded?

- (a) 1946

- (b) 1950
- (c) 1964
- (d) 1978

**PASSAGE 10**

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is set to commence a 'Gagan Shakti-2024', 10-day exercise to test its capabilities and preparedness for high-intensity operations. IAF showcases its might and capability during the exercise "in a realistic environment" from [1], 2024, involving all air force bases and assets scattered across the country.

'Gagan Shakti' was last held in 2018 when the IAF clocked more than 11,000 sorties during the two-phase air manoeuvre that saw the concentration of the force's deployed assets move from the western sector to the eastern front in less than 48 hours.

It sought to test the IAF's readiness for a two-front war with China and Pakistan.

The latest drills follow the Vayu Shakti-2024 exercise, conducted at the Pokhran air-to-ground range near Jaisalmer, where the IAF deployed its frontline assets, including the Rafale fighter jets, Mirage-2000s, Sukhoi-30 MKIs, Tejas light combat aircraft (LCA), Jaguars, Chinook heavy-lift helicopters, Apache attack helicopters, unmanned aerial vehicles and surface-to-air missile systems.

This year's Vayu Shakti was followed by the tri-services Bharat Shakti exercise. The integrated tri-services 'live fire and manoeuvre' exercise displayed how the Indian military plans to leverage its indigenous capabilities for dominating the battlefield and crushing any threat to national security.

**Source: 'Gagan Shakti-2024': IAF to kick off mega 10-day drills on April 1, Hindustan Times, 1 April, 2024.**

Q.50) Gagan Shakti-24 will be observed from \_\_\_\_\_, as indicated by [1] in the passage.

- (a) March 20-30
- (b) April 1-10
- (c) May 15-25
- (d) June 5-15

Q.51) What is the motto of the Indian Air Force?

- (a) Touch the Sky with Glory
- (b) Service Before Self
- (c) From the Sea to the Stars
- (d) None of the Above

Q.52) Which aircraft is known as the 'Bahadur' in the Indian Air Force?

- (a) MiG-21
- (b) MiG-27
- (c) Sukhoi Su-30MKI



(d) HAL Tejas

Q.53) When is Indian Air Force Day celebrated?

- (a) August 15
- (b) October 8
- (c) December 4
- (d) January 26

Q.54) Which is the largest air base of the Indian Air Force in terms of area?

- (a) Hindon Air Force Base
- (b) Yelahanka Air Force Base
- (c) Agra Air Force Base
- (d) Bathinda Air Force Base

Q.55) What is the name of the helicopter manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) that is extensively used by the Indian Air Force for various roles including attack and transport?

- (a) Chetak
- (b) Dhruv
- (c) Cheetah
- (d) Rudra

### LEGAL REASONING

#### PASSAGE - 11

After about a decade of extensive planning and careful crafting, came the historic declaration of introducing Goods and Services Tax (GST), replacing a multitude of central as well as statewide taxes. In common parlance, GST is a consolidated tax — centre and state levying taxes on a payer. The 1st of July, 2017 would break the seven decade long lacunae, delivering a complete overhaul of the Indian Taxation System. Under the previous tax system, direct and indirect taxes levied on goods and services fell between 25% and 40%, which have now been restructured between 5% and 28% for around 1200 goods and services. There are some components; including commonly used consumables like milk, eggs, fruit, vegetables, meat, fish and chicken, legal documents (such as stamps, stamp papers and other utilities like printed books and newspapers); which have received complete GST exemption sale. On the other hand, several other services have witnessed a hike as compared to the collective taxes implied before enforcing GST. In a surprising turn of events, various services offered by the Banking and Finance sector are expected to fall under the latter associated with this new tax regime. Categorising these services, which were earlier taxed at 15%, along with telecom & IT

and other such semi-essential goods, such as preserved foods, mineral water and notebooks, financial transactions, will now fall under 18% GST. This hike of 3% means an increment of INR 3 on every INR 100 spent on financial transactions. However, it is important to note that this increment does not directly affect services related to commodities, such as gold and silver on which a concessional GST rate would be applicable. This increment would not directly affect financial organisations since the operational cost would indirectly be remitted by organisations with a larger transaction flow. In this case, individuals would bear the burden of paying a little more to avail these services. Such a massive operational change would demand an intensive resource up-scaling, including training employees to be aware of the changes and rethinking their policy structure. It would be a daunting task, to say the least. A platter of concerns covers finance sectors' platform, enforcing them to be well-equipped to deal with them.

**Branch Registration – A New Hassle** A painstaking one-time process that is now inevitable, contrary to a centralised registration of the Indian banks under the former tax regime reforms, demand a state-wise registration of all bank branches. This would considerably increase the initial workload as well as expenditure. Instead of two returns to be filed as a service tax assessee, given the nation-wide reach, most banks would now end up filing more than 60 monthly and annual returns, collectively.

This transformation directly authorises state regulators, with which the branch holds its registration, to conduct assessments regarding the branch's utilisation of GST. In addition to this, transactions between branches would also be considered taxable under this context. This means that a transaction between two branches of the same bank registered under different states would be taxed as the location of the supplied services changes. Technically, this 'self-service' tax would be difficult to track considering the volume of transactions that are carried out on a daily basis. Such complexity proves to be extremely difficult to overcome as banks continue appealing for amends in the current framework. GST provides an important functional control as banks get to decide whether a transaction would fall under Central GST (CGST), State GST (SGST) or Integrated GST (IGST) bracket. This revamped registration compliance compels financial institutions to pinpoint the origin of operations for both individual and commercial consumers of financial services. For individuals, the registration for their banking and financial needs would be done at the state level where they are currently residing. It is difficult to manage these accounts knowing how commonly individuals change their state of residence while seeking better career opportunities.

**Source: IMPACT OF GST ON BANKING SERVICES, YES BANK.**

Q.56) Aditya, a resident of Maharashtra, has a savings account with 'Bharat National Bank', a bank which has recently transitioned to the new GST regime. He has noticed that the service charges on his transactions have increased. Additionally, he is contemplating a job offer in Karnataka, which would require him to transfer his account to a branch there. As a part of his relocation, Aditya also plans to purchase various insurance products from the same bank in Karnataka.

(a) The increase in service charges is unrelated to the GST regime, as financial services are exempt from GST.

(b) Aditya would have to register as a service receiver in Karnataka for his banking needs as per GST norms.

(c) Insurance products bought in Karnataka will attract the same GST rate as Maharashtra since GST is a central levy.

(d) Aditya's account transfer from Maharashtra to Karnataka will not have any GST implications because inter-state branch services within the same bank are non-taxable.

Q.57) 'Umeed Finance', a microfinance company, operates with a centralised registration in Delhi but has branches across various states. Post-GST implementation, they have to register all branches state-wise. They engage in frequent inter-branch transactions involving loan disbursements and repayments. The head office in Delhi is contemplating the tax implications of such branch transactions.

(a) Inter-branch transactions would be free of GST since they fall within the same legal entity.

(b) Only loan disbursements from one branch to another would incur GST, while repayments would not.

(c) 'Umeed Finance' can continue with a centralised registration and doesn't need separate state registrations for each branch.

(d) The loan disbursements and repayments between the branches in different states would be considered taxable under GST.

Q.58) Priya, an IT professional who regularly invests in gold ETFs (Exchange-Traded Funds) through her bank 'Modern Finance', is evaluating the impact of GST on her investments. She knows that direct transactions with gold and silver are subject to concessional GST rates, but she is uncertain about how GST applies to gold ETFs and the banking services associated with them.

(a) Gold ETF transactions will not attract any GST, as they are directly linked to the commodities gold and silver.

(b) The banking services related to Priya's gold ETF investments will attract a standard GST rate, not the concessional rate for gold.

(c) Priya's gold ETF investments will now be taxed at 18% GST due to the increment associated with financial transactions under the new GST regime.

(d) The operational cost of 'Modern Finance' related to GST on financial transactions will be borne by the bank, hence Priya will not face any increased charges.

Q.59) Rishabh is the CFO of 'New Horizon Bank' with its headquarters in Telangana, and he is responsible for managing the GST transition for all the bank branches across India. He observes a significant increase in operational costs due to the need for state-wise branch registrations and the filing of numerous monthly and annual returns. Rishabh also

has to consider the GST impact on the transactional services between branches, particularly when the bank plans to offer a new inter-branch fund transfer service for its customers.

- (a) 'New Horizon Bank' can avoid the increased operational costs by choosing not to register branches in each state as it is not a mandatory requirement.
- (b) The bank will incur no additional GST on the proposed inter-branch fund transfer service since it is an intra-company transaction.
- (c) Rishabh must ensure that 'New Horizon Bank' files only two returns per state for GST compliance, irrespective of the number of branches it has in that state.
- (d) Inter-branch fund transfer services will attract GST, and Rishabh will have to oversee the accurate determination and payment of this tax.

Q.60) Vinita is a relationship manager at 'Prosperity Bank', which has recently complied with the new GST norms and registered its branches across multiple states. She is advising a high-net-worth client who holds multiple accounts and fixed deposits in different branches across state lines. The client is concerned about the tax implications on the interest accrued from his fixed deposits and the fees charged for maintaining multiple accounts.

- (a) The interest accrued from the fixed deposits will now be taxed under GST due to the new interstate transaction rules.
- (b) Prosperity Bank is now obliged to charge the client GST on the fees for maintaining accounts across state lines, in addition to the already applicable service tax.
- (c) The client's concerns about GST on interest from fixed deposits are unfounded, as the passage suggests no direct tax on the interest, but only on transaction services.
- (d) Vinita can assure the client that there will be no GST implications on the services as the bank has absorbed all additional GST-related operational costs.

Q.61) Deepak, the compliance officer for 'Greenleaf Bank', is grappling with the complexities of filing GST returns. The bank's sprawling network across the country necessitates detailed transaction tracking, as GST on financial services has increased. Deepak is particularly perplexed about the bank's recent promotional offer of zero-fee wire transfers for a period, which were heavily utilized by customers for inter-state transactions. He is now wondering whether these promotional transactions should be considered for GST calculations despite not incurring any fee.

- (a) Since no fees were charged on the promotional wire transfers, these transactions are outside the purview of GST, and Deepak need not consider them for GST calculations.
- (b) Despite being a promotional offer, the zero-fee wire transfers between states are subject to GST, and Deepak must include them in the GST returns.

- (c) Greenleaf Bank must reverse the promotional offer and charge a nominal fee on wire transfers to comply with the GST regime's transaction tax requirements.
- (d) The promotional offer exempts Greenleaf Bank from having to register the transactions for GST calculations due to the concessional nature of customer rewards and incentives.

Q.62) In a bustling town of Hubli, a much-publicized case emerged involving a well-known theatre actor, Girish, who was accused of committing a heinous assault on a fellow actor due to professional rivalry. The case captivated public interest, leading to intense media scrutiny. During the trial, Girish's defense presented a strong alibi, placing him at a charity event at the time of the alleged assault. Multiple witnesses corroborated his presence there, including the event organizer, Anuradha. Despite this, the prosecution hinged their case on the testimony of an eyewitness, who claimed to have seen Girish at the scene of the crime. The Trial Court, finding the alibi more credible, acquitted Girish. However, the state, believing justice was not served, appealed to the Karnataka High Court. The High Court meticulously reviewed the alibi and the eyewitness testimony, eventually convicting Girish, arguing that the eyewitness's account held more weight. With the legal battle moving to the Supreme Court, Girish contends that the High Court exceeded its jurisdiction in reassessing the credibility of his alibi and the eyewitnesses. Considering the principles reiterated by the Supreme Court in the passage, what should the Supreme Court primarily evaluate in Girish's appeal?

- (a) The veracity of the charity event and the trustworthiness of Anuradha's corroboration.
- (b) The robustness of the prosecution's argument in dismissing Girish's alibi.
- (c) The influence of media coverage on the credibility of the eyewitness testimony.
- (d) Whether the High Court, in its appraisal of the alibi and eyewitness testimony, acted within the scope of its authority in an appeal against acquittal.

### **PASSAGE – 12**

Recently, the Supreme Court (on April 19) reiterated the principles that must be adhered to by the appellate Court while reversing the decision of acquittal as arrived by the Trial Court. The guiding principles read as follows: "(a) That the judgment of acquittal suffers from patent perversity; (b) That the same is based on a misreading/omission to consider material evidence on record; (c) That no two reasonable views are possible and only the view consistent with the guilt of the accused is possible from the evidence available on record." Elucidating it, the Bench of Justices B.R Gavai and Sandeep Mehta stated that the appellate Court overturning a judgment of acquittal must record its findings on the aforesaid factors. To state the facts briefly, it is the prosecution's narrative that the complainant's son (deceased) had gone to put up a bund (check dam) in their land along with other prosecution witnesses. After completing the work, all of them, including the complainant, proceeded to the village. Suddenly, the accused persons appeared and said that the revenge would be taken from the complainant party for murdering one Sangound. Thereafter, the accused persons murdered the complainant's son. FIR was

filed and case was registered against the accused persons. However, the trial Court held that the prosecution could not prove the charges levelled against the accused beyond all manner of doubt and acquitted all the six accused. Challenging this acquittal, the State filed an appeal before the Karnataka High Court. The High Court reverse the acquittal of the three accused persons and sentenced them to life imprisonment. Now, the accused/appellants have assailed this judgment of the High Court before the Apex Court.

At the outset, the Court referred to precedents that have summarised the legal position governing the appellate jurisdiction when deciding an appeal against acquittal. Thereafter, the Court outlined the above mentioned principles. After cementing this background, the Court opined that the High Court has not followed any of these principles and has instead decided the case as a first court. "In light of the above legal principles, if we go through the impugned judgment, we find that none of these essential mandates governing an appeal against acquittal were adverted to by learned Division Bench of the High Court which proceeded to virtually decide the appeal as a first Court on independent appreciation of evidence and recorded its own findings to hold the accused appellants(A-1, A-2 and A-3) guilty of the charge under Section 302 read with Section 34 IPC and sentenced them to imprisonment for life," the Court said. In view of this, the Court concluded that the impugned judgment is contrary to the principles established by law. Moving forward, the Court highlighted the loopholes in the present case. At first, the Court pointed out that even though the complainant, the deceased and other witnesses were all going together, none other than the deceased received a single injury in the incident. Further, the Court said that not producing the police station's Daily Diary creates a grave doubt on the genuineness of the FIR. "The nonproduction of the Daily Dairy maintained at the police station assumes great significance in the backdrop of these facts. Apparently thus, the FIR(Exhibit P-10) is a post investigation document and does not inspire confidence," the Court said. Another important aspect highlighted by the Court was the testimony of prosecution witness 6 who also claimed to be an eye witness. In his statement, he did not mention about the presence of the complainant at the place of incident. "Thus, the case set up by prosecution that complainant, Chanagouda(PW-1) was an eye-witness to the incident, is totally contradicted by evidence of PW-6 who categorically stated that it was he who had informed the family members, the informant Chanagouda (PW-1) being one of them, about the incident at 6.00 or 7.00 pm and that they responded saying that they would be going to the police station for filing a report.," the Court added.

**Source: Supreme Court Reiterates Principles To Be Adhered By Appellate Court While Reversing Acquittal, LiveLaw, April 20, 2024.**

Q.63) In the village of Gangapur, Karnataka, an intricate saga unfolded when the son of the esteemed Sarpanch, Manjunath, was found dead near the Bhima River. Manjunath had been leading efforts to construct a new check dam, with local landowners and laborers often seen congregating to discuss the development. One morning, following a fruitful discussion, Manjunath and a group of villagers including his childhood friend, Vinod, were returning to the village. As fate would have it, they were ambushed. A group of three, Jagadish, Ramesh, and Suresh, with faces clouded by fury, allegedly charged at



the party, accusing them of foul play in the death of a man named Basavaraj. In the ensuing confusion, Vinod witnessed Manjunath being fatally attacked. He later realized that, inexplicably, only Manjunath was targeted while the rest escaped unscathed. A report was filed at the local police station by Manjunath's father, who claimed to be an eyewitness. However, details of the report were oddly missing from the police station's Daily Diary. Adding to the complexity, the prosecution's witness No. 6, Sharath, who also claimed to have seen the attack, did not mention seeing Manjunath's father at the scene. Instead, Sharath testified that he had informed the Sarpanch about the incident later that evening. During the trial, the Court acquitted the accused for want of substantial evidence. Nonetheless, the High Court, upon state's appeal, reviewed the matter afresh and convicted the three individuals for the homicide. The convicts now seek recourse at the Supreme Court, which has noted potential discrepancies in the High Court's process. Which legal issue is most relevant to the determination of the Supreme Court's intervention in this matter?

- (a) Whether the accused had an alibi that was not properly considered by the appellate court.
- (b) Whether the High Court erred by not adhering to the principle of reevaluating evidence only when the acquittal is perverse.
- (c) Whether the delay in filing the FIR impacted the credibility of the eyewitness testimony.
- (d) Whether the exclusion of the Daily Diary from evidence consideration indicates possible procedural improprieties.

Q.64) During the construction of a new governmental complex in the heart of Bangalore, a heated dispute arose between the contractor, Surya Constructions, and the lead architect, Vikrant. Vikrant accused the contractor of using substandard materials, threatening the integrity of the project. A legal tussle ensued, with the matter being taken to court. The Trial Court ruled in favor of Surya Constructions, citing a lack of concrete evidence against the contractor. Unsatisfied with the outcome, Vikrant approached the High Court, which, after a detailed analysis of project reports and expert testimonies, reversed the decision and held Surya Constructions liable. Vikrant's triumph was short-lived as Surya Constructions contested the High Court's decision in the Supreme Court, arguing that the appellate court had overstepped its boundaries and had not followed the proper principles for reviewing a Trial Court's acquittal. The Supreme Court has a long-standing legal framework to consider in cases of such appeals. Based on the legal framework for appellate jurisdiction in appeals against acquittal, which of the following issues would be the most appropriate for the Supreme Court to scrutinize in this case?

- (a) The credibility of expert testimonies presented at the High Court.
- (b) The adherence of the High Court to the principle that it should not act as a first court in assessing evidence.

- (c) The possibility that Vikrant influenced the High Court's decision through personal connections.
- (d) The sufficiency of the initial evidence that led to the Trial Court's decision.

Q.65) In the small town of Anandapur, a controversial land dispute escalated when a prominent landowner, Shashikant, claimed that his neighbor, Harish, had encroached on his ancestral property. Amidst this dispute, Shashikant's youngest son, Rohan, vanished, only to be found lifeless in a nearby field, leading to widespread speculation and turmoil. Harish, along with two others, was accused of the crime. During the trial, the evidence presented was deemed insufficient, and the Court acquitted all the accused. Shashikant, aggrieved by the verdict, pursued an appeal with the High Court, which convicted Harish and his accomplices, citing that the only logical conclusion from the evidence was their guilt. Harish appealed to the Supreme Court, arguing that the High Court's approach was fundamentally flawed, as it did not account for the potential existence of alternative interpretations of the evidence. In the given context, what should be the primary focus of the Supreme Court when adjudicating on Harish's appeal?

