

# LEGALEDGE TEST SERIES

## MOCK COMMON LAW ADMISSION TEST 2024-25

### MOCK CLAT 19

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(In Figures)

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#### INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

**Duration of Test : 2 Hours (120 Minutes)**

1. Separate carbonised Optical Mark Reader (OMR) Response Sheet is supplied along with this Questions Booklet and the carbon copy has to be detached and taken by the candidates.
2. In case of any discrepancy in the question booklet (QB), please request the invigilator for replacement of a fresh packet of QB with OMR. Do not use the previous OMR response Sheet for a fresh booklet so obtained.
3. Candidates will not be given a second blank OMR response Sheet under any circumstance. Hence, OMR response Sheet shall be handled carefully.
4. Answer all questions. No clarification can be sought on the Questions Paper
5. Possession of electronic devices in any form is strictly prohibited in the examination Hall.
6. The use of any unfair means by any candidate shall result in the cancellation of his/her examination.
7. Impersonation is an offense and the candidate, apart from disqualification, will be liable to be prosecuted.
8. The test Paper for Five Year integrated Law Programme is for 120 marks containing 120 multiple Choice Questions.
9. There will be Negative marking for multiple choice objective type questions. 0.25 marks will be deducted for every wrong answer or where candidates have marked more than one response.

**Maximum Marks : 120**

10. Use **BLACK/BLUE BALL POINT PEN** only for writing the roll No. and other details on OMR response Sheet.
11. Use **BLACK/BLUE BALL POINT PEN** for shading the circles. Indicate only the most appropriate answer by shading from the options provided. The answer circle should be shaded completely without leaving any space.
12. As the responses cannot be modified/corrected on the OMR Response Sheet, candidates have to take necessary precautions before marking the appropriate circle.
13. The candidate should retain the Admit Card duly Signed by the invigilator, as the same has to be produced at the time of Admission.
14. Handle the OMR response Sheet with care. Do not fold.
15. Ensure that invigilator puts his/her signature in the space provided on the OMR response Sheet. Candidate should sign in the space provided on the OMR response Sheet.
16. The candidate should write Question Paper booklet No., and OMR response Sheet No., and sign in the space/column provided in the attendance sheet.
17. Return the Original Page of OMR response Sheet to the invigilator after the examination.
18. The candidate shall not write anything on the OMR response Sheet other than the details required and in the spaces provided for.

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**SECTION-A : ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

**Directions (Q.1-Q.24):** Read the passage carefully and answer the questions.

**Passage (Q.1-Q.6):** Around a year ago, generative AI took the world by storm, as extraordinarily powerful large language models (LLMs) enabled unprecedented performance at a wider range of tasks than ever before feasible. Though best known for generating convincing text and images, LLMs like OpenAI's GPT-4 and Google's Gemini are likely to have greater social impacts as the executive centre for complex systems that integrate additional tools for both learning about the world and acting on it. These generative agents will power companions that introduce new categories of social relationship, and change old ones. They may well radically change the attention economy. And they will revolutionise personal computing, enabling everyone to control digital technologies with language alone.

Much of the attention being paid to generative AI systems has focused on how they replicate the pathologies of already widely deployed AI systems, arguing that they centralise power and wealth, ignore copyright protections, depend on exploitative labour practices, and use excessive resources. Other critics highlight how they foreshadow vastly more powerful future systems that might threaten humanity's survival. The first group says there is nothing new here; the other looks through the present to a perhaps distant horizon.

I want instead to pay attention to what makes these particular systems distinctive: both their remarkable scientific achievement, and the most likely and consequential ways in which they will change society over the next five to 10 years.

It may help to start by reviewing how LLMs work, and how they can be used to make generative agents. An LLM is a large AI model trained on vast amounts of data with vast amounts of computational resources (lots of GPUs) to predict the next word given a sequence of words (a prompt). The process starts by chunking the training data into similarly sized 'tokens' (words or parts of words), then for a given set of tokens masking out some of them, and attempting to predict the tokens that have been masked (so the model is self-supervised – it marks its own work). A predictive model for the underlying token distribution is built by passing it through many layers of a neural network, with each layer refining the model in some dimension or other to make it more accurate.

This approach to modelling natural language has been around for several years. One key recent innovation has been to take these 'pretrained' models, which are basically just good at predicting the next token given a sequence of tokens, and fine-tune them for different tasks. This is done with supervised learning on labelled data. For example, you might train a pretrained model to be a good dialogue agent by using many examples of helpful responses to questions.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from, Frontier AI ethics <https://aeon.co/essays/can-philosophy-help-us-get-a-grip-on-the-consequences-of-ai>]

1. What is the author's primary aim in discussing the advent and implications of large language models (LLMs) like GPT-4 and Google's Gemini?
  - (a) To highlight the technological advancements and potential risks associated with the development of LLMs, focusing on their impact on society and the economy.
  - (b) To argue against the widespread adoption of LLMs by pointing out the ethical and social issues they inherit from previous AI systems.
  - (c) To provide a detailed technical overview of how LLMs function, including their training processes and computational requirements.
  - (d) To critique the focus on negative aspects of AI by other commentators, advocating instead for a balanced view that includes potential benefits.