- (a) Examining if there were material omissions in the High Court's consideration of evidence.
- (b) Determining if there were any procedural violations in the registration of the FIR.
- (c) Verifying the reliability of the eyewitness accounts presented in the High Court.
- (d) Reviewing the validity of the land dispute as a motive for the alleged crime.

Q.66) A renowned classical musician, Pandit Arvind Kumar, residing in Mysore, became embroiled in a legal quagmire following his claim that his prized sitar, allegedly an antique bequeathed to him by his guru, had been clandestinely substituted with a counterfeit by someone he trusted implicitly. The prime suspect was his protégé, Vinay, who had access to Pandit Kumar's personal collection. The police investigation led to a charge sheet against Vinay, asserting that he had replaced the sitar to pay off gambling debts. In the Trial Court, the case unraveled, hinging on testimony from a dubious antique dealer whose credentials and intentions were questionable. Vinay was acquitted due to the ambiguous nature of the evidence presented. The state, unsatisfied with this judgment, appealed to the Karnataka High Court, which reassessed the evidence from scratch, discarding the Trial Court's conclusions and convicting Vinay on the ground that no one else could have committed the act. As Vinay approaches the Supreme Court, challenging the High Court's verdict, the Apex Court is presented with various issues surrounding the appellate process. In light of the passage provided, what key area should the Supreme Court concentrate on in Vinay's appeal?

- (a) The authenticity of the substituted sitar and the credibility of the antique dealer's testimony.

- (b) The High Court's analysis of the probability of another person having access to the sitar.
- (c) The proper handling of circumstantial evidence by the appellate court.
- (d) The significance of the High Court's new fact-finding in the context of an appeal against acquittal.

Q.67) A dispute arose in the peaceful town of Dharwad between two neighboring families, the Desais and the Patils, over a boundary wall that was allegedly built encroaching upon the Patil's ancestral land. In a tragic turn of events, the head of the Desai family, Prashant, was found lifeless near the disputed wall. The investigation led to the arrest of three members of the Patil family on the basis of a statement by a distant relative who claimed to overhear the Patil's planning the deed. The Trial Court could not find substantial evidence to convict the Patil family members, considering the testimony as unreliable hearsay and acquitting them. The State appealed to the Karnataka High Court, which, upon a thorough reevaluation of the same statement and additional circumstantial evidence, convicted the accused. The Patil family seeks to contest the decision in the Supreme Court, which has previously set out clear guidelines for appellate intervention in acquittal cases. What should the Supreme Court assess in this appeal to ensure adherence to the principles it has enunciated?

- (a) Whether the High Court justly evaluated the hearsay statement within the parameters of admissible evidence.
- (b) Whether the High Court was correct in taking additional circumstantial evidence into account that was not considered by the Trial Court.
- (c) Whether the High Court rightfully converted hearsay into direct testimony during its reassessment.
- (d) Whether the High Court, in its reassessment, failed to adhere to the principle that the appellate court should not replace the Trial Court's judgment with its own unless there is perversity or omission.

### **PASSAGE - 13**

The Supreme Court on Thursday (April 18) concluded its 9-judge Constitution Bench hearing on the issue whether States have the power to regulate 'industrial alcohol' using their powers over 'intoxicating liquor' or whether it is exclusively reserved for the Union. On the last day of the hearing, the Court conducted a rejoinder session. While the majority of the states contested for a wider interpretation to be given to the term 'intoxicating liquor' to include denatured spirit/industrial alcohol, Senior Advocate Mr V Giri representing the state of Kerala had a slightly divergent point of view. He argued that Entry 8 List II covers 'every kind of alcohol other than denatured spirit'. He explained that Extra Neutral Alcohol (ENA- non-flavoured alcohol of 95%) cannot be regarded as industrial alcohol. It is the 'denatured spirit', that is, the denaturation of rectified/ potable spirit that is considered as industrial alcohol. Other States like Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Maharashtra have taken the stance that 'intoxicating liquor' is wide enough to cover

'industrial alcohol' as well. Mr Giri highlighted that ENA was procedurally constituted as a raw material in the process of making 'intoxicating liquor' or potable alcohol in its final form. Since it forms part of the production process for potable alcohol, ENA is covered under the State's legislation-making powers under Entry 8 List II.

Entry 8 List II gives State legislatures the power to regulate everything about creating and handling intoxicating liquor. This means from the very start of making the liquor to whatever comes after, it's all under this rule. This includes companies that make Extra Neutral Alcohol (ENA) but don't turn it into Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL). This would also mean that businesses that start with raw materials like molasses or malt, make them into rectified spirits, and then sell them to others who make ENA, are covered. Every step leading up to the final IMFL product falls under Entry 8 List II, he argued. The CJI then observed that the said argument of Mr Giri to include a raw material like ENA under the meaning of the production process of 'intoxicating liquor' would run contrary to the definition of 'industry' as laid down in the case of Tika Ramji. As per Mr Giri, the meaning of 'intoxicating liquor' would not just be limited to the production stage but also incorporate the raw materials used in the production. In Tikaramji, there existed a clash of law-making powers over the subject matter. The question over the validity of the 1953 UP Sugarcane (Regulation of Supply and Purchase) Act, which serves as the basis for the 1954 UP Sugarcane Supply and Purchase Order, was brought to the fore. The challenge to the Act's legitimacy hinged on the viewpoint that it encompasses the 'industry' field, an area the Union is considered to occupy in oversight for the want of public interest, under the Parliament's directive in Entry 52 of List I (Unions powers over 'controlled industries' declared in public interest). In response, the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act was enacted by Parliament in 1951. This legislation underscored the Union's crucial role in regulating specific industries for the common good, enumerating these industries in the First Schedule, which includes those that deal with the manufacturing or production of sugar. The Court interpreted that the concept of "industry" includes three primary elements: essential raw materials for industrial activities, the actual process of manufacturing or production, and the distribution process of the end products. It was explained that issues pertaining to the manufacturing process are covered by Entry 24 of List II unless the industry is under the jurisdiction of the central government, at which point, it is governed by Entry 52 of List I. Contrary to the argument that Entry 52 of List I mentions of "industries" is wide-ranging enough to encompass laws regarding raw materials or the distribution of industrial goods, the Court clarified that such components do not fall within Entry 52 of List I domain.

**Source: 'Intoxicating Liquor' Doesn't Include 'Denatured Spirit', But Includes 'Extra Neutral Alcohol': State Of Kerala To Supreme Court, LiveLaw, April 20, 2024.**

Q.68) In the state of Kerala, Priyanka Enterprises, a distillery, has been producing Extra Neutral Alcohol (ENA) as a primary product. The Kerala Excise Department has initiated legal proceedings against Priyanka Enterprises, asserting that it does not have the license to produce 'industrial alcohol,' though Priyanka Enterprises has a license for the production of 'intoxicating liquor'. Priyanka Enterprises, represented by Senior Advocate

Mr. V Giri, argues that their production of ENA, which is a raw material in the process of making 'intoxicating liquor,' should be governed under Entry 8 List II, which grants the state the power to regulate 'intoxicating liquor,' including its raw materials. The Excise Department contends that ENA should be classified exclusively as 'industrial alcohol' and thereby outside the scope of the State's powers. Which of the following would be correct?

- (a) Priyanka Enterprises is in violation of the law as ENA is considered 'industrial alcohol' and thus falls outside the scope of Entry 8 List II.
- (b) Priyanka Enterprises is operating within the legal framework as the production of ENA is considered part of the production process of 'intoxicating liquor' covered by the State's powers under Entry 8 List II.
- (c) The Excise Department's claim is rightful, and Priyanka Enterprises should be regulated under the Union's powers since ENA is a controlled substance.
- (d) Both Priyanka Enterprises and the Excise Department hold valid claims; therefore, the Court should establish a new guideline for differentiation between 'intoxicating liquor' and 'industrial alcohol'.

Q.69) An amendment to the industrial policy in Uttar Pradesh has broadened the definition of 'intoxicating liquor' within the state to explicitly include all stages of production, from molasses to IMFL. Jai Industries, a company engaged in the sale of rectified spirits to ENA producers, is now being taxed under this amended policy. They challenge the amendment, arguing that their activity should only be regulated under Union legislation since it deals with a stage in the manufacturing process of an industrial good. The state argues that the expanded definition falls under Entry 8 List II. Is Jai Industries correctly challenging the amendment?

- (a) Jai Industries is correct in challenging the amendment since their production of rectified spirits falls under the category of 'industry' which should be regulated exclusively by the Union.
- (b) Jai Industries is not correctly challenging the amendment as the process falls within the State's regulatory powers according to Entry 8 List II, covering all stages up to the final IMFL product.
- (c) Jai Industries cannot challenge the amendment since their activities directly contribute to the production of IMFL, which the State has the power to regulate.
- (d) Both Jai Industries and the State hold equitable positions, necessitating a revision of Entry 8 List II to delineate the regulation boundaries clearly.

Q.70) Following a dispute regarding the regulation of 'industrial alcohol' between the Centre and States, a Karnataka-based company, Arohan Biochemicals, has been served a notice by the Union Government. The notice alleges that Arohan Biochemicals' activities of procuring denatured spirit to manufacture sanitisers are governed under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951. Arohan Biochemicals contends that their



purchase of denatured spirit is for producing a product that falls under the state's jurisdiction as 'intoxicating liquor.' Consequently, they argue that their operations should be regulated under Entry 8 List II, not Entry 52 of List I. Which assertion aligns with the legal framework?

- (a) Arohan Biochemicals' contention is correct, and its operations should be regulated under Entry 8 List II since the use of denatured spirit for sanitisers production can be classified under 'intoxicating liquor.'
- (b) The Union Government is accurate in its claim; denatured spirit falls under 'industrial alcohol' and should be regulated under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951.
- (c) The notice served by the Union Government is mistaken as sanitisers do not classify as an 'industry' and thus do not come under Entry 52 of List I.
- (d) Arohan Biochemicals must be regulated by both the Union and the State as the manufacture of sanitisers involves denatured spirit, which shares characteristics with 'intoxicating liquor.'

Q.71) Shrihari Chemicals, a firm based in Tamil Nadu, specializes in the production of varnishes and thinners, which incorporate denatured spirit as a key ingredient. The State Government of Tamil Nadu, relying on the argument made by Mr. V Giri in the Supreme Court, insists that the production of denatured spirit for such uses falls within the regulatory powers of the State under Entry 8 List II. However, the Central Excise Department challenges this position, asserting that the production of denatured spirit for non-potable purposes is under the exclusive purview of the Union, regulated by Entry 52 of List I. The central point of contention is whether denatured spirit used in varnishes and thinners is part of 'industrial alcohol' and thus outside the State's jurisdiction. What is the most appropriate legal stance considering the passage provided?

- (a) Shrihari Chemicals must comply with the Union's regulations, as the use of denatured spirit for varnishes and thinners is not akin to the production of 'intoxicating liquor'.
- (b) The State of Tamil Nadu has the right to regulate the production of denatured spirit as it is used as a raw material in the production process akin to that of 'intoxicating liquor'.
- (c) The Central Excise Department's stance is untenable, as all forms of alcohol, including those used in varnishes and thinners, fall under the State's jurisdiction as per Entry 8 List II.
- (d) Both the State Government of Tamil Nadu and the Central Excise Department have valid interpretations, hence a joint regulatory framework should be developed to manage such conflicts.

Q.72) Vasudha Beverages, operating in Madhya Pradesh, has been utilizing imported ENA to manufacture beverages with a high alcohol content, categorically sold as 'intoxicating liquor.' The State asserts that since Vasudha Beverages produces 'intoxicating liquor,' its



operations come under Entry 8 List II. However, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) argues that because the ENA is imported, it is subject to central regulation and taxation under Entry 83 of List I, which includes duties on imported goods. Vasudha Beverages counters by saying that once the imported ENA enters the manufacturing process of intoxicating liquor, it should be subjected to state regulations. In light of the passage provided, which position aligns with the established legal principles?

- (a) Vasudha Beverages is subject to central regulation and taxation for the imported ENA as it involves duties on goods imported into India.
- (b) Once the imported ENA is used in the manufacturing process of intoxicating liquor, it comes under the purview of State regulation under Entry 8 List II.
- (c) The CBDT's position is unfounded as imported ENA, once within state boundaries, should be regulated exclusively by the State's legislative powers.
- (d) The operation of Vasudha Beverages should be governed under a dual system where both the Union and State have regulatory authority over the imported ENA.

Q.73) Navjot Breweries in Punjab primarily produces potable spirit, which is later denatured by another company, Shivalik Organics, to produce industrial-use hand sanitizers. Amidst a tax dispute, Navjot Breweries claims that its entire production, including the potable spirit that is later denatured, is governed by state legislation under Entry 8 List II, thus exempting it from central excise duties. The Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) contends that once the potable spirit is denatured for industrial purposes, it should be classified as 'industrial alcohol' and taxed accordingly under the Union's domain. Referencing the legal framework in the passage, whose argument holds merit?

- (a) Navjot Breweries holds a valid point since the initial production of potable spirit is under the state's jurisdiction, and subsequent denaturation does not alter this classification.
- (b) Shivalik Organics, which denatures the potable spirit, should be held liable for any central excise duties as the product transforms into 'industrial alcohol' under their operation.
- (c) CBEC's contention is justifiable, as the potable spirit, once denatured for industrial use, falls under the classification of 'industrial alcohol' and thus under central regulation.
- (d) Both Navjot Breweries and CBEC are partially correct, requiring a hybrid taxation system to be put in place for the potable spirit before and after denaturation.

#### **PASSAGE – 14**

The Allahabad High Court, on April 4, refused to quash an FIR against a Muslim man in an interfaith live-in relationship, citing Uttar Pradesh's Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act, 2021. A bench of Justices Vivek Chaudhary and Narendra Kumar Johari observed that the UP anti-conversion law prohibits interfaith live-in relationships, and that the FIR could only be quashed if the couple got married in accordance with the law. The

High Court relied on Section 3(1) of the UP anti-conversion law which prohibits the religious conversion of a person by the use of “misrepresentation, force, undue influence, coercion, allurement or by any fraudulent means”. Notably, the explanation under this section states that “conversion by solemnization of marriage or relationship in the nature of marriage” would also qualify as illegal conversion. In the current case, the court said that live-in relationships were “in the nature of marriage”, saying that “Section 3(1) of aforesaid Act, 2021 prohibits such living (live-in) relationship which is in the nature of matrimonial bond... hence, such residing of petitioners in relationship like marriage cannot get approval by the Court of law.” Also, Section 4 of the law states that “Any aggrieved person” or their relatives (like in this case) can lodge an FIR for illegal conversion. Those found guilty under Section 3 can be punished as per Section 5 of the anti-conversion law. The standard punishment is 1-5 years imprisonment, and a fine of at least Rs. 15,000. If the victim is a woman, a minor or a person belonging to a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe, the punishment increases to 2-10 years with a fine of at least Rs. 25,000. In cases of mass conversion, the punishment becomes 3-10 years, and a fine of at least Rs. 50,000. For those who have already been once convicted of an offence under this law, up to double the relevant punishment may be provided imposed.

On the subject of conversion by marriage, Section 6 of the law also bars “Any marriage done for the sole purpose of unlawful conversion” and states that such marriages shall be declared “void”. The process for valid conversion is provided under Sections 8 & 9 of the anti-conversion law. This requires the person converting to submit two declarations to the District Magistrate — the first at least 60 days before the conversion takes place, and the second a maximum of 60 days after the conversion. The first declaration must contain a statement that the individual wishes to convert their religion without any force, coercion, undue influence, or allurement. Further, the person conducting the conversion ceremony — the “religious converter” — must inform the District Magistrate one month in advance regarding where the ceremony will take place. The Magistrate will then ensure that a police enquiry is conducted to determine the “real intention” of the religious conversion. The second declaration will include details such as date of birth, permanent address, father/husbands name, prior religion, religion to which the individual is converting, and the details of the conversion ceremony. After the second declaration is submitted, the District Magistrate will post a copy of it to the notice board, for the public to record objections to the conversion, if any. The law also reverses the standard burden of proof in criminal cases. Under Section 12, the “person who has caused the conversion” must prove that it was not done on the grounds enumerated under Section 3(1).

**Source: How Uttar Pradesh’s anti-conversion law governs religious conversion, The Indian Express, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

Q.74) In the bustling town of Prayagraj, Prashant, a 32-year-old software engineer belonging to a Scheduled Tribe, fell in love with Zoya, a 29-year-old graphic designer from a different faith. They decided to live together without getting married, citing personal beliefs against the institution of marriage. Prashant's distant uncle, who vehemently opposed the interfaith relationship, filed an FIR under the UP Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act, 2021, claiming the couple was in violation of the Act

since they were living in a relationship in the nature of marriage. Prashant and Zoya have not undergone any religious conversion ceremony, but they openly present themselves as a couple in their community. Based on the Act, determine the potential legal outcome for Prashant and Zoya's situation.

- (a) The FIR will be quashed since there has been no formal marriage or conversion ceremony.
- (b) Prashant will face standard punishment for living in an interfaith relationship without a formal conversion process.
- (c) The interfaith live-in relationship will be considered grounds for illegal conversion, subjecting them to potential penalties.
- (d) Zoya will be prosecuted for not following the prescribed conversion declarations before starting the live-in relationship.

Q.75) Aarav, who recently converted to another religion to marry Noor, his college sweetheart, is the son of a notable politician in Lucknow. Aarav meticulously followed the law, submitting his first declaration to the District Magistrate 65 days before his conversion. However, he inadvertently submitted the second declaration 65 days after the conversion, exceeding the stipulated time frame. The father of a political rival, seeing an opportunity to undermine Aarav's father, filed a complaint under the UP Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act, 2021. If the validity of Aarav's conversion is challenged in court, what could be the outcome based on the legislative provisions?

- (a) Aarav's conversion will be deemed valid as he adhered to the majority of the statutory requirements.
- (b) Aarav's conversion will be nullified on the technicality of the delay in submitting the second declaration.
- (c) Noor will be penalized for not ensuring Aarav's compliance with the conversion timelines under the Act.
- (d) Aarav's conversion will remain valid, and the District Magistrate will be held accountable for not objecting in time.