2. Based on the passage, how do LLMs like GPT-4 and Google's Gemini signify a shift in the relationship between humans and digital technology?
  - (a) They represent a fundamental change in how digital technologies are controlled, moving from traditional input methods to natural language interfaces.
  - (b) They highlight the growing dependence of human society on artificial intelligence for performing basic tasks and making decisions.
  - (c) They demonstrate the culmination of years of AI development, marking the end of significant innovation in digital technology.
  - (d) They reflect an increase in the centralization of power and wealth within the technology sector, exacerbating social inequalities.
3. What underlies the author's optimism about the future impact of LLMs on society?
  - (a) The belief that LLMs will finally address and resolve the ethical concerns that have plagued earlier AI technologies.
  - (b) The conviction that LLMs, by centralizing control over digital resources, will lead to a more equitable distribution of information.
  - (c) The anticipation that LLMs will introduce new social dynamics and relationships, enriching human interaction and access to information.
  - (d) The expectation that the regulatory challenges posed by LLMs will stimulate global cooperation in managing AI technologies.
4. Which of the following titles best encapsulates the essence and overarching theme of the passage?
  - (a) The Technical Foundations of Large Language Models
  - (b) The Evolution of AI: From Basic Tasks to Social Transformation
  - (c) Generative AI: Beyond Text and Images to Social Impact
  - (d) The Ethical Dilemmas of Generative AI Development
5. What conclusion can be drawn from the passage regarding the future role of generative AI in society?
  - (a) Generative AI will primarily enhance existing digital technologies without significantly altering social dynamics.
  - (b) The impact of generative AI will be limited to the realms of text and image generation, with little effect on broader societal structures.
  - (c) Generative AI, particularly through LLMs, is poised to fundamentally transform social relationships and the way individuals interact with technology.
  - (d) The development of generative AI will inevitably lead to a dystopian future where humanity's survival is at risk due to the misuse of technology.
6. What is the primary concern of the author regarding the future impact of large language models (LLMs) on society?
  - (a) The potential for LLMs to exacerbate existing societal inequalities by centralizing power and wealth, thus creating a more divided society.
  - (b) The environmental impact of LLMs due to their excessive use of computational resources and energy consumption, contributing to global environmental degradation.
  - (c) The transformation of social relationships and personal computing, highlighting the positive potential of LLMs to democratize technology use through natural language interfaces.
  - (d) The existential threat posed by future, more powerful AI systems that could arise from current developments in LLM technology, potentially endangering humanity.

**Passage (Q.7-Q.12):** Expectations are high that a free trade agreement involving India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) is close to fruition. However, a bone of contention relates to intellectual property rights, and has persisted as an issue since 2008. Switzerland and Norway, which are prominent members of EFTA, host several of the pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies that are responsible for several of the drugs and therapeutics that underpin health care globally. The nature of the pharma industry — it costs much to discover a useful effective drug and relatively little to make generic copies of it — with demand that is far disproportionate to affordability, means that there is a constant tussle between the inventors and the generic-drug companies. Patenting, or an exclusive monopoly for a fixed number of years to originators and a reciprocal right by governments to issue directions for ‘compulsory licensing,’ thereby selectively breaking such monopolies in the interest of public health, has brokered the peace and sustained the global pharma industry for decades. But new legal innovations such as **data exclusivity** continue to inveigle themselves in free trade negotiations. Under this provision, all the clinical-trial data that concerns the safety and efficacy of a drug generated by the originator firm becomes proprietary and out of bounds for a minimum period of six years. Permission to make a generic is possible if a country’s regulator can rely on supplied clinical trial data to approve a drug. For this, generic makers usually rely on the originator’s published data.

The principle of data exclusivity is present among European countries as well as in agreements involving many developing countries. Were it to take effect in India, it could significantly hinder India’s drug industry which is also a major exporter of affordable drugs. Indian officials have rejected data exclusivity as a point of negotiations in the FTA, though leaked drafts of the agreement suggest that it is alive. However, India’s rise up the drug manufacturing chain in the last few decades means that it must invest in an ecosystem that can conduct ethical drug trials and make new molecules and therapeutics from scratch. The paradigm that drug development will always be expensive and confined to the West need not be permanent, as was seen in the development of several novel technology approaches to developing vaccines in India during the COVID-19 pandemic. But as preparation, India must invest substantially more in fundamental research to incubate the local drug industry into the future.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from, <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/brave-new-world-on-the-india-european-free-trade-association-agreement-and-ipr/article67853988.ece>]

7. Analyze the underlying issues in the trade negotiations between India and EFTA, as highlighted in the discourse. Which aspect stands out as a prolonged point of disagreement?
  - (a) Discrepancies in agricultural import-export regulations that have historically influenced trade dynamics.
  - (b) The prolonged debate over the protection and sharing of pharmaceutical research findings and their legal ramifications.
  - (c) Variances in the enforcement of environmental protection laws that reflect differing priorities between trading partners.
  - (d) The negotiation of terms concerning the transnational movement of labor and its implications on employment within the sectors involved.
8. Considering the concept of "data exclusivity" as delineated in the text, what implications does it hold for the production of generic pharmaceuticals?
  - (a) It establishes a framework that ensures generic manufacturers can freely access and utilize proprietary clinical research after a predetermined period.
  - (b) It creates a significant barrier for generic pharmaceutical producers by limiting their access to essential clinical research data.
  - (c) It fosters a cooperative environment between original pharmaceutical researchers and generic drug manufacturers, promoting shared access to drug safety and efficacy data.
  - (d) It secures a guaranteed