Q.76) A large charity organization in Meerut, under the leadership of Rakesh, conducts a group conversion of 50 individuals from marginalized communities. The organization promises economic support and job training to participants post-conversion. The ceremony was carried out with the proper declarations made in advance, as required by the District Magistrate. However, within days, a local social activist, Amita, filed an FIR alleging that the group conversion was influenced by the allurements of economic support and was, therefore, illegal under the UP Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act, 2021. In this scenario, what is the likely legal repercussion for Rakesh and the charity organization?

- (a) The conversion will be validated since the proper declarations were filed and the ceremony conducted in accordance with the Magistrate's approval.
- (b) Rakesh will face no legal repercussions because the conversions were for economic betterment, not religious coercion.
- (c) The charity organization will be penalized for each individual converted, with heightened penalties due to the mass conversion aspect.
- (d) Amita will be charged with false accusation as there is no evidence of allurements, only promises of post-conversion support.

Q.77) Diya, a renowned yoga instructor, and Faisal, an esteemed chef, decided to get married. Diya converted to Faisal's religion following the correct procedure of declarations under the UP Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act, 2021. They submitted the first declaration on time, but instead of a ceremony, they opted for a simple affidavit of conversion and a personal commitment in the presence of a religious leader, avoiding any public or ceremonial aspect. Faisal's estranged brother, Aman, who is jealous of Faisal's success, files an FIR alleging that the conversion lacks authenticity due to the absence of a traditional ceremony. Assuming Aman's FIR reaches court, how might Diya's conversion and their marriage be legally perceived given the requirements of the Act?

- (a) Diya's conversion will be respected as valid due to adherence to the declaration requirements, and their marriage will also stand legal.
- (b) The marriage will be considered void as the Act necessitates a ceremonial conversion process which Diya and Faisal did not follow.
- (c) Aman's complaint will be upheld, leading to the nullification of the conversion due to the private nature of the commitment.
- (d) The religious leader present during the affidavit signing will be held legally responsible for not conducting a formal conversion ceremony.

Q.78) Kavita, a Dalit woman, was approached by Ishaan, who professed his love for her and expressed a desire to convert to her religion to facilitate their marriage. Ishaan, under the guise of love, was primarily motivated by the promise of an influential business contract from Kavita's uncle, a wealthy entrepreneur. After their marriage, Kavita learned of Ishaan's ulterior motives and registered an FIR against him under the UP Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act, 2021, claiming the conversion was fraudulent and for personal gain. What is the most likely consequence for Ishaan, based on the alleged motivation behind his conversion?

- (a) Ishaan's conversion and the marriage will be deemed void due to the fraudulent inducement tied to the business contract.
- (b) Kavita will be penalized for failing to discern Ishaan's true intentions before the marriage, as per the Act's provisions.

- (c) The business contract will be annulled as it violates the ethical standards set forth in the Act regarding conversions.
- (d) Ishaan will face no legal consequences as the FIR lacks substantial proof, relying solely on Kavita's post-marriage realization.

Q.79) Sunaina, a Hindu woman, and Aarif, a Muslim man, sought to get married. To respect both their faiths, they agreed that neither would convert. Instead, they decided to have two separate wedding ceremonies, each conducted according to their respective religious traditions. Sunaina's parents were delighted and fully supported the interfaith union. However, Radhika, a distant relative of Sunaina, who harbored a grudge over a land dispute with Sunaina's family, lodged an FIR invoking the UP Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act, 2021. She accused the couple of violating the Act's provisions by engaging in a 'marriage with the sole purpose of conversion.' Considering Radhika's allegations and the facts of the case, what would be the most appropriate legal result?

- (a) The FIR will be dismissed since there was no intent for religious conversion as part of the marriage, adhering to the Act's stipulations.
- (b) Sunaina and Aarif will be convicted for the circumvention of the Act by conducting two wedding ceremonies without conversion.
- (c) Radhika will be subject to legal penalties for maliciously misusing the Act to settle personal disputes.
- (d) Sunaina's parents will be liable for aiding and abetting an unlawful conversion by supporting the interfaith marriage.

### **PASSAGE – 15**

The Jammu and Kashmir High Court, on March 22, ordered the release of Jaffar Ahmad Parray, who was detained in May 2023 under the state's Public Safety Act, 1978 (PSA). Parray was placed in preventive detention under orders of the Shopian District Magistrate (DM), after the police reached out to him and accused Parray of being an Over Ground Worker (OGW) for terrorist groups Lashkar-e-Taiba and Hizbul Mujahideen. Despite the stringent provisions for preventive detention under the PSA, Justice Rahul Bharti held that Parray's preventive detention was illegal, and quashed his detention order. Chapter IV of the PSA titled "Power to make orders detaining certain persons" is by far the most comprehensive part of the legislation. The entire chapter hinges on Section 8(1)(a) which allows the government to detain individuals to prevent them from "acting in any manner prejudicial to the security of the State or the maintenance of public order". Crucially, this allows the government to detain individuals who they believe could cause harm in the future, even though they may not have committed any crimes at the time of detention. Festive offer Under Section 8(2), the DM is empowered to pass an order to detain any person if they are satisfied that the person falls under the condition provided in Section 8(1)(a). The Magistrate must then report the detention order to the government for approval, without which the order will lapse after twelve days. However, it is rare for such



approval not to be granted. Section 10-A of the PSA, which was inserted via an amendment in 1985, states that detention orders cannot be deemed invalid or inoperative “merely” because the grounds of detention are vague, non-existent, not relevant, not connected with the detained person, or “invalid for any other reasons whatsoever”.

One of the few avenues available to persons detained under the PSA are explained in Section 13(1) which requires the DM to disclose the grounds for detention to the person detained within five days of issuing the order (although this may be extended to 10 days, in “exceptional circumstances”). It also states that the person detained shall be given “the earliest opportunity” to make a representation against the detention order. Section 13(2), however, states that the DM is not required to disclose facts “which it considers to be against the public interest to disclose.” Justice Bharti in his judgement noted that the grounds for detention under Section 8(1)(a) of the act, recorded by the District Magistrate, were a “verbatim reproduction” of the police dossier, which itself did not contain “even a single line reference about the petitioner being involved in a case registered under some FIR with any Police Station”. Moreover, on the subject of representation under Section 13, he noted “Representation against a preventive detention once submitted by a detenu is not meant to be a routine piece of paper at the office table of the PA of the District Magistrate”. Justice Bharti held that there must be “application of mind” from the DM who is faced with such a representation, and observed that “In the present case, the petitioner did not get the solace of fact that his representation was even read lest considered by the concerned authority.” Though the nature of preventive detention does not require the detained person to have committed any crimes, Justice Bharti noted that the police interrogated Parray. This interrogation allegedly revealed that he was an OGW for the two terrorist organisations, leading to the detention order. From this, Bharti conducted an exercise in deduction, and concluded that the police had picked up Parray and interrogated him without registering a criminal case against him, or even noting any past criminal activities. “Thus, the very root of the petitioner’s preventive detention is illegal and coercive”, Justice Bharti held. Considering these factors together — the lack of application of mind by the District Magistrate and the actions of the police — he held that the preventive detention was illegal and quashed the detention order.

**Source: Why ‘application of mind’ (by the DM) is crucial for preventive detention under the J&K Public Safety Act, The Indian Express, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

Q.80) Ramkesh, a resident of Srinagar, was detained under the Public Safety Act after allegations arose that he was planning to disrupt the upcoming Republic Day celebrations based on an anonymous tip. The Srinagar District Magistrate (DM), without conducting any investigation, passed a detention order relying solely on this anonymous information. The DM didn't submit the order for government approval. Twelve days later, on the 13th day, the approval was granted. Ramkesh's lawyer contends that the detention became illegal the moment the twelve-day period lapsed. The court has to decide on the legality of Ramkesh's detention. Which of the following is correct?



- (a) The detention order is valid as the government approval, although late, can retroactively validate the previous days without approval.
- (b) The detention order is legal because the anonymous tip provided enough grounds for the DM to issue the order without investigation.
- (c) The detention order is illegal because the DM failed to seek government approval within the stipulated time frame of twelve days.
- (d) The detention order is enforceable because the grounds for detention don't need to be specific when it comes to national security.

Q.81) Vimarsh, an activist in Jammu, was detained under the PSA due to his sharp criticism of a government policy that could potentially incite social unrest. The Jammu District Magistrate (DM) provided grounds for detention that were a verbatim copy of the policy critique published by Vimarsh. It has been 20 days since the detention, and Vimarsh has yet to receive a disclosure of these grounds as mandated by the law. His lawyer argues that the detention is void due to the failure to disclose the grounds within the required time frame. The court needs to assess the lawyer's claim. Is Vimarsh's detention invalid?

- (a) Vimarsh's detention remains valid since the policy critique itself served as an implicit disclosure of the grounds for his detention.
- (b) The detention is invalid because Vimarsh's lawyer did not file a representation against the detention; thus, disclosure of grounds is unnecessary.
- (c) The detention order is valid as the DM used the policy critique as grounds which are considered substantial in public interest.
- (d) Vimarsh's detention is invalid as the DM failed to disclose the grounds for detention to Vimarsh within the mandated five days extendable to 10 days.

Q.82) Aradhana was placed under preventive detention in Srinagar for allegedly being associated with a separatist movement. The detention order issued by the District Magistrate (DM) listed several activities of her participation in demonstrations. However, these activities were inaccurately attributed to her due to a mistaken identity with a similarly named individual involved in the movement. Aradhana promptly made a representation against her detention, but the DM did not attend to it for weeks, citing a heavy workload. When the matter came before the court, Aradhana's counsel argued that the neglect of her representation by the DM amounted to a failure of due process. The court must determine the validity of Aradhana's detention. What should the court conclude?

- (a) Aradhana's preventive detention is legal since her participation in demonstrations justifies the DM's decision.
- (b) The detention is illegal because the DM failed to apply their mind to Aradhana's representation, which is a requirement for the DM to adhere to.

- (c) The detention remains valid as the DM's heavy workload is a reasonable explanation for not attending to Aradhana's representation immediately.
- (d) Aradhana's detention is valid since the act of making a representation does not necessitate a prompt response from the DM.

Q.83) Chhavi, an owner of a local newspaper in Anantnag, was detained under the PSA after a critical editorial on the government's handling of flood relief operations. Allegedly, the article had a potential to cause panic and disrupt the public order. The detention order, signed by the Anantnag DM, was a carbon copy of the police report, which, upon inspection, lacked any concrete evidence linking Chhavi to any act of disruption. Furthermore, the police never registered an FIR or documented any form of misdemeanor by Chhavi. Six weeks into the detention, Chhavi's lawyer found that the DM never reviewed her representation against the detention. Inquiring about the neglect, the DM's office responded that the representation had been reviewed, but they refrained from providing any documentation or summary of the review process. Before the court now, Chhavi's counsel maintains that the lack of evidence in the police report and the DM's failure to provide any proof of reviewing the representation contravenes the legal requirements for detention under the PSA. The court has to consider whether Chhavi's preventive detention meets the legal standards or not. Which statement is appropriate?

- (a) Chhavi's detention is lawful since the maintenance of public order justifies a preventive measure based on credible police reports.
- (b) The detention is legal as long as the intention behind the editorial could be potentially disruptive, regardless of the FIR registration.
- (c) The detention is unlawful due to the absence of any registered FIR against Chhavi and the "verbatim reproduction" of the police report in the DM's order.
- (d) The detention complies with the PSA given that the DM is not obliged to provide proof of reviewing the representation against the detention.

Q.84) Rashmi, a lecturer at the University of Kashmir, was placed under preventive detention after a speech where she discussed the effects of militarization in the region. Rashmi's speech, according to the Budgam DM's order, could potentially incite students to protest against the state. Rashmi's defense counsel argued that not only was the speech academic in nature, but also highlighted that the DM did not provide any details when he abstained from disclosing certain facts cited in the detention order, citing 'public interest'. The representation made by Rashmi highlighted her academic freedom and questioned the undisclosed facts. Now, the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir must deliberate on the legality of Rashmi's detention. On what grounds should the court base its decision?

- (a) The court should deem Rashmi's detention legal as the PSA allows non-disclosure of certain facts if considered against public interest.

- (b) Rashmi's detention is unlawful as the DM's use of 'public interest' to withhold facts cannot override the requirement of application of mind.
- (c) The detention is valid because academic speeches are not exempt from scrutiny under the PSA if they are considered to incite against the state.
- (d) The university lecturer's detention is valid, assuming the DM's judgement about the speech's potential effect on public order is in itself a ground for detention.

Q.85) Kuldeep, an influential local politician in Pulwama, was detained under the PSA following a series of public gatherings where he outspokenly criticized government policies. The detention order issued by the Pulwama DM quoted verbatim from a confidential report prepared by the intelligence bureau that indicated Kuldeep's actions could destabilize the region's security. Kuldeep, through his legal representative, immediately filed a representation contesting the detention. Despite this, the DM did not review the representation and subsequently stated that the intelligence report's contents could not be disclosed for reasons of national security. Kuldeep has had no criminal charges nor FIRs registered against him in the past. In court, Kuldeep's counsel argued that while national security is crucial, the preventive detention lacks legality due to the DM not addressing the representation and the absence of any past criminal activity. The court is tasked with evaluating the legality of Kuldeep's detention. What should the court's judgement be based on the presented facts?

- (a) Kuldeep's detention is legitimate as intelligence reports are a sufficient basis for detention under the PSA without the necessity for past criminal records.
- (b) The court should uphold the detention because non-disclosure of security-sensitive information aligns with the PSA's intent to protect national interests.
- (c) The detention lacks legal standing since the lack of review of Kuldeep's representation and absence of any past criminal activity implies an absence of "application of mind."
- (d) The legality of Kuldeep's detention stands, given that national security considerations take precedence over any procedural lapses associated with representations.

## CRITICAL REASONING

### PASSAGE 16

In its manifesto for the 2024 general election, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has sought a popular mandate for a third consecutive term under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The party's campaign is based primarily on its track record of the previous two terms. It has underscored its achievements in terms of the advancement of a core ideological agenda and governance promises, while making the case for a third term. The special status of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 was undone, and the Ram temple in Ayodhya was inaugurated during the second term of Mr. Modi. A third component of the core programme of the BJP, namely, implementation of a Uniform Civil Code, has been promised in the third term. The manifesto has a catalogue of measures already implemented by the BJP, which include the ongoing free grain scheme that covers two-

thirds of the population, piped drinking water, and other anti-poverty programmes, particularly in housing. The manifesto claims that 25 crore people have been lifted out of poverty during the last two terms of governance. Criminalisation of triple talaq is also cited as an achievement. The manifesto cites the expanded representation of Other Backward Classes, tribal communities and Dalits in government — 60% of the outgoing Council of Ministers, according to the manifesto — as proof of the commitment to social justice.

In its pitch for a third term, the BJP argues that continuity of a strong, stable government is essential in steering the country through a period of global instability. It also promises the implementation of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and the law for women's reservations in the third term. The party steers clear of any view regarding the demand for a caste census — which is a promise in the Congress manifesto — but makes a mention of the 10% reservation that it implemented for the Economically Weaker Sections. The key new promise that it makes for a third term is a health-care guarantee worth up to ₹5 lakh for senior citizens. In a notable departure, there is no reference in the manifesto for a National Register of Citizens, a contentious topic. Apart from the emphasis on Mr. Modi's personal appeal — the entire manifesto is titled 'Modi's Guarantee' — the BJP is making an appeal to the Gramin, Yuva, Annadata, Nari and Middle Class (GYANM) segment, which refers to rural areas, youth, farmers, women and the new middle class. The manifesto documents the BJP's strategy and vision which indicates continuity in the trajectory of India set during the last 10 years. After two terms, the BJP had to necessarily recount its welfare schemes and other achievements, but as a party in power, its promises should have been more substantive. The voters will necessarily weigh the promises in the backdrop of the achievements.

**Source: Pitch for continuity: On the BJP manifesto for the General election 2024, The Hindu Editorial, April 16, 2024.**

Q.86) Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the author's argument regarding the efficacy of BJP's governance based on its previous terms?

- (a) the opposition parties have also proposed similar welfare schemes in their manifestos
- (b) the economic policies of the BJP have consistently led to increased foreign investment in India
- (c) the measures implemented by the BJP did not significantly alter the poverty levels according to independent studies
- (d) the BJP's internal surveys indicate a high level of satisfaction among beneficiaries of its schemes

Q.87) Which of the following judgements most closely conforms to the principle stated in the passage that continuity in government is essential for steering the country through global instability?

- (a) A government's ability to implement long-term policies is enhanced by having consistent leadership.
- (b) Political stability is less important than economic measures in maintaining national stability.
- (c) Frequent changes in government have historically led to improved economic indicators in emerging markets.
- (d) A diverse representation in government from various social classes disrupts policy continuity.

Q.88) Which of the following would support the author's conclusion that the BJP's promises for the third term should have been more substantive despite recounting its previous welfare schemes?

- (a) The BJP has failed to deliver on several key promises from previous election manifestos.
- (b) Other parties have included more ambitious and detailed plans in their current manifestos.
- (c) The introduction of new welfare schemes has typically garnered increased voter support in past elections.
- (d) The implementation of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act is awaited and anticipated to have major social implications.

Q.89) Which of the following implicit assumptions can be logically deduced from the author's statement that the BJP argues continuity of a strong, stable government is essential in steering the country through a period of global instability?

- (a) Periods of global instability require decisive and consistent policy responses that might be disrupted by governmental changes.
- (b) A strong, stable government is inherently more capable of handling international relations than a frequently changing one.
- (c) The global instability mentioned is primarily economic, necessitating continued economic policies from the current government.
- (d) Voters are more likely to support a government that promises stability during times of uncertainty.

Q.90) How does the passage describe the BJP's approach to the demand for a caste census?

- (a) The BJP has ignored the demand for a caste census, focusing instead on implementing the 10% reservation for the Economically Weaker Sections.

- (b) The BJP has actively opposed the demand for a caste census, citing it as divisive and counterproductive to national unity.
- (c) The BJP supports the caste census in principle but has prioritized other policies such as the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.
- (d) The BJP has deferred the decision on a caste census to a later date, awaiting further socio-economic data.

### **PASSAGE 17**

Almost a year since the Siddaramaiah-led Congress rode to power in Karnataka with a thumping majority of 136 seats out of 224 in the State Legislature, the party is banking on the widespread appreciation for implementing its 'five guarantees' that it had promised in order to take on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-Janata Dal (Secular) (JDS) alliance in the general election. While the polls to the Lok Sabha are in the backdrop of the Rameshwaram Cafe blast in Bengaluru on March 1, that left nine people injured, the incident has had little impact on the ground, with even the BJP, which has alleged that it is a case of a 'law and order' failure, treading carefully to avoid giving it communal undertones. It is a difficult lesson the BJP is likely to have learnt from its performance in the Assembly elections on May 10, 2023. Its governance was marked by months of communally polarising government orders and issues, beginning with the hijab ban in February 2022 soon after Basavaraj Bommai replaced the hugely popular party veteran B.S. Yediyurappa as Chief Minister. This was followed by the repeal of the 4% reservations for Muslims in State government jobs and educational institutions, and distributing this quota equally between Vokkaligas and Veerashaiva-Lingayats. The repeal, in the form of a government order on March 27, came weeks before the Assembly elections in May. Yet, the Congress bettered its 2018 Assembly poll performance by four percentage points, garnering an impressive 43% vote share, while there was no change in the BJP's vote share of 36%.

The Congress's 'five guarantees' have resulted in tangible benefits for more than two-thirds of the State's population, going by government claims. But the party's attempt to make the 'denial of Karnataka's central pool of funds' a poll issue has had little resonance. The BJP has witnessed steady success in the Lok Sabha polls in Karnataka, bettering its 2014 record of 43% by 8.4 percentage points in the 2019 general election, crossing the half-way mark at 51.4%, and winning 25 of the 28 seats. With the JD(S) steadily losing ground and vote share and being viewed as representing only one community, the Vokkaligas, it has been relegated to being allotted three seats in the BJP-led alliance. This general election would thus be a direct contest between the BJP and the Congress. But it appears unlikely that the BJP, now the principal Opposition in the State, will be able to replicate its performance in 2019.

**Source: Two-horse race: On the contest in Karnataka and General election 2024, The Hindu Editorial, April 16, 2024.**

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Q.91) Which of the following is a correct expression of the author's opinion as stated in the passage about the impact of the BJP's communally polarizing actions on its electoral performance?

- (a) The BJP's communally polarizing actions, such as the hijab ban, have significantly boosted its popularity among the electorate.
- (b) The BJP's past actions led to a decrease in its vote share in the subsequent Assembly elections.
- (c) Despite the BJP's communally polarizing actions, its vote share remained unchanged in the subsequent Assembly elections.
- (d) The communally polarizing actions by the BJP have led to a nationwide increase in its electoral support.

Q.92) Based on the author's arguments, which of the following must necessarily be true regarding the impact of the Congress's 'five guarantees' on its electoral performance in Karnataka?

- (a) The 'five guarantees' have had no significant impact on the Congress's electoral success in the state.
- (b) The tangible benefits from the 'five guarantees' have led to an increase in the Congress's vote share by four percentage points.
- (c) The Congress's increased vote share is primarily due to the widespread dissatisfaction with the BJP's governance.
- (d) The BJP's failure to address the needs of the economically weaker sections has been the main driver behind the Congress's success.

Q.93) Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the author's argument that the BJP's avoidance of communal rhetoric in the aftermath of the Rameshwaram Cafe blast was a strategic move?

- (a) The BJP's internal assessments show that avoiding communal rhetoric has previously enhanced their electoral appeal in diverse communities.
- (b) There is a new law that penalizes political parties for using communal rhetoric in their campaigns.
- (c) The Congress party has historically capitalized on the BJP's use of communal rhetoric by portraying itself as a more inclusive alternative.
- (d) Recent surveys indicate that the population of Karnataka overwhelmingly disapproves of political campaigns that use communal rhetoric.

Q.94) How does the passage describe the BJP's electoral strategy in the context of its alliance with the Janata Dal (Secular) in Karnataka?

- (a) The BJP has maintained a strong alliance with the JD(S) to secure a broader voter base across multiple communities.
- (b) The BJP has strategically positioned the JD(S) to capture only the Vokkaliga vote, which has led to the JD(S) being viewed as a community-specific party.
- (c) The BJP's alliance with the JD(S) is primarily focused on countering the Congress's appeal among the economically weaker sections.
- (d) The BJP and the JD(S) have formed an alliance to introduce more inclusive and diverse policies in their electoral platform.

Q.95) Which of the following judgements most closely conforms to the principle stated in the passage that the BJP's steady success in Lok Sabha polls is a significant electoral trend in Karnataka?

- (a) A party's consistent improvement in election results indicates effective campaigning and resonating policies.
- (b) The BJP's success in the Lok Sabha polls is primarily due to the lack of strong leadership in the Congress.
- (c) Steady electoral success is often attributable to external factors such as economic downturns or public crises.
- (d) The repeated success of a political party in elections signifies that it is seen as a stable alternative by the electorate.

### **PASSAGE 18**

For the first time in five months, India's retail inflation slid below the 5% mark in March, to 4.85%. While it constituted only a marginal easing from the 5.1% recorded in February, this was the lowest pace of price rise recorded since May 2023. The average inflation of 5% clocked in the final quarter of 2023-24 is not just in line with Reserve Bank of India (RBI) projections but also the slowest in three years. For the full year gone by, consumer price rise averaged 5.4%, as the RBI had forecast — a four-year low. Core inflation, excluding energy and food prices, has been under the 4% mark for four straight months. QuantEco Research estimates that overall fuel inflation in India hit a four-year low of -2.7% in March, which was the seventh straight month of disinflation in the segment. No doubt, the ₹2 per litre cuts in petrol and diesel prices and the ₹100 drop in cylinder prices have helped, though the full impact of these pre-poll steps will be seen this month. Amid these pleasant portents, two critical problems persist — food bills remain problematically high, even as overall inflation is rising for rural consumers, already hit by a weak monsoon.

Inflation, as measured by the Consumer Food Price Index, has averaged an alarming 8% through 2023-24, and 8.5% in the January to March quarter. And while some government interventions have helped check a few items' prices and hopes of a normal monsoon this year could lift some pressure points, perhaps from July onwards, the ongoing heat waves

across large parts of the country remain a threat to perishable supplies. Moreover, some key items are seeing deeply entrenched inflation trends — double-digit inflation has now been seen for five months in vegetables, 10 months in pulses and a whopping 22 months in spices. Cereals inflation picked up pace in March, breaking a seven-month moderating streak, while eggs, meat and fish are also seeing spikes. While the RBI expects inflation to cool to 4.5% this year, it is projected at 4.9% for the first quarter. A durable descent to its 4% target that has now been elusive for 54 months, remains tricky. For urban consumers, inflation eased tantalisingly close to the target in March at 4.14%, but it rose in rural India to 5.45% from 5.34% in January and February. While a prolonged phase of high prices is already hurting consumption, the resurgence in crude oil prices to a seven-month high of \$90 a barrel this month, faltering hopes of interest rate cuts in the United States and the European Union, and strife-fuelled shipping cost spikes, pose fresh worries on the inflation front in the months to come.

**Source: Fleeting relief: On slide in retail inflation, The Hindu Editorial, April 15, 2024.**

Q.96) Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the author's argument that current economic measures have been somewhat effective in controlling inflation?

- (a) Additional data shows that core inflation rates, excluding energy and food prices, have remained below 4% for the past six months.
- (b) Surveys indicate that consumer confidence in economic policies is declining due to rising food prices.
- (c) Reports confirm that rural inflation rates have exceeded urban inflation rates consistently over the past year.
- (d) International trends suggest that inflation rates are generally increasing worldwide, regardless of domestic policies.

Q.97) Which of the following implicit assumptions can be logically deduced from the author's emphasis on the prolonged high price phase's impact on consumption?

- (a) Higher prices inevitably lead to reduced consumer spending, which in turn can slow economic growth.
- (b) Consumers tend to increase their savings during periods of high prices to mitigate the impact on their purchasing power.
- (c) Government interventions in price control are largely ineffective in altering consumer behavior during inflationary periods.
- (d) The relationship between high prices and consumption is not significantly influenced by changes in income levels.

Q.98) Based on the author's arguments, which of the following must necessarily be true about the challenges facing inflation reduction in India?

- (a) The recent cuts in fuel prices will continue to significantly mitigate inflation pressures across all economic sectors.
- (b) Persistent high food price inflation poses a major challenge to achieving overall inflation targets.
- (c) External global events such as crude oil price rises and international economic policies will have little impact on India's inflation.
- (d) Government efforts to control inflation are primarily focused on urban areas, neglecting rural consumers.

Q.99) Which of the following would support the author's conclusion that external factors will continue to pose fresh worries on the inflation front in the coming months?

- (a) A continued decrease in global crude oil prices and stable shipping costs.
- (b) A report showing that recent interest rate hikes in the United States and the European Union have started to stabilize their economies.
- (c) Documentation of rising crude oil prices reaching a seven-month high and the anticipation of increased shipping costs due to global strife.
- (d) Evidence that global economic policies are shifting towards more aggressive inflation control measures.

Q.100) Which of the following judgements most closely conforms to the principle stated in the passage that the full impact of pre-poll fuel price cuts will be seen in the current month?

- (a) Temporary economic measures such as fuel price cuts are typically introduced before elections to gain voter support, but their long-term economic impacts are minimal.
- (b) Observing the effects of fuel price reductions in a single month can conclusively determine their effectiveness in controlling inflation.
- (c) Fuel price cuts, if maintained, can have a sustainable and positive impact on inflation if they are part of a broader economic strategy.
- (d) The timing of implementing fuel price cuts right before polling can effectively mitigate short-term inflation and influence voter perception.

### **PASSAGE 19**

Ecuador's raid on April 5 at the Mexico embassy in Quito is a serious violation of the Vienna Convention on diplomatic relations on which nations operate their missions in foreign lands. The raid was to arrest Jorge David Glas, a former Vice-President in the administration of leftist and former President Rafael Correa, who has been sentenced for corruption. Mr. Correa, now living in Belgium, has also been convicted for corruption. Mr. Glas and Mr. Correa say the cases against them are politically motivated. But for Ecuador's President Daniel Noboa, the cases against the former elites were part of his larger crusade

against corruption. Tensions were high between the two countries after Mr. Glas took refuge in the Mexican embassy in Quito in December, a month after Mr. Noboa took office. Last week, Ecuador declared Mexico's Ambassador Raquel Serur Smeke as persona non grata after Mexico's leftist President Andrés Manuel López Obrador's comments that were critical of Ecuador's 2023 elections. Mexico also decided to grant asylum to Mr. Glas, which angered Ecuador. It termed the decision illegal as Mr. Glas was facing cases in the country and, soon after, sent armed police officers to the embassy to arrest him, triggering a major diplomatic crisis. Mexico, which says its sovereignty has been breached, has now moved the International Court of Justice in the Netherlands, demanding the expulsion of Ecuador from the UN.

The embassy raid comes at a time when President Noboa is facing increased criticism at home over rising gang violence. He came to power promising to tackle corruption and gang violence. Last year's presidential election was marred by deadly violence when presidential candidate Fernando Villavicencio was assassinated during the campaign in Quito. Mr. Noboa says he stays committed to fighting gangs and restoring order in Ecuador's cities, but his approval rating has sunk amid growing violence, especially in the coastal city of Guayaquil, which was overrun by gangs in January. The situation is so bad in Ecuador that during the Easter weekend, the country of 18 million people saw over 100 murders. Critics say Mr. Noboa is using the diplomatic crisis with Mexico to strengthen his political fortunes. But he has merely triggered a new crisis without addressing the actual one. Ecuadorians are set to vote in a referendum next week that would give the government increased security powers to fight gang violence. The government has to get its act together in the war against organised violence, but it should do that from within the limits of domestic and international laws. Going rogue inside the embassy of a neighbouring country in the name of fighting corruption is not going to help Ecuador in tackling the myriad challenges it is facing.

**Source: Breach of convention: On the Ecuador-Mexico tensions, The Hindu Editorial, April 15, 2024.**

Q.101) Based on the author's arguments, which of the following must necessarily be true about President Noboa's strategy regarding the raid at the Mexico embassy?

- (a) The raid was an essential move to uphold Ecuador's legal standards against corruption, regardless of diplomatic conventions.
- (b) The decision to conduct the raid was influenced by President Noboa's need to divert attention from domestic issues.
- (c) The raid was fully justified under international law as it aimed to arrest a convicted felon.
- (d) The raid will likely enhance President Noboa's approval ratings by showing his commitment to fighting corruption.

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Q.102) Which of the following implicit assumptions can be logically deduced from the author's discussion of the ongoing gang violence and its impact on President Noboa's political stance?

- (a) President Noboa's promise to combat corruption and gang violence was primarily a tactic to gain electoral support.
- (b) Effective control of gang violence would significantly improve President Noboa's approval ratings.
- (c) The general public in Ecuador views the fight against gang violence as less important than resolving diplomatic crises.
- (d) The assassination of a presidential candidate has made the public more tolerant of breaches in international law.

Q.103) Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the author's arguments about the efficacy of President Noboa's use of the diplomatic crisis to bolster his political fortunes?

- (a) Recent polls indicate that President Noboa's handling of the diplomatic crisis has significantly improved his popularity among Ecuadorian voters.
- (b) Independent audits reveal that the levels of gang violence in Ecuador have significantly decreased since the raid at the Mexico embassy.
- (c) Evidence shows that the diplomatic crisis has diverted substantial government resources away from effectively combating gang violence.
- (d) Reports confirm that other nations have expressed support for Ecuador's actions at the Mexico embassy, viewing it as a necessary measure against corruption.

Q.104) How does the passage describe the potential impact of the upcoming referendum on increased security powers for the Ecuadorian government?

- (a) It is seen as a desperate attempt by President Noboa to regain control and credibility amidst failing security measures.
- (b) The referendum is expected to significantly reduce gang violence by granting the government more authority to act.
- (c) Critics view the referendum as a diversion from the real issues facing the country, similar to the diplomatic crisis.
- (d) The referendum is likely to be controversial but necessary to restore order in Ecuador's cities overwhelmed by gang violence.

Q.105) Which of the following is a correct expression of the author's opinion as stated in the passage about the decision to raid the Mexican embassy?



- (a) The raid was a necessary step taken by President Noboa to assert Ecuador's stance against corruption effectively.
- (b) The embassy raid, while controversial, was a strategic move by President Noboa to strengthen his domestic and international standing.
- (c) The raid was a misguided action that violated diplomatic norms and did not aid Ecuador's broader challenges.
- (d) The decision to raid the embassy was universally condemned, causing irreparable damage to Ecuador's international relationships.

### **PASSAGE 20**

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Thursday raised its forecast for India's GDP growth in the current fiscal year ending on March 31, 2025, to 7%, from 6.7% earlier, citing robust public and private investment as well as expectations of a gradual improvement in consumer demand as the rural economy recovers. The regional multilateral lender also projected that India's economy would expand by 7.2% in fiscal 2025-26. The ADB's latest growth forecast for India's GDP is, however, still slower than the 7.6% pace that India's National Statistical Office has estimated for the 12 months that ended on March 31. Last year's expansion too was driven by strong investment while consumption remained muted. The ADB, however, cautioned that its forecast could be proven wrong by global risks including a sharp rise in oil prices or prolonged high interest rates in the West to tackle inflation. It estimated that India would likely be the economy most affected in Asia by the high interest rates due to the greater sensitivity of the rupee to western interest rates. It also noted that while the Centre's capital expenditure spending had been strong and was projected to grow with rising budgetary allocation, project completions in the private sector had failed to match rising project announcements. Most conspicuously missing from the ADB's report, however, was the absence of any comment on the controversies surrounding the integrity of India's national income data or concerns raised about the heavy influence of government tax receipts on final GDP.

The lender also failed to make any mention of the absence of significant structural reforms in India, particularly since the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the reasons the strong growth numbers reported by the government have been questioned is that they have come at a time when economic reforms have taken a back seat. The ADB's assumption of a likely rebound in consumer spending to support its 2024-25 growth projection is also at risk of being undermined. Global country risk research firm BMI recently flagged the risk to consumption spending from stretched household savings which are near all-time lows. In any case, the Centre would do well to listen to the ADB's suggestion to create large-scale special economic zones with an easier policy environment to boost exports. Given the challenges flagged by the lender to global merchandise trade, including the extremely volatile situation in West Asia and the disruptions to the normal east-west shipping route through the Red Sea, India must heed the ADB's recommendations to integrate better with global supply chains and improve its logistics infrastructure post haste.

**Source: Risky premise: On Asian Development Bank forecast, India's GDP growth, The Hindu Editorial, April 13, 2024.**

Q.106) Which of the following would support the author's conclusion that the ADB's growth forecast for India could be undermined by external factors?

- (a) A sustained drop in oil prices and a decrease in Western interest rates.
- (b) A sharp rise in oil prices or prolonged high interest rates in the West.
- (c) An increase in India's exports following the creation of special economic zones.
- (d) A report highlighting the successful implementation of structural reforms in India post-COVID-19.

Q.107) Based on the author's arguments, which of the following must necessarily be true regarding the ADB's assessment of India's economic outlook?

- (a) The ADB's prediction of robust public and private investment underpins its optimistic growth forecast for India.
- (b) The ADB's growth forecast hinges solely on the assumption of a significant improvement in global trade conditions.
- (c) The ADB has fully accounted for the potential impacts of volatile situations in West Asia on India's economic growth.
- (d) The ADB's projection disregards the influence of consumer spending on India's economic performance.

Q.108) Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the author's arguments about the risks to India's economic growth from stretched household savings?

- (a) Data showing that India's household savings rate has been steadily increasing over the past year.
- (b) Evidence that Indian consumers are increasingly turning to credit to supplement their spending despite low savings.
- (c) Reports indicating that global interest rates are set to remain high, further stretching household budgets.
- (d) Surveys finding that consumer confidence in India remains high despite low savings rates.

Q.109) Which of the following implicit assumptions can be logically deduced from the author's mention of the ADB's failure to comment on the integrity of India's national income data?

- (a) Accurate and transparent national income data is crucial for credible economic forecasts.
- (b) The ADB typically scrutinizes the accuracy of national income data in all its economic forecasts.
- (c) The ADB believes that the controversies surrounding India's national income data are inconsequential to its growth projections.
- (d) National income data controversies have no significant impact on India's economic policy making.

Q.110) Which of the following would support the author's conclusion that India should heed the ADB's recommendations to improve its logistics infrastructure and integrate better with global supply chains?

- (a) A study revealing that India's logistics costs are significantly higher than the global average, hindering its export competitiveness.
- (b) Reports confirming the success of recent tax reforms in India that have simplified the business environment for exporters.
- (c) Evidence that India has increased its trade deficits with major trading partners over the last year.
- (d) Surveys showing that consumer demand for domestically produced goods in India has risen sharply.

### DATA INTERPRETATION

#### PASSAGE - 21

In recent years, China has emerged as a powerhouse in the electric vehicle (EV) industry, showcasing significant growth in EV production. From 2019 to 2023, the production of electric vehicles in China has seen a robust increase, with total units produced annually growing from 1.2 million in 2019 to an impressive 3 million in 2023. This surge reflects China's concerted efforts to dominate the global EV market, fueled by government incentives and the country's push towards sustainable transportation. Tesla, the American EV maker, has played a crucial role in this expanding market. Starting with a production of 0.5 million units in 2019, Tesla's output in China increased to 2 million units by 2023. This growth has not only contributed to Tesla's global expansion but also significantly increased its market share within China. In 2019, Tesla accounted for 41.67% of all EVs produced in China, a figure that grew to 66.67% by 2023, indicating Tesla's increasing dominance in the Chinese market. Despite Tesla's rising influence, other brands continue to compete vigorously, making up 33.33% of the market in 2023, down from 58.33% in 2019. This shift highlights a competitive environment where diverse players contribute to innovation and provide consumers with multiple choices beyond Tesla's offerings. The expansion of the charging infrastructure has also kept pace with the increase in EV production. By 2023, the number of public charging stations reached 1.5 million, up 25%

from the previous year, reducing one of the significant barriers to EV adoption and facilitating longer and more convenient journeys for EV users. As China continues to lead the charge in the global shift towards electric vehicles, the dynamics within its market offer valuable insights into the evolving landscape of the automotive industry. Tesla's strategic moves and the robust competition from other brands underscore a vibrant market poised for further growth and innovation. This ongoing evolution marks a significant chapter in China's automotive history, positioning it at the forefront of the global transition to sustainable transportation.

Q.111) Based on the 2023 data, what percentage of the total EV production in China did Tesla account for?

- (a) 50%
- (b) 60%
- (c) 66.67%
- (d) 75%

Q.112) If the total EV production in China was 3 million units in 2023, and Tesla's share was 66.67%, how many units were produced by other manufacturers?

- (a) 750,000 units
- (b) 1 million units
- (c) 1.25 million units
- (d) 1.5 million units

Q.113) In 2023, how much more did Tesla's EV production in China grow compared to other manufacturers if the overall increase in total EV production in China was 50% from the previous year?

- (a) 100%
- (b) 75%
- (c) 50%
- (d) 25%

Q.114) Given that the overall EV production capacity in China increased by 50% from 2022 to 2023, reaching a total of 3 million units, and that Tesla's production doubled from 1 million to 2 million units, what was the percentage increase in production capacity for other manufacturers?

- (a) 0%
- (b) 10%
- (c) 25%

(d) 50%

Q.115) If the new electric vehicle models from Chinese manufacturers are priced at an average of \$30,000 and they contributed to 20% of the total production in 2023, what was the total revenue generated from these new models?

- (a) \$12 billion
- (b) \$15 billion
- (c) \$18 billion
- (d) \$20 billion

### **PASSAGE – 22**

In recent years, the global landscape for renewable energy has seen substantial growth, with countries across the world significantly increasing their investments in sustainable energy sources. A detailed analysis of the annual growth rates for renewable energy capacity from 2019 to 2023 highlights the strides made by several key nations. The United States has demonstrated a consistent commitment to expanding its renewable energy resources, with a steady 10% year-over-year increase in capacity. Starting at 100 GW in 2019, the capacity rose to 146.41 GW by 2023. This progression underscores the country's ongoing efforts to transition away from fossil fuels and towards more sustainable energy solutions. China, a global leader in renewable energy, started with a capacity of 200 GW in 2019 and achieved an impressive 292.82 GW by 2023. The 10% annual increase reflects China's ambitious policy-driven push to dominate the global renewable energy market, reducing carbon emissions and fostering technological innovations in solar and wind power. India's growth trajectory in renewable energy capacity is also noteworthy. Beginning with 50 GW in 2019, India reached 73.205 GW by 2023. This growth is a part of India's broader strategy to achieve energy security and sustainability, driven by government incentives and the country's abundant natural resources conducive to renewable energy production. Germany and Brazil, too, have made significant advances. Germany's capacity increased from 80 GW in 2019 to 117.128 GW in 2023, while Brazil's capacity grew from 40 GW to 58.564 GW over the same period. Both countries have leveraged policy frameworks and technological advancements to enhance their renewable energy sectors, aiming to reduce dependence on imported fuels and decrease greenhouse gas emissions.

Q.116) Based on the annual growth rate and initial capacity reported, what was the total increase in renewable energy capacity for the United States from 2019 to 2023?

- (a) 40 GW
- (b) 46.41 GW
- (c) 50 GW
- (d) 56.41 GW

Q.117) If the European Union aims to achieve an additional 25 GW of renewable energy capacity per year as per the 2023 targets, how many years will it take to double their reported 2023 capacity of 300 GW?

- (a) 8 years
- (b) 12 years
- (c) 10 years
- (d) 15 years

Q.118) Considering the 2023 data, if Germany contributed 20% to Europe's total 300 GW renewable energy capacity, what was Germany's renewable energy capacity?

- (a) 50 GW
- (b) 75 GW
- (c) 60 GW
- (d) 45 GW

Q.119) With an estimated CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reduction of 1.2 billion tons in 2023 due to increased renewable energy capacity, and knowing that the global renewable energy capacity was 3,500 GW for the year, how much CO<sub>2</sub> reduction per GW of renewable energy capacity was achieved on average?

- (a) 342,857 tons
- (b) 300,000 tons
- (c) 400,000 tons
- (d) 500,000 tons

Q.120) If hydroelectric power contributes 800 GW, which is 22.9% of the total global renewable energy capacity, what is the total renewable energy capacity?

- (a) 3,500 GW
- (b) 4,000 GW
- (c) 3,750 GW
- (d) 3,900 GW



**ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS**

1. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the passage describes Marta's choice to live in the desert, surrounded by the things of her making, as a way to define her life and artistry distinct from urban distractions. This implies that solitude was key to her personal and creative growth. Option (a) is incorrect because the passage does not portray solitude as a burden but rather as a chosen lifestyle for creativity and personal development. Option (c) is incorrect as the passage illustrates solitude as a deliberate choice beneficial for Marta, not as unnecessary. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage clearly places the experience of solitude in the desert, emphasizing the rural and natural setting as integral to the experience, contrasting with urban environments.
2. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the passage states that upon seeing the building through the tiny hole, Marta felt like she was looking at the other half of her life, implying a strong connection and future integration with the place. Option (a) is incorrect because the passage does not mention any fear or uncertainty, but rather a clear, positive premonition. Option (c) is incorrect as there is no indication of regret about past decisions; instead, the context suggests anticipation and discovery. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage suggests that she was looking forward, not reminiscing about her past life in the city.
3. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the passage illustrates Marta's deep connection with the desert, describing it as integral to her creative process and lifestyle. She transformed a deserted building into a space for her art, indicating that the isolation and environment were cherished and utilized positively. Option (a) is incorrect because, although Marta hated the wind for making emptiness feel emptier, the overall tone suggests she found value and inspiration in the desert setting, not that it stifled her. Option (c) is incorrect because the passage clearly shows that the desert environment significantly influenced her life and work, not that she was indifferent to it. Option (d) is incorrect because there is no suggestion in the text that Marta intended to leave the desert upon gaining recognition; instead, she made a permanent home there.
4. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because the term "accessible grand gesture" in the passage describes Marta's ambitious project of transforming an abandoned adobe complex into a vibrant cultural hub, which was both grand in scale and accessible to the public. Option (b) is incorrect because the term does not refer to her personal lifestyle choices but to a specific action taken regarding the property. Option (c) is incorrect as the term specifically applies to Marta's project, not Tom's personal transformations. Option (d) is incorrect because there is no mention of communal efforts regarding the landscape in the passage; it focuses solely on Marta's endeavors.

5. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the setting described in the passage is an abandoned hotel, offices, a café, and a theater surrounded by tamarisk trees, indicating a state of neglect and disrepair, which fits the definition of "derelict." Option (a) is incorrect because "metropolitan" implies a densely populated urban area, which contradicts the isolated and abandoned nature of the location described. Option (c) is incorrect as "bustling" suggests a lively, crowded place, which is the opposite of the deserted and quiet atmosphere depicted. Option (d) is incorrect because the setting is described with a specific type of tree and a desert environment, not a densely wooded or forested area.
6. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because the passage frequently returns to themes of transportation delays and traffic problems, as evidenced by the trains not running, traffic backing up, and the mention of protests affecting travel to Muizenberg. These elements highlight the main theme of urban transit's unpredictability and its impact on daily life. Option (b) is incorrect because while the passage does describe a local bar, it does not emphasize morning rituals or their calming effects as a central theme. Option (c) is incorrect because, although political posters and elections are mentioned, they are not the focus of the passage but rather a background element. Option (d) is incorrect because the interpersonal dynamics at the bar are not the central focus; instead, the passage highlights the collective frustration with transportation issues as a more significant theme.
7. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the passage details the setting of the Nine Lives bar, mentioning slot machines, pool games, and horse race betting as activities available on the premises, indicating a commercial and recreational environment. Option (a) is incorrect because the passage does not describe a residential area but rather a commercial setting with a bar and gambling facilities. Option (c) is incorrect as there is no mention of lush greenery or outdoor spaces; the external descriptions involve traffic and urban fixtures. Option (d) is incorrect because the setting is not tranquil; it is described as affected by train delays, traffic congestion, and other urban disturbances.
8. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the sentence is used in the context of the speaker reacting to being told she must wait longer due to trains not running, which indicates significant frustration over a repeated disruption. Option (a) is incorrect because the expletive and context suggest more than mild annoyance; the frustration seems significant. Option (c) is incorrect as the use of the expletive indicates a strong emotional impact rather than a casual comment. Option (d) is incorrect because the expletive and the context in which it is used indicate frustration, not politeness.
9. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the passage describes a setting (the bar and its surroundings) that significantly influences the characters' behavior and interactions, from their frustration with transportation issues to their social

dynamics within the bar. This suggests a setting that actively shapes their experiences. Option (a) is incorrect because the setting does more than lightly influence; it is central to the events and emotions described. Option (c) is incorrect as the setting is deeply intertwined with the characters' lives, affecting their moods and actions. Option (d) is incorrect because there is no indication that the setting symbolically reflects the characters' internal struggles; rather, it has a more literal and practical impact on their lives.

10. Explanation: Option (c) is correct because the passage describes the mahogany counter with bottles and glasses stacked along a mirrored wall, indicating its use as a functional area for preparing and serving drinks. Option (a) is incorrect because there is no indication in the text that the counter was intended to create distance between staff and patrons. Option (b) is incorrect as the counter is clearly used for practical purposes, not merely decorative. Option (d) is incorrect because while the counter may contribute to the bar's historical atmosphere, the passage does not explicitly connect it as a symbol of the bar's legacy; it focuses on its practical use.
11. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because the passage extensively discusses Hal's financial struggles, including his overdraft, the use of credit for daily expenses, and the subsequent social manipulations to maintain his lifestyle, which highlights the consequences of financial mismanagement and the pressure to keep up appearances. Option (b) is incorrect because, although there is a mention of nighttime pleasures, this is not the central theme but a smaller part of Hal's attempts to escape his financial reality. Option (c) is incorrect as the family dynamics, while present (notably in the conversation with Henry), are not the primary focus but rather form a background to Hal's financial and personal challenges. Option (d) is incorrect because the depiction of urban nightlife, while vivid, serves more to frame Hal's escapism and financial imprudence rather than being the main focus of the narrative.
12. Explanation: Option (c) is correct because the passage describes Hal using the Boar's Head as a place to manipulate the situation when his cards are declined, demonstrating his loyalty to the establishment to manage his credit issues. Option (a) is incorrect because there is no indication that Hal found solace or escape at the Boar's Head; it is more about managing his public facade. Option (b) is incorrect as the Boar's Head plays a critical role in the narrative, being the setting where Hal's financial struggles visibly play out. Option (d) is incorrect because, while Hal's spending at the Boar's Head does reflect his financial recklessness, the establishment itself is not a symbol of this behavior; it's the setting for actions that exemplify it.
13. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because the phrase "There but for the grace of God go I" is traditionally used to express a sense of relief and thankfulness for not

being in someone else's unfortunate situation, which fits Hal's reaction to Henry's condition. Option (b) is incorrect because the phrase does convey a nod to divine luck or intervention, but it specifically highlights Hal's feeling of fortune at not being in Henry's state, rather than a general divine intervention. Option (c) is incorrect because while the phrase might sound empathetic, it actually underscores Hal's relief at his own situation rather than expressing solidarity. Option (d) is incorrect because there is no indication in the passage that Hal uses the phrase mockingly; rather, it reflects his genuine feeling of fortune.

14. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the passage shows Henry questioning Hal's financial decisions and lifestyle, suggesting he's trying to influence Hal to reflect on his actions and implying a role as a moral compass or guide. Option (a) is incorrect because the passage does not indicate that Henry provides financial support; rather, he is concerned about Hal's financial recklessness. Option (c) is incorrect because there is not enough evidence in the passage to suggest Henry's lifestyle as a direct contrast to Hal's; their interaction focuses more on Henry's attempt to communicate and guide Hal. Option (d) is incorrect because Henry is actively trying to engage with Hal and influence his decisions, indicating involvement rather than distance.
15. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the last sentence describes the transition from night to day, from pleasure to routine, highlighting Hal's contemplation of the ephemeral nature of his nightly escapades and the inevitable return to daily life's responsibilities and norms. Option (a) is incorrect because there is no indication that Hal is specifically considering the impact of his actions on his social ties or future; he is more absorbed in the momentary changes. Option (c) is incorrect because, while physical changes in the city are mentioned, the focus is more on Hal's internal reflection rather than mere external observations. Option (d) is incorrect as there is no indication that Hal's thoughts are focused on the operational details of public transportation, but rather on the broader existential and routine aspects of life.
16. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because the passage juxtaposes the experiences of Elimijn with both Amazon and Walmart, illustrating a broader discussion on the competition between online retail and physical stores. This theme is underlined by the narrative of the retail giants playing complementary yet competitive roles in her life and in the market. Option (b) is incorrect because, although Elimijn's personal and creative life is discussed, it is not the main theme of the passage but rather a narrative tool to explore the impact of Amazon and Walmart on her life. Option (c) is incorrect as the passage does not primarily focus on the broader economic impacts of consumer shifts but rather on a personal story within this context. Option (d) is incorrect because there is no detailed discussion of technological advancements; the focus is more on the consumer experience and market dynamics between the two types of retail formats.

17. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the passage describes Amazon as Elimijn's "digital haven," offering her a wide range of books, art supplies, and crafting tools that support her hobbies and save her time, thus enhancing her creativity and simplifying her daily routine. Option (a) is incorrect because Amazon is depicted as more than a convenience; it is integral to her creative processes and family life, suggesting a primary role rather than just an alternative. Option (c) is incorrect as there is no indication in the passage that Amazon is used only when local stores fail to provide needed items; instead, it is portrayed as her first choice for many needs. Option (d) is incorrect because Amazon is described as playing a significant and positive role in Elimijn's life, not merely as a point of contrast.
18. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because the passage describes Walmart as providing a unique sensory experience that allows Elimijn to step out, breathe in the air, and indulge in a bit of old-fashioned retail therapy, suggesting it's a place for her to escape daily routines. Option (b) is incorrect because, while groceries are mentioned, the passage also describes her exploring a vast variety of products, including household essentials and affordable fashion finds, indicating her use of Walmart goes beyond just groceries. Option (c) is incorrect because, although Walmart's physical presence does contribute to a sense of connection to her community, the passage does not state it as a critical resource but rather as one of the places she frequents. Option (d) is incorrect because, while the annual tradition of buying a Christmas tree at Walmart is mentioned, it is clear that her visits are not limited to this season but occur regularly throughout the year.
19. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because the sentence implies that Amazon and Walmart serve different purposes for Elimijn, with Amazon being a key efficiency tool for her daily tasks and Walmart offering a tangible connection to her community, thus complementing each other in her life. Option (b) is incorrect because it misrepresents the relationship; Walmart is not only for occasional community events but is part of her regular shopping experience. Option (c) is incorrect as there is no suggestion that Amazon is used solely for emergencies; it is depicted as an integral part of her routine. Option (d) is incorrect because the roles of Amazon and Walmart are not described as interchangeable; they are clearly delineated as fulfilling different needs and desires in Elimijn's life.
20. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the passage mentions that Walmart's physical presence gave Elimijn a chance to "step out, breathe in the air and indulge in a bit of old-fashioned retail therapy," implying that she uses shopping as a leisure activity to relax and enjoy herself. Option (a) is incorrect because there is no indication that Elimijn uses shopping as a clinical treatment for any condition. Option (c) is incorrect as the term "retail therapy" in the context used does not relate to financial planning or budgeting, but rather to the enjoyment derived from shopping. Option (d) is incorrect because "retail therapy" is not described as a



professional service provided by Walmart; it refers to the personal pleasure Elimijn experiences while shopping.

21. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the passage vividly describes the setting of Vasant Niwas, using elements like the scent of sandalwood and the vintage-style house to reflect Vivaan's memories and emotional state, particularly his mourning for his grandfather. This use of setting to mirror the character's inner turmoil shows a deep integration of character and setting typical of contemporary literature. Option (a) is incorrect because the setting does more than provide context; it actively influences the narrative by reflecting the protagonist's emotions. Option (c) is incorrect as the setting is clearly not irrelevant but is integral to understanding the character's feelings and memories. Option (d) is incorrect because there is no indication that the setting contrasts with Vivaan's emotional state to highlight stability; rather, it complements and intensifies his feelings of loss and nostalgia.
22. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because the passage centers on Vivaan's emotional journey as he returns to his grandfather's home, reflecting on past memories and confronting the loss of his grandfather, which encompasses both reconnecting with his past and dealing with his heritage. Option (b) is incorrect as there is no focus on logistical challenges related to returning home; the narrative concentrates on emotional and symbolic aspects of Vivaan's return. Option (c) is incorrect because, although the house's architecture is described, this is not the central theme of the extract but rather a setting detail that supports the main narrative. Option (d) is incorrect because there is no discussion about the impact of Vivaan's professional achievements on his personal relationships within this extract; the focus is on his emotional state and memories connected to the house and his grandfather.
23. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because the sentence directly links Vivaan's physical reaction (shaking) to his emotional state as he enters the room where his grandfather died very recently, clearly portraying his grief and strong emotional attachment. Option (b) is incorrect because there is no indication that Vivaan's fear is related to inheriting the house or family responsibilities; the context provided centers on his emotional reaction to his grandfather's death. Option (c) is incorrect as there is no reference to the temperature being a factor in his reaction; the shaking is tied to his emotional state rather than environmental conditions. Option (d) is incorrect because while the metaphorical interpretation is plausible in literary analysis, the passage directly attributes his shaking to the emotional impact of his grandfather's recent death, making the literal interpretation stronger in this context.
24. Explanation: Option (c) is correct because the passage describes "Vasant Niwas" as a vintage-style house, emphasizing its old-fashioned charm and unique



architectural features. Option (a) is incorrect as the description provided contradicts a modern aesthetic, highlighting traditional elements instead. Option (b) is incorrect because, while the house may be well-appointed, the text does not emphasize luxury (opulence) but rather a more classic, vintage appeal. Option (d) is incorrect as "sparse" suggests a lack of furnishing or detail, which contradicts the detailed and rich description of the house's interior and furnishings provided in the passage.

25. Explanation: Option (c) is correct because in the context of the passage, "prasaad" refers to a religious offering that is distributed after prayers, a common practice in Hindu culture. This is indicated when Vivaan imagines his grandfather stepping out of the prayer room and offering him some prasaad. Option (a) is incorrect because "prasaad" is not a ritual itself but the offering given after such rituals. Option (b) is incorrect as "prasaad" is not related to furniture but is a spiritual offering. Option (d) is incorrect because while prasaad can have sentimental value, it is primarily known as a religious offering, not a personal item of Vivaan's grandfather specifically.
26. Explanation: Option (c) is correct because Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus is the Director-General of the World Health Organization.
27. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because Catherine M. Russell is the current director of UNICEF.
28. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because UNICEF originally stood for the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, although now it is formally known simply as the United Nations Children's Fund, still retaining its original acronym.
29. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because UNICEF was established in December 1946 by the United Nations to provide relief to children in countries devastated by World War II.
30. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the headquarters of UNICEF is located in New York, USA.
31. Explanation: Option (c) is correct because the "Every Child Alive" campaign is one of UNICEF's key initiatives, focusing on ensuring that every child survives and thrives, particularly addressing the needs of the most disadvantaged.
32. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the WHO was officially established on April 7, 1948. This date is also celebrated as World Health Day.

33. Explanation: Option (c) is correct because the WHO declared the Zika virus outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) in 2016.
34. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because COVID-19 stands for Coronavirus Disease 2019, referring to the year it was first identified.
35. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the main route of transmission for the virus that causes COVID-19 is through airborne droplets, which can be spread when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks.
36. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine uses mRNA technology, which introduces a small part of the virus's mRNA to stimulate an immune response without causing the disease.
37. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the headquarters of the WHO is located in Geneva, Switzerland.
38. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because Dr. Subba Rao Pavuluri is the president of SIA-India.
39. Explanation: Option (d) is correct because SIA-India was officially launched in 2022. It was established to represent the interests of the satellite communication industry in India and to foster growth and innovation within this sector.
40. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the primary purpose of communication satellites is to facilitate telecommunications, including broadcasting television signals, internet data, and telephone calls, across large distances without the need for physical wires or cables.
41. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the Soviet Union launched the first artificial satellite, Sputnik 1, into space on October 4, 1957.
42. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because an orbit is the term used to describe the regular, repeating path that a satellite takes around a planet or moon.
43. Explanation: Option (c) is correct because a Geostationary Orbit (GEO) is typically used for weather satellites. It allows the satellite to remain in the same position relative to the Earth's surface, providing consistent, real-time observations of the same area.
44. Explanation: Option (c) is correct because Muhammad Ali, famously known as "The Greatest," is celebrated not only for his remarkable achievements in the ring but also for his charismatic presence and his stand on various social and political issues.

45. Explanation: Option (d) is correct because the super lightweight class (also known as junior welterweight) is immediately above the lightweight division in professional boxing.
46. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because a professional boxing round typically lasts 3 minutes, with a 1-minute rest period between rounds.
47. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because the "ring corner" is the term used for the designated area where boxers rest and receive advice from their coaches during the intervals between rounds in a boxing match.
48. Explanation: Option (c) is correct because AIBA stands for the International Boxing Association, previously known as the International Amateur Boxing Association, which is the worldwide governing body for the sport of boxing in all its forms, with 203 National Federations.
49. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because the International Boxing Association (AIBA) was founded in 1946. It was established to govern amateur boxing globally.
50. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because Gagan Shakti-24 will be observed from April 1-10.
51. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because "Touch the Sky with Glory" is the official motto of the Indian Air Force. It is derived from the eleventh chapter of the Bhagavad Gita, which is a sacred text of the Hindu religion.
52. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the MiG-27, which has been used extensively by the Indian Air Force, is popularly known as 'Bahadur' (Valiant).
53. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because Indian Air Force Day is celebrated annually on October 8 to commemorate the official foundation day of the Air Force in 1932.
54. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because Hindon Air Force Base, located in Ghaziabad near Delhi, is the largest air base in India in terms of area.
55. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the HAL Dhruv is an indigenously developed helicopter by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, extensively used by the Indian Air Force for various roles, including utility, transport, and search and rescue operations.
56. Explanation: Option (b) is correct as the passage illustrates that under the new GST framework, individuals would need to register at the state level for banking

and financial services in the state they are residing in. Since Aditya is moving to Karnataka, he would have to register there as per the GST norms. Option (a) is incorrect because the passage states that services offered by the Banking and Finance sector are expected to fall under the new tax regime with a hike from 15% to 18% GST. This increase accounts for the rise in Aditya's service charges. Option (c) is incorrect because, while GST is a consolidated tax comprising of CGST, SGST, or IGST, the rate may differ based on the nature and origin of the service, not necessarily implying a uniform rate across states. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage indicates transactions between branches registered under different states would be considered taxable. Thus, Aditya's account transfer would indeed have GST implications under the current GST regime.

57. Explanation: Option (d) is correct because the passage indicates that transactions between branches in different states would be considered taxable under GST. As 'Umeed Finance' engages in loan disbursements and repayments between its branches, these activities would attract GST. Option (a) is incorrect because the passage specifies that transactions between branches would also be considered taxable if they are registered under different states. Option (b) is incorrect as the passage does not make any distinction between the types of inter-branch transactions for the purpose of GST. All transactions would be considered taxable. Option (c) is incorrect because the passage makes it clear that under the new GST regime, contrary to a centralised registration, state-wise registration of all bank branches is now required.
58. Explanation: Option (b) is correct as the passage implies that while commodities such as gold and silver are subject to a concessional GST rate, the services provided by the banking and finance sector, which would include managing gold ETFs, attract the revised GST rate of 18%. Option (a) is incorrect because the passage indicates that services related to commodities like gold and silver would have a concessional GST rate, which does not automatically extend to gold ETFs as they are financial instruments. Option (c) is incorrect because the passage does not state that gold ETF investments themselves would attract 18% GST, only the financial transactions associated with them. Option (d) is incorrect because although the passage suggests that the operational cost would be remitted by organizations with larger transaction flows, it does not mean that Priya, as an individual investor, would be exempt from increased charges related to GST on banking services.
59. Explanation: Option (d) is correct because, as per the passage, state-wise registered branches have to consider the GST on services provided to one another. Hence, Rishabh, as the CFO, will have to manage the correct calculation and payment of GST for the inter-branch fund transfer service. Option (a) is incorrect because the passage clearly states that under the GST regime, state-wise registration of all bank branches is a requirement, which suggests that Rishabh

cannot avoid these costs by opting not to register each branch. Option (b) is incorrect as the passage explicitly indicates that transactions between branches in different states would be considered taxable under GST, thus Rishabh has to account for GST on the new inter-branch fund transfer service. Option (c) is incorrect as per the passage, which mentions that the banks would now end up filing more than two returns per state, specifically citing that they might need to file over 60 monthly and annual returns collectively, which implies a greater number than just two per state.

60. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the passage implies that transactional services, which would include account maintenance fees, provided across state lines would be subject to GST. Since the client has accounts across different states, GST would be applied to the fees charged by 'Prosperity Bank'. Option (a) is incorrect as the passage does not indicate that interest on fixed deposits would be subject to GST. The GST implications discussed in the passage are primarily on services and not on interest income. Option (c) is incorrect as it misinterprets the passage. While the passage does suggest that interest is not directly taxed under GST, this option fails to address the actual concern of the client, which is about the fees for account maintenance. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage indicates that financial institutions would indirectly pass on the additional operational costs due to GST to their customers. Therefore, Vinita cannot assure the client that there will be no GST implications on the services provided by the bank.
61. Explanation: Option (b) is correct as the passage makes it clear that transactions between branches in different states are taxable under GST. Even if no fee was charged for the wire transfer service during the promotional period, the service itself is subject to GST, and Deepak must account for this in the bank's GST returns. Option (a) is incorrect because, as per the passage, GST is applicable on services provided by the banking and finance sector, including inter-state transactions. The fee charged (or not charged) for the service does not preclude the application of GST. Option (c) is incorrect because the passage does not suggest that the bank must charge a fee on transactions to comply with GST. Whether the bank charges a fee or not, GST is levied based on the service provided. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage does not provide any special exemptions for promotional offers or customer rewards from the scope of GST. The bank is still responsible for registering such transactions for GST, regardless of the offer's nature.
62. Explanation: Option (d) is correct because the passage indicates that the appellate court should not engage in an independent appraisal of evidence like a first court unless the trial court's acquittal was perverse or suffered from a material omission in considering evidence. The Supreme Court's evaluation should center on whether the High Court went beyond its jurisdiction by reassessing the credibility of the

alibi and the eyewitness testimony, instead of checking for perversity in the Trial Court's judgment. Option (a) is incorrect as the passage does not focus on the authenticity of specific events or corroboration by individual witnesses but rather on the broader legal issue of appellate court boundaries. Option (b) is incorrect because the strength of the prosecution's argument against an alibi, while important, is not the focus of the appellate principles outlined in the passage. The appellate court should focus on judicial errors in the Trial Court's decision, not on the persuasiveness of the prosecution's or defense's arguments. Option (c) is incorrect as the passage does not discuss the potential bias from media coverage; the concern is whether the High Court assumed a role beyond reviewing the Trial Court's verdict for legal errors. The correct option should reflect the appellate principles as per the legal framework established by the Supreme Court in the passage.

63. Explanation: Option (b) is correct as the passage states that the appellate Court, when reversing an acquittal, must ensure that no two reasonable views are possible and that the High Court proceeded to assess evidence as a first court. Therefore, it is pertinent to ascertain if the High Court deviated from the established principles by not restricting its review to the possibility of a perverse acquittal. Option (a) is incorrect because there is no indication in the passage that the accused presented an alibi nor that the appellate court failed to consider it. Option (c) is incorrect because, while the FIR's credibility is questioned due to its absence in the Daily Diary, the passage does not state that the delay in filing the FIR impacted the credibility of the eyewitness testimony itself. Option (d) is incorrect because while the non-production of the Daily Diary is mentioned as significant, it does not directly pertain to the procedural improprieties but rather to the genuineness and timing of the FIR, making it less relevant to the Supreme Court's decision to intervene.
64. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the passage delineates the principle that an appellate Court should not decide the appeal as a first court. The Supreme Court would need to review whether the High Court improperly undertook an independent assessment of evidence rather than evaluating the Trial Court's decision for perversity or evidentiary misapprehension. Option (a) is incorrect as the passage does not highlight the credibility of expert testimonies specifically as a basis for appellate intervention. Option (c) is incorrect because the passage provides no indication of personal influence as a factor considered by the courts, and such an issue does not relate to the appellate Court's role in an appeal against acquittal. Option (d) is incorrect because the focus at the appellate level is not on the sufficiency of the initial evidence but rather on whether the Trial Court's acquittal suffered from patent perversity or misapprehension of evidence.
65. Explanation: Option (a) is correct as the passage indicates that for an appellate Court to reverse an acquittal, it must be established that the judgment suffered



from material omissions in considering evidence or perversity. The Supreme Court's focus should, therefore, be on determining whether the High Court omitted material evidence that could lead to a different reasonable view. Option (b) is incorrect because the registration of the FIR and potential procedural violations thereof is not directly connected to the appellate Court's function in assessing the reversal of an acquittal. Option (c) is incorrect because, while the reliability of eyewitness accounts is important, the passage specifies that the appellate Court should reverse an acquittal only when one singular view, consistent with guilt, is possible from the evidence. Thus, the primary focus should be the possibility of alternative interpretations. Option (d) is incorrect because the validity of the land dispute as a motive does not bear upon the appellate Court's adherence to the legal principles governing appeals against acquittal and is therefore not the primary focus for the Supreme Court in this context.

66. Explanation: Option (d) is correct as the passage states that the appellate Court, when reversing a decision of acquittal, must not act as a first court and only reverse if the trial judgment suffers from perversity or material omissions. The High Court's new fact-finding raises the question of whether it acted beyond its purview by not adhering to these principles. Option (a) is incorrect because the passage does not discuss the authenticity of the item in question or the credibility of testimonies as a direct appellate issue. Option (b) is incorrect as the passage doesn't specifically address the reevaluation of probabilities which is not the primary function of an appellate court in acquittal appeals. Option (c) is incorrect because while circumstantial evidence is important, the passage emphasizes that the appellate Court's duty is to check for a perverse judgment or omission of material evidence, rather than a fresh evaluation of such evidence.
67. Explanation: Option (d) is correct as the passage indicates that the appellate Court should not substitute the Trial Court's judgment with its own findings unless the original acquittal is perverse or omits to consider material evidence. The focus should be on whether the High Court adhered to these principles. Option (a) is incorrect because while evaluation of hearsay is a matter of legal procedure, the passage does not describe it as an appellate issue. Option (b) is incorrect as the passage does not discuss the appellate Court's role in considering additional evidence not used in the original trial; it focuses on whether the appellate Court acted within its limits. Option (c) is incorrect because hearsay being converted into direct testimony is not a direct appellate concern mentioned in the passage; the concern is whether the High Court exceeded its mandate while reversing the acquittal.
68. Explanation: Option (b) is correct as the passage states that Mr. V Giri, representing the state of Kerala, argued that ENA, being a raw material in the process of making 'intoxicating liquor,' should be covered under Entry 8 List II and hence under the State's legislative powers. Option (a) is incorrect because,

according to the passage and the argument presented by Mr. V Giri, ENA is part of the production process for potable alcohol and thus should be within the scope of the State's regulation. Option (c) is incorrect because the passage does not identify ENA as a controlled substance; rather, it explains that raw materials used in the production of 'intoxicating liquor' fall under Entry 8 List II, which is within the State's domain. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage provides that there is already an argument made for including raw materials like ENA under 'intoxicating liquor,' suggesting that there is no need for new guidelines but rather an affirmation of existing legal interpretation as per Mr. Giri's argument.

69. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the passage states that every step leading up to the final IMFL product, including companies that make rectified spirits, falls under Entry 8 List II. Therefore, the State's expansion of the definition to include these stages is within its regulatory power. Option (a) is incorrect because, although the concept of "industry" includes the manufacturing process, the passage clarifies that such activities are covered by Entry 24 of List II unless the industry is specifically under the central government's jurisdiction, which is not stated in the facts presented. Option (c) is incorrect as it does not address the core issue of the challenge; Jai Industries is arguing the scope of state regulation, not its contribution to IMFL production. Option (d) is incorrect because the facts do not suggest a need for the revision of Entry 8 List II but are concerned with the interpretation and application of the existing entry, as per the expanded definition by the Uttar Pradesh state amendment.
70. Explanation: Option (a) is correct as the passage suggests that "denatured spirit," which is considered industrial alcohol, may still fall under the scope of regulation by the State if used in the production process of 'intoxicating liquor.' Since Arohan Biochemicals is using denatured spirit for producing sanitisers, which could potentially be covered by the state's powers to regulate 'intoxicating liquor,' their operations should be regulated under Entry 8 List II. Option (b) is incorrect because the passage indicates that while denatured spirit is generally considered industrial alcohol, if it is part of the production process of 'intoxicating liquor,' it would not fall under the Union's jurisdiction under Entry 52 of List I. Option (c) is incorrect because it does not accurately reflect the legal issue; the passage explains that the issue is about whether the denatured spirit used for a particular purpose should be regulated by the State or Union, not whether sanitisers constitute an 'industry.' Option (d) is incorrect because the passage delineates clear areas of jurisdiction between the Union and States, and the facts given do not suggest a concurrent jurisdiction for the production of sanitisers using denatured spirit.
71. Explanation: Option (a) is correct as the passage indicates that "denatured spirit" is generally classified as industrial alcohol, which falls outside the State's purview and is exclusively reserved for the Union under Entry 52 of List I. Since Shrihari

Chemicals is using the denatured spirit for the production of varnishes and thinners, which is not the production of 'intoxicating liquor,' the Union's regulation applies. Option (b) is incorrect because, as the passage states, while the State can regulate 'intoxicating liquor' and its raw materials under Entry 8 List II, denatured spirit for non-potable products like varnishes does not fit the category of 'intoxicating liquor.' Option (c) is incorrect because the passage clearly distinguishes between 'intoxicating liquor' and 'industrial alcohol' with the latter being under the Union's jurisdiction, thus contradicting the all-inclusive state jurisdiction claimed here. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage provides clear guidelines on the demarcation of jurisdiction between the State and the Union; therefore, creating a joint regulatory framework goes against the legal framework outlined in the passage.

72. Explanation: Option (a) is correct as the passage states that while Entry 8 List II grants State legislatures the power to regulate 'intoxicating liquor,' it does not discuss the regulation of imported goods which, as per Entry 83 of List I, are under the purview of the Union. Thus, Vasudha Beverages is subject to central regulation and taxation for the imported ENA. Option (b) is incorrect because, although the State can regulate the production of 'intoxicating liquor,' the issue at hand pertains to the import duties which are clearly a central matter. Option (c) is incorrect because the passage does not suggest that state legislative powers override the Union's powers regarding import duties. Option (d) is incorrect because the legal framework does not propose a dual system of regulation for imported goods; duties on imports remain a central subject as per the passage.
73. Explanation: Option (c) is correct because, as per the passage, while the state has the power to regulate 'intoxicating liquor' under Entry 8 List II, the denaturation process changes the potable spirit into 'industrial alcohol,' which falls under the purview of the Union as per Entry 52 of List I. Hence, CBEC's contention that once the spirit is denatured for industrial use it should be classified as 'industrial alcohol' and taxed under central regulation is aligned with the legal framework outlined in the passage. Option (a) is incorrect because, although the initial production of potable spirit is under state jurisdiction, the subsequent denaturation for industrial purposes such as hand sanitizers changes the classification of the product, subjecting it to central excise duties. Option (b) is incorrect because the passage indicates that the question of liability for central excise duties pertains to the classification of the alcohol post-denaturation, not solely the actions of Shivalik Organics. Option (d) is incorrect as the legal framework does not support the creation of a hybrid taxation system and clearly defines the jurisdictional boundaries between 'intoxicating liquor' and 'industrial alcohol.'
74. Explanation: Option (c) is correct because the passage clearly states that the UP anti-conversion law prohibits interfaith live-in relationships that are in the nature of marriage, as indicated in Section 3(1). As Prashant and Zoya are openly

presenting themselves as a couple, this can be seen as being "in the nature of marriage," which the court has interpreted as prohibited under the Act. Since they have not followed the formal conversion process required by Sections 8 & 9, the relationship itself can qualify as illegal conversion under the Act. Option (a) is incorrect because, according to the passage, the law does not require a formal marriage or conversion ceremony for a relationship to be in violation; the mere existence of an interfaith live-in relationship can trigger the application of the law. Option (b) is incorrect as the passage specifies that the individual facing potential punishment would be the person who has caused the conversion, which is not clearly Prashant in this situation. Additionally, the standard punishment applies only upon conviction under Section 5 after due process. Option (d) is incorrect because Zoya, as an individual in the relationship, would not be prosecuted for not following the conversion declarations before living together; the Act requires these declarations for a valid conversion, which they are not undertaking.

75. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because, according to the passage, the Act requires a person converting to submit two declarations to the District Magistrate within specified time frames: the first at least 60 days before conversion and the second no later than 60 days after conversion. Aarav's submission of the second declaration 65 days post-conversion exceeds this legal requirement and hence could lead to his conversion being questioned and potentially nullified. Option (a) is incorrect because the passage suggests that compliance with the procedural requirements is necessary for a valid conversion; failing to submit the second declaration within the mandated time is a deviation from these statutory requirements. Option (c) is incorrect as there is no indication in the passage that Noor, as the spouse of the person converting, has a legal obligation to ensure Aarav's compliance with conversion timelines under the Act. Option (d) is incorrect because the responsibility to comply with the legislative provisions lies with the individual converting, as detailed in Sections 8 & 9, not with the District Magistrate. There is no suggestion in the passage that the Magistrate would be held accountable for an individual's failure to meet the statutory time frames.
76. Explanation: Option (c) is correct because the passage states that offering "allurement" as a means of conversion is prohibited under Section 3(1) of the Act. The promise of economic support and job training could be construed as allurement. Therefore, even though the proper declarations were filed, if it is proven that the group conversion was influenced by the allurement of economic support, the organization could face legal penalties, with heightened penalties due to the aspect of mass conversion, as laid out in the Act. Option (a) is incorrect because filing declarations and conducting the ceremony in accordance with the Magistrate's approval does not protect against subsequent evidence that may prove unlawful means were used, such as allurement. Option (b) is incorrect as the passage implies that any economic inducement may be considered allurement and thus grounds for penalty under the Act, irrespective of the intent behind the

conversion. Option (d) is incorrect because the accusation is not necessarily false; the offer of economic support and job training post-conversion could constitute allurement and make the conversions unlawful, as per the provisions of the Act. The mere promise of support can be sufficient for the allurement clause to be invoked.

77. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because the passage outlines that for a valid conversion, the individual must submit two declarations to the District Magistrate: the first at least 60 days before conversion and the second no later than 60 days after. It does not specify the necessity of a public ceremony, only the advance notice to the District Magistrate by the "religious converter" of where the conversion will take place. As Diya followed the declaration process, her conversion would be considered valid, and by extension, their marriage would stand legal. Option (b) is incorrect as the passage does not state that a traditional or public conversion ceremony is a requirement under the Act. It only requires the submission of declarations and advance notice of the conversion ceremony, which Diya and Faisal complied with. Option (c) is incorrect because the legality of the conversion under the Act is predicated on the adherence to the submission of declarations, not on the nature of the commitment ceremony, whether public or private. Option (d) is incorrect as there is no indication in the passage that a religious leader is obligated to conduct a formal ceremony; the legal requirement hinges on the declarations and the notification of the ceremony to the District Magistrate.
78. Explanation: Option (a) is correct as the passage indicates that the conversion of a person by "fraudulent means" is prohibited under Section 3(1) of the Act. If it can be established that Ishaan's conversion was primarily for the acquisition of a business contract and not out of genuine religious belief, the conversion and subsequent marriage could be declared void under Section 6, which bars any marriage done for the sole purpose of unlawful conversion. Option (b) is incorrect because there is no provision in the Act that penalizes the individual who has been deceived; the onus is on the person who has caused the conversion, in this case, Ishaan, to prove that the conversion did not occur by unlawful means. Option (c) is incorrect as the annulment of the business contract would not be a direct consequence under the Act; rather, the focus of the Act is on the legality of the conversion itself. Option (d) is incorrect because, under Section 12, the burden of proof is reversed; it would be up to Ishaan to prove that the conversion was not conducted by unlawful means, including fraudulent inducement. The allegation by Kavita could trigger an investigation into the true motivation behind Ishaan's conversion, potentially leading to legal consequences for him.
79. Explanation: Option (a) is correct as the passage dictates that Section 6 of the Act bars "any marriage done for the sole purpose of unlawful conversion," and declares such marriages void. Since both Sunaina and Aarif did not pursue conversion but



rather chose to honor their religions through separate ceremonies, their actions do not contravene the Act's prohibition against conversion by marriage. Radhika's allegations are baseless in the context of the law, as there is no conversion involved. Option (b) is incorrect because the Act does not criminalize the conduct of wedding ceremonies; it is concerned with preventing conversion by fraudulent means, force, coercion, etc., and in this case, there has been no conversion attempted. Option (c) is incorrect as the Act does not specifically address the misuse of its provisions for settling personal disputes, so Radhika would not automatically face legal penalties under this Act for her actions. However, she may face consequences under other applicable laws for filing a false FIR. Option (d) is incorrect because Sunaina's parents are not liable under the Act for merely supporting an interfaith marriage; the Act targets the act of conversion, not the celebration of an interfaith union as such. Radhika's complaint lacks merit since there was no breach of the Act's conversion provisions in the described situation.

80. Explanation: Option (c) is correct as the passage states that the DM must report the detention order to the government for approval, without which the order will lapse after twelve days. Since the DV did not seek approval within the twelve-day period, the detention order lapses making it illegal, per the stipulated timeframe outlined in the PSA. Option (a) is incorrect because the passage does not provide for retroactive validity of detention orders. Approval after the twelve-day period cannot confer legality on a lapsed order. Option (b) is incorrect because the passage emphasizes the requirement for government approval and application of mind by the DM, not the sufficiency of anonymous tips for detention. Option (d) is incorrect because despite the nature of national security concerns, the DM's actions must follow legal procedures as prescribed by the PSA, which includes seeking timely government approval.
81. Explanation: Option (d) is correct because the passage states that under Section 13(1), the DM is required to disclose the grounds for detention to the detained person within five days, extendable to 10 days in exceptional circumstances. The failure to provide this disclosure within 20 days invalidates Vimarsh's detention. Option (a) is incorrect because implicit disclosure is not equivalent to the required formal disclosure as per Section 13; the law requires an explicit act of communication of the grounds to the detainee. Option (b) is incorrect because the necessity to file a representation does not absolve the authorities from their duty to disclose the grounds within the specified period. Option (c) is incorrect because regardless of whether the grounds are considered substantial, the process of timely disclosure is a legal requirement that has not been adhered to.
82. Explanation: Option (b) is correct as the passage states that upon submission of a representation against a preventive detention order, there must be "application of mind" from the DM, and the representation is not intended to be just a routine document. In Aradhana's case, the DM failed to consider her representation in a



timely manner, or at all, which is a procedural flaw leading to the illegality of the detention order. Option (a) is incorrect because the reason behind her detention was based on mistaken identity, and thus cannot be used to justify the legality of the detention. Option (c) is incorrect because irrespective of the DM's workload, due process as laid out by law requires timely consideration of representations. Option (d) is incorrect because while the law does not specify a precise timeline, it does require that the detained person be given "the earliest opportunity" for their representation to be considered, and the DM's prolonged neglect falls short of this legal obligation.

83. Explanation: Option (c) is correct because the passage outlines the necessity for the DM to demonstrate an "application of mind" when issuing a detention order and when considering a representation against it. The verbatim copying of the police report and the lack of any referenced criminal actions, such as a registered FIR, indicate that the detention order was not based on any concrete evidence and was likely a result of coercion rather than a lawful application of DM's mind, making the detention unlawful. Option (a) is incorrect as the passage dictates that preventive detention must be based on concrete and individualized evidence, not just a police report that lacks substantive evidentiary backing. Option (b) is incorrect because even if the intention behind the editorial is under scrutiny, the law requires specific processes to be followed, including the registration of an FIR or at least some documented evidence of misdemeanor which did not occur in Chhavi's case. Option (d) is incorrect because while the DM may not be required to provide comprehensive proof of review, there must be some indication or acknowledgment that the representation against the detention was considered, according to the passage's emphasis on due process.
84. Explanation: Option (b) is correct as the passage explicitly mentions under Section 13(2) of the PSA, while the DM is not required to disclose facts which are deemed against public interest, the necessity for application of mind remains paramount. The DM's order suggests a lack of concrete reasoning and fails to conform to the procedural safeguards intended to prevent arbitrary detentions. Rashmi's right to make a representation against the detention is fundamental, and the DM's decision to hold back information without sufficient justification undermines the legal process. Option (a) is incorrect because although the PSA allows for non-disclosure of facts in the interest of public safety, the DM is still required to exhibit due diligence and application of mind, which is not evident when the non-disclosure is unsubstantiated. Option (c) is incorrect because, while academic speeches can be scrutinized under the PSA, the passage emphasizes the need for legitimate and concrete grounds for detention, which are absent in Rashmi's case. Option (d) is incorrect because the presumption that a DM's judgment is sufficient on its own, without supporting facts, contradicts the legal standards set by the passage, which demands factual substantiation and careful consideration.

85. Explanation: Option (c) is correct because the passage states that there must be an "application of mind" from the DM when faced with a representation against a preventive detention order, as emphasized in Justice Bharti's judgment. The absence of a review of Kuldeep's representation and the DM's reliance solely on an intelligence report, which is not substantiated with any past criminal record or evidence, does not demonstrate the required application of mind. Hence, Kuldeep's detention can be seen as lacking a legal basis. Option (a) is incorrect because, even though intelligence reports can be grounds for detention, they cannot singly justify detention without the required application of mind regarding the detained person's representation. Option (b) is incorrect because the ability to withhold information for national security does not nullify the legal requirement for the DM to consider representations made by the detained individual. Option (d) is incorrect because while national security is indeed paramount, it does not excuse non-adherence to procedural requirements, particularly the consideration of representations which is a safeguard against arbitrary detention. The court must balance both national security interests and the legal rights of individuals under detention.
86. Explanation: Option (c) is correct because the passage credits the BJP with lifting 25 crore people out of poverty, which is used as a significant measure of its governance success. If independent studies contradicted this claim, it would undermine the argument that the party's governance was effective. Option (a) is incorrect because the similarity of welfare proposals in opposition manifestos does not directly challenge the BJP's track record or effectiveness. Option (b) is incorrect because increased foreign investment supports the argument of effective governance, rather than weakening it. Option (d) is incorrect because high satisfaction among scheme beneficiaries would strengthen, not weaken, the author's argument about the efficacy of the BJP's governance.
87. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because the passage argues that continuity of a strong, stable government, as provided by the BJP, is essential during periods of global instability. This option aligns with the idea that consistent leadership supports the implementation of long-term policies, echoing the passage's emphasis on continuity. Option (b) is incorrect because it contradicts the passage's claim that political stability, through continuity, is crucial. Option (c) is incorrect as it suggests that government changes are beneficial, which directly opposes the passage's argument for continuity. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage does not discuss social class diversity's impact on policy continuity; moreover, it notes increased representation as an achievement, not a disruption.
88. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because if the BJP has a history of failing to fulfill its promises, this would support the author's criticism that the party should have made more substantive promises for the third term, given the need to provide more assurance of delivery. Option (b) is incorrect because the inclusion of more

detailed plans by other parties does not directly support the notion that the BJP's own promises should have been more substantive—it suggests a comparison but doesn't address the BJP's track record. Option (c) is incorrect because the general popularity of new welfare schemes does not directly relate to the substantive nature of the promises themselves. Option (d) is incorrect because the implementation and implications of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, while significant, do not address the substantive nature of election promises regarding other welfare and reform measures.

89. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because the assumption that continuity is necessary implies that consistent policy responses are crucial and might be adversely affected by changes in government, aligning with the BJP's argument for the need for continuity. Option (b) is incorrect because, although related, it assumes a broader claim about capabilities in international relations which is not specifically supported by the text. Option (c) is incorrect because it narrows the cause of global instability to economic factors alone, which the passage does not specify. Option (d) is incorrect because it discusses voter behavior in response to promises of stability, which, while plausible, is not an assumption necessary to support the argument made in the passage about the need for governmental continuity.
90. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because the passage states that the BJP has not taken a position on the demand for a caste census, instead highlighting its implementation of the 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections, which suggests an avoidance of the caste census issue. Option (b) is incorrect because the passage does not mention active opposition to the caste census, nor does it cite any reasons related to divisiveness or national unity. Option (c) is incorrect as there is no indication in the passage that the BJP supports the caste census in principle or that it has deferred it in favor of other policies. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage does not mention any deferral or pending socio-economic data considerations regarding the caste census.
91. Explanation: Option (c) is correct because the passage explicitly states that there was no change in the BJP's vote share of 36% following its communally polarizing government orders, implying these actions did not impact its electoral performance positively or negatively. Option (a) is incorrect because the passage does not indicate that these actions boosted BJP's popularity; it suggests the opposite by detailing electoral struggles. Option (b) is incorrect as it specifically states there was no decrease in vote share, remaining steady at 36%. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage does not discuss the nationwide electoral support for the BJP, focusing instead on its performance in the Karnataka Assembly elections.
92. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the passage explicitly connects the implementation of the Congress's 'five guarantees' to tangible benefits for more

than two-thirds of the state's population, which is then followed by an increase in the party's vote share by four percentage points from the previous election. Option (a) is incorrect as it contradicts the passage which implies that these guarantees had a positive impact on Congress's electoral performance. Option (c) is incorrect because, although dissatisfaction with the BJP may contribute, the passage specifically attributes the increased vote share to the 'five guarantees'. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage does not specifically link the BJP's failure with the Economically Weaker Sections as a direct cause for the Congress's success, but rather emphasizes the positive reception of Congress's own policies.

93. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because if internal assessments confirm that avoiding communal rhetoric has boosted the BJP's appeal among diverse communities, it directly supports the argument that their careful response to the blast was a strategic electoral decision. Option (b) is incorrect because the introduction of a new law does not specifically strengthen the argument regarding the BJP's strategic choice—it only explains a possible external pressure. Option (c) is incorrect as it primarily highlights the Congress's response strategy rather than strengthening the argument about the BJP's motivations. Option (d) is incorrect because, while it suggests a general disapproval of communal rhetoric, it does not specifically support the argument that the BJP's response was strategic for its electoral prospects.
94. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the passage states that the JD(S) has been viewed as representing only one community, the Vokkaligas, and has been relegated to three seats in the BJP-led alliance, which indicates a strategic positioning by the BJP to capture specific community votes rather than broadening its appeal. Option (a) is incorrect because it contradicts the passage which suggests that the JD(S) is viewed narrowly rather than broadening the BJP's voter base. Option (c) is incorrect as there is no mention in the passage of the alliance's focus on economically weaker sections or countering Congress specifically in that regard. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage does not describe the alliance as being for more inclusive and diverse policy implementation but rather focuses on electoral strategy concerning community representation.
95. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because the passage notes the BJP's improvement from a 43% vote share in 2014 to 51.4% in 2019, suggesting that its campaign strategies and policies are effectively resonating with the electorate, which aligns with the principle that consistent improvement reflects effective campaigning. Option (b) is incorrect because the passage does not attribute the BJP's success to weaknesses in the Congress leadership, but rather highlights its own electoral achievements. Option (c) is incorrect as it implies that success is due to external and possibly unrelated factors, which the passage does not suggest. Option (d) is incorrect because it generalizes the reason for repeated success

without specific support from the passage, which focuses more on the numeric improvement rather than perceived stability.

96. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because the passage highlights the fact that core inflation has been under 4% for four straight months as a sign of successful inflation control. Additional data extending this trend would reinforce the effectiveness of the measures in place. Option (b) is incorrect because declining consumer confidence would undermine, not strengthen, the argument that economic measures have been effective. Option (c) is incorrect because higher rural inflation rates compared to urban ones would suggest that measures are not uniformly effective across different demographics, thus weakening the argument. Option (d) is incorrect because it implies that domestic policies might be ineffective against global inflation trends, which would counter the author's argument that specific measures have helped manage inflation.
97. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because the author discusses the prolonged phase of high prices hurting consumption, implying that higher prices reduce consumer spending, which could negatively affect economic growth. This assumption underlies the concern about the impact of sustained high prices. Option (b) is incorrect because the passage does not imply that increased savings is a typical response to high prices; it focuses on reduced consumption. Option (c) is incorrect because it contradicts the earlier part of the passage that suggests some governmental price interventions have been effective. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage does not discuss the role of income changes in the relationship between prices and consumption, making this an unsupported assumption in the context of the author's argument.
98. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the passage emphasizes that despite some successes in controlling inflation, food bills remain problematically high, indicating that high food price inflation continues to be a major challenge in meeting overall inflation reduction targets. Option (a) is incorrect because while fuel price cuts have helped, the passage does not suggest they will significantly impact all economic sectors indefinitely. Option (c) is incorrect because the passage explicitly states that factors like rising crude oil prices and international economic conditions pose new worries, indicating they do have an impact. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage does not suggest that government efforts are focused exclusively on urban areas; it mentions both urban and rural inflation figures.
99. Explanation: Option (c) is correct because the passage notes that the resurgence in crude oil prices and strife-fueled shipping cost spikes are among the external factors that could worsen inflationary pressures. Documenting these rising costs supports the conclusion that these issues will continue to be a concern. Option (a) is incorrect because a decrease in oil prices and stable shipping costs would



actually alleviate inflation worries, contrary to the author's conclusion. Option (b) is incorrect because while stabilizing economies in the US and EU might influence global economic conditions, this doesn't directly support the idea that external factors will pose worries; it suggests a mitigating effect on volatility instead. Option (d) is incorrect because even though aggressive inflation control measures might influence global economic conditions, the passage specifically points to crude oil and shipping costs as the immediate external factors affecting inflation, which this option does not address.

100. Explanation: Option (d) is correct because it aligns with the principle stated in the passage that the effects of the ₹2 per litre cuts in petrol and diesel prices will be observed in the current month, suggesting a strategic timing to influence voter perception and address inflation just before polls. Option (a) is incorrect because it implies the impacts are minimal, whereas the passage suggests the impact is yet to be fully seen and thus could be significant. Option (b) is incorrect because it overly simplifies the assessment process; the passage implies that the full impact will be observed, but does not claim a single month's observation can conclusively determine their overall effectiveness. Option (c) is incorrect because it speaks to long-term sustainability, which is not addressed in the passage regarding the short-term pre-poll timing of these cuts.

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101. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the passage implies that President Noboa is using the diplomatic crisis with Mexico to potentially distract from domestic issues like rising gang violence, suggesting that the raid might serve a dual purpose beyond just arresting a corruption suspect. Option (a) is incorrect because while the raid targeted a corruption suspect, the passage criticizes the violation of diplomatic norms, indicating it was not seen as essential by the author. Option (c) is incorrect because the passage specifically states that the raid violated the Vienna Convention, which suggests it was not justified under international law. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage indicates that President Noboa's approval ratings have sunk amid growing violence; it does not suggest that the raid would enhance his ratings, but rather that it triggered a new crisis.

102. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the passage connects President Noboa's sinking approval ratings with the growing gang violence, suggesting that effectively addressing this violence would likely improve his public standing, given his initial promise to tackle this issue. Option (a) is incorrect because while it is suggested that his promises were part of his political platform, there is no indication that it was solely a tactic without intent to act. Option (c) is incorrect as there is no evidence provided that the public prioritizes diplomatic issues over domestic crime concerns. Option (d) is incorrect because there is no connection made between the assassination and a change in public tolerance for violations of international law; it primarily discusses the violence as part of the security crisis.

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103. Explanation: Option (c) is correct because if the diplomatic crisis has led to a diversion of resources away from combating gang violence, this would directly undermine the argument that using the diplomatic crisis might help Noboa's political fortunes by highlighting a negative consequence of the raid not supporting his domestic policy goals. Option (a) is incorrect because an improvement in Noboa's popularity would actually strengthen the argument that he is using the crisis to his political advantage. Option (b) is incorrect because a decrease in gang violence since the raid would suggest that Noboa's strategies, including the controversial raid, might be effective, which supports rather than weakens the author's assertion of political maneuvering. Option (d) is incorrect because international support for the raid would also support the notion that Noboa's actions could be politically beneficial, not weaken it.
104. Explanation: Option (d) is correct because the passage suggests that the referendum, by potentially granting the government increased security powers, is viewed as a controversial but necessary step to restore order in the cities plagued by gang violence. This aligns with Noboa's commitment to fighting this issue despite criticism. Option (a) is incorrect because the passage does not explicitly describe the referendum as a desperate attempt but implies it is part of a broader strategy to address security concerns. Option (b) is incorrect because while it suggests the referendum might reduce violence, the passage does not guarantee this outcome, only that it grants more authority. Option (c) is incorrect because it conflates the referendum with the diplomatic crisis as a diversion, whereas the passage presents it as a substantive measure to tackle gang violence, not as a mere distraction.
105. Explanation: Option (c) is correct because the passage criticizes the raid as a violation of international law and suggests it was counterproductive to President Noboa's goals, indicating that it was a misguided action that did not help Ecuador address its myriad challenges. Option (a) is incorrect because the passage does not support the notion that the raid was necessary or effective, instead highlighting its controversial and potentially illegal nature. Option (b) is incorrect because while the raid was strategic, the passage critiques its impact negatively rather than positively affirming its effectiveness. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage does not claim that the raid was universally condemned or that it caused irreparable damage, but it does acknowledge a significant diplomatic crisis.
106. Explanation: Option (b) is correct because the passage explicitly states that the ADB cautioned its forecast might be proven wrong by global risks such as a sharp rise in oil prices or prolonged high interest rates in the West, which could adversely affect India's economic performance. Option (a) is incorrect because it describes scenarios that would likely mitigate the risks to India's growth forecast, contrary to what would undermine it. Option (c) is incorrect because while it might bolster economic performance, it does not specifically support the notion of external

factors undermining growth forecasts. Option (d) is incorrect because it suggests improvements that would strengthen, rather than undermine, the growth forecast, which contradicts the point needing support from the passage.

107. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because the passage states that the ADB's raised forecast for India's GDP growth is cited due to robust public and private investment and a recovery in consumer demand, making it clear that these factors are foundational to the ADB's positive outlook. Option (b) is incorrect because the passage does not indicate that the ADB's forecast depends solely on global trade conditions, but rather a mix of domestic factors and potential global risks. Option (c) is incorrect because there is no indication that the ADB has fully accounted for all potential impacts from West Asia; the passage suggests ongoing concerns about global risks. Option (d) is incorrect because the ADB specifically mentions expectations of a gradual improvement in consumer demand as a factor in its growth projection, indicating it considers consumer spending significant.
108. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because if household savings rates in India have been increasing, this directly contradicts the premise of stretched household savings posing a risk to consumer spending and thereby India's economic growth, thus weakening the author's argument about these risks. Option (b) is incorrect because increased use of credit could imply that low savings still pose a risk to economic stability, potentially supporting the author's argument rather than weakening it. Option (c) is incorrect as it would actually strengthen the author's concerns about the impact of global economic conditions on India's growth. Option (d) is incorrect because high consumer confidence might not sufficiently counteract the fundamental financial strain of low savings on consumer spending and economic growth.
109. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because by pointing out the absence of any comment on the controversies surrounding the integrity of India's national income data, the author implies that such transparency and accuracy are essential for making credible economic forecasts. This assumption underlies the critique of the ADB's report for not addressing these issues. Option (b) is incorrect because the passage does not indicate that the ADB always scrutinizes the accuracy of national data; it merely highlights the omission in this particular instance. Option (c) is incorrect as it makes an assumption about the ADB's beliefs which is not explicitly supported by the text—merely noting the absence of a comment does not confirm their stance on the matter. Option (d) is incorrect because it makes a broad claim about the impact on policy making which is not directly related to the ADB's reporting or the author's focus in the passage.
110. Explanation: Option (a) is correct because it provides a direct rationale for improving logistics infrastructure and integrating with global supply chains: if logistics costs are high, reducing them could enhance India's export

competitiveness, which aligns with the ADB's recommendations as mentioned in the passage. Option (b) is incorrect because while tax reforms may facilitate business, they don't directly support the need for better logistics or global supply chain integration mentioned by the ADB. Option (c) is incorrect as increasing trade deficits might highlight problems but do not inherently justify the specific improvements recommended by the ADB. Option (d) is incorrect because increased domestic demand does not address the issues of logistics infrastructure or global supply chain integration that the ADB focuses on.

111. Explanation: Option (c) is correct. Analysis of the Question: This question requires calculating the percentage of the total EV production in China that Tesla accounted for in 2023. We know from the data provided that Tesla produced 2 million units in a market where 3 million units were produced in total.  
 Answer Step by Step:  
 Total EV production in China in 2023: 3 million units.  
 Tesla's production in China in 2023: 2 million units.  
 Formula to calculate the percentage:  $(\text{Tesla's Production} / \text{Total EV Production}) * 100$ .  
 Calculation:  $(2 \text{ million} / 3 \text{ million}) * 100 = 66.67\%$ .  
 Correct Answer: Option (c) 66.67%  
 Why Other Options are Incorrect:  
 Option (a) 50%: This underestimates Tesla's share. It suggests that Tesla produced half of the total EVs, which is lower than the actual numbers provided.  
 Option (b) 60%: This option is still below the correct calculation. It incorrectly calculates Tesla's share as less than what it actually was according to the data.  
 Option (d) 75%: This overestimates Tesla's production. For this to be correct, Tesla would have needed to produce 2.25 million units, which is more than the 2 million units reported.
112. Explanation: Option (b) is correct. Analysis of the Question: This question involves finding the number of EV units produced by manufacturers other than Tesla in China during 2023. Using the total EV production and Tesla's production percentage, we can calculate the contribution of other manufacturers.  
 Answer Step by Step:  
 Total EV production in China in 2023: 3 million units.  
 Percentage of EVs produced by Tesla: 66.67%.  
 Calculating Tesla's production in units:  $66.67\% \text{ of } 3 \text{ million} = 0.6667 * 3,000,000 = 2 \text{ million units}$  (as directly given, confirming calculation consistency).  
 Units produced by other manufacturers:  $\text{Total EV production} - \text{Tesla's production} = 3 \text{ million units} - 2 \text{ million units} = 1 \text{ million units}$ .  
 Correct Answer: Option (b) 1 million units  
 Why Other Options are Incorrect:  
 Option (a) 750,000 units: This option underestimates the number of units produced by other manufacturers. The calculation clearly shows that more than

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750,000 units were produced outside of Tesla's contribution.

Option (c) 1.25 million units: This overestimates the production by other manufacturers. For this to be correct, Tesla's production would need to be less than the 2 million units confirmed by the data.

Option (d) 1.5 million units: This figure significantly overstates the number of units produced by others, implying that Tesla produced fewer units than it actually did, which contradicts the data provided.

113. Explanation: Option (a) is correct. Analysis of the Question: This question requires calculating the relative growth in production between Tesla and other manufacturers in China, based on a 50% overall growth in the industry. We will determine how much more Tesla's growth percentage was compared to others, assuming the previous year's total was 2 million units (since a 50% increase leads to 3 million).
- Answer Step by Step:
- Previous year's total EV production (2022): 2 million units (deduced from the 50% increase to 3 million in 2023).
- Tesla's production in 2023: 2 million units.
- Tesla's production in 2022 (assuming 50% market share, consistent with growth): 1 million units (50% of 2 million).
- Other manufacturers' production in 2022: 1 million units (remaining from the 2 million total).
- Other manufacturers' production in 2023: 1 million units (derived from total minus Tesla's 2023 production).
- Growth calculation for Tesla: From 1 million units in 2022 to 2 million units in 2023 = 100% increase.
- Growth calculation for other manufacturers: From 1 million units in 2022 to 1 million in 2023 = 0% increase.
- Correct Answer: Option (a) 100%
- Why Other Options are Incorrect:
- Option (b) 75%: This option incorrectly estimates the growth difference. It would require Tesla's growth to be less than double the rate of other manufacturers, which is not supported by the calculations.
- Option (c) 50%: Similarly, this underestimates Tesla's growth advantage. It implies that other manufacturers also had significant growth, which they did not.
- Option (d) 25%: This significantly understates Tesla's growth relative to other manufacturers. It suggests a much closer growth rate between Tesla and others than what the data supports.

114. Explanation: Option (a) is correct. Analysis of the Question: This question asks us to calculate the percentage increase in production capacity for manufacturers other than Tesla within the Chinese EV market. We know the total industry growth and Tesla's growth, so we can derive the figures for other manufacturers.
- Answer Step by Step:

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Total EV production in 2022: 2 million units (from a 50% increase to 3 million units in 2023).

Tesla's production in 2022: 1 million units.

Other manufacturers' production in 2022: 1 million units (total minus Tesla's production).

Tesla's production in 2023: 2 million units.

Total EV production in 2023: 3 million units.

Other manufacturers' production in 2023: 1 million units (total minus Tesla's production).

Growth calculation for other manufacturers: From 1 million units in 2022 to 1 million in 2023 = 0% increase.

Correct Answer: Option (a) 0%

Why Other Options are Incorrect:

Option (b) 10%: This suggests a moderate increase for other manufacturers, which isn't supported by the calculations. The data explicitly shows that other manufacturers' production remained stable.

Option (c) 25%: This option implies a significant growth for other manufacturers, which contradicts the actual figures showing no increase in their production capacity.

Option (d) 50%: This indicates an equal growth rate to the overall market increase, which is incorrect because all of this growth is attributed to Tesla alone, as other manufacturers did not increase their output.

115. Explanation: Option (c) is correct. Analysis of the Question: This question requires us to calculate the total revenue generated from the new electric vehicle models by Chinese manufacturers. We need to consider both the average price of these new models and their production as a percentage of the total.

Answer Step by Step:

Total EV production in China in 2023: 3 million units.

Percentage of production that are new models: 20%.

Number of new model units produced in 2023: 20% of 3 million = 600,000 units.

Average price per new model unit: \$30,000.

Formula for total revenue: Number of Units \* Price per Unit.

Total revenue calculation: 600,000 units \* \$30,000 = \$18 billion.

Correct Answer: Option (c) \$18 billion

Why Other Options are Incorrect:

Option (a) \$12 billion: This underestimates the revenue. It would suggest either fewer units sold or a lower average price than what is given in the data.

Option (b) \$15 billion: This also underestimates the total revenue. It indicates a calculation error or incorrect assumptions about price or unit sales.

Option (d) \$20 billion: This overestimates the revenue. For this option to be correct, either the price per unit would need to be higher, or more units would need to be sold, neither of which aligns with the provided data.



116. Explanation: Option (b) is correct. Analysis of the Question: The question requires calculating the total increase in renewable energy capacity for the United States over a period from 2019 to 2023. The starting capacity in 2019 was 100 GW, with an annual growth rate of 10%, reaching 146.41 GW by 2023.
- Answer Step by Step:  
Initial Capacity (2019): 100 GW  
Final Capacity (2023): 146.41 GW  
Total Increase Calculation: Final Capacity - Initial Capacity = 146.41 GW - 100 GW = 46.41 GW  
Thus, the total increase in renewable energy capacity for the United States over this period was 46.41 GW.  
Correct Answer: Option (b) 46.41 GW  
Why Other Options are Incorrect:  
Option (a) 40 GW: This option underestimates the increase. It doesn't account for the compounded annual growth, resulting in a lower figure than the actual increase.  
Option (c) 50 GW: This option overestimates the increase. While it suggests a significant growth, it exceeds the calculated result based on the actual data.  
Option (d) 56.41 GW: This significantly overestimates the increase. It incorrectly adds too much to the initial capacity, not aligning with the 10% annual growth rate given.
117. Explanation: Option (b) is correct. Analysis of the Question: This question requires calculating the number of years needed for the European Union to double its 2023 renewable energy capacity of 300 GW at a rate of 25 GW per year.
- Answer Step by Step:  
Starting Capacity (2023): 300 GW  
Target Capacity: 600 GW (double of 300 GW)  
Annual Increase: 25 GW  
Time Calculation:  $(\text{Target Capacity} - \text{Starting Capacity}) / \text{Annual Increase} = (600 \text{ GW} - 300 \text{ GW}) / 25 \text{ GW per year} = 300 \text{ GW} / 25 \text{ GW per year} = 12 \text{ years}$   
Therefore, it will take 12 years to double the 2023 capacity of the European Union to 600 GW.  
Correct Answer: Option (b) 12 years  
Why Other Options are Incorrect:  
Option (a) 8 years: This underestimates the time required. Given the annual increase, it's mathematically impossible to achieve the target in less than 12 years.  
Option (c) 10 years: This also underestimates the time. It doesn't match the yearly addition required to reach the doubled capacity, based on the calculation using the actual annual increase.  
Option (d) 15 years: This overestimates the required time. While it suggests a



longer duration, it exceeds what's necessary based on the specified annual growth, leading to an inflated timeframe.

118. Explanation: Option (c) is correct. Analysis of the Question: To determine Germany's renewable energy capacity, we must calculate 20% of Europe's total capacity of 300 GW as reported in 2023.  
 Answer Step by Step:  
 Total Capacity in Europe (2023): 300 GW  
 Germany's Share: 20%  
 Calculation of Germany's Capacity:  $\text{Total Capacity} \times \text{Germany's Share} = 300 \text{ GW} \times 20\% = 300 \text{ GW} \times 0.20 = 60 \text{ GW}$   
 Thus, Germany's renewable energy capacity in 2023 was 60 GW.  
 Correct Answer: Option (c) 60 GW  
 Why Other Options are Incorrect:  
 Option (a) 50 GW: This underestimates Germany's capacity. It does not accurately calculate 20% of the total 300 GW, leading to a figure that is lower than the correct value.  
 Option (b) 75 GW: This overestimates Germany's contribution. A capacity of 75 GW would imply a higher percentage than the given 20%, which does not align with the stated data.  
 Option (d) 45 GW: This also underestimates the capacity. The calculation would indicate less than 20% of the total European capacity, which contradicts the data provided.
119. Explanation: Option (a) is correct. Analysis of the Question: To find the average CO2 reduction per GW of renewable energy capacity, we need to divide the total CO2 reduction by the total global renewable energy capacity.  
 Answer Step by Step:  
 Total CO2 Reduction in 2023: 1.2 billion tons  
 Global Renewable Energy Capacity: 3,500 GW  
 Formula for CO2 Reduction per GW:  $\text{Total CO2 Reduction} / \text{Total Renewable Energy Capacity} = 1,200,000,000 \text{ tons} / 3,500 \text{ GW}$   
 Calculating the Reduction per GW:  $1,200,000,000 \text{ tons} / 3,500 \text{ GW} = 342,857 \text{ tons/GW}$   
 Therefore, on average, each GW of renewable energy capacity contributed to a reduction of approximately 342,857 tons of CO2 in 2023.  
 Correct Answer: Option (a) 342,857 tons  
 Why Other Options are Incorrect:  
 Option (b) 300,000 tons: This underestimates the CO2 reduction per GW. It results from dividing a lower hypothetical total reduction by the capacity, which doesn't match the actual calculations based on provided figures.  
 Option (c) 400,000 tons: This overestimates the reduction per GW. It implies a

higher reduction per GW than what is calculated from the actual total CO<sub>2</sub> reduction and capacity figures.

Option (d) 500,000 tons: This significantly overestimates the reduction per GW, suggesting a CO<sub>2</sub> reduction that is much higher per GW than the actual calculated value, not aligning with the provided data.

120. Explanation: Option (a) is correct. Analysis of the Question: The question requires calculating the total global renewable energy capacity based on the percentage contribution of hydroelectric power. We know hydroelectric power's contribution in GW and its percentage of the total, allowing us to find the total capacity.

Answer Step by Step:

Hydroelectric Power Contribution: 800 GW

Percentage of Total Capacity: 22.9%

Formula to find Total Capacity: Total Capacity = Contribution of Hydroelectric Power / (Percentage Contribution / 100)

Calculation: Total Capacity = 800 GW / (22.9 / 100) = 800 / 0.229 = 3,493.45 GW

Rounding this figure gives us approximately 3,500 GW.

Correct Answer: Option (a) 3,500 GW

Why Other Options are Incorrect:

Option (b) 4,000 GW: This option overestimates the total capacity. For this value to be correct, the contribution of hydroelectric power would need to represent a smaller percentage of the total, contradicting the data provided.

Option (c) 3,750 GW: This value also suggests a higher total capacity than what is derived from the given percentage contribution of hydroelectric power.

Option (d) 3,900 GW: This significantly overestimates the total capacity. For hydroelectric power to be only 22.9% of 3,900 GW, the overall capacity would need to be calculated with different data, which does not match the actual figures provided.

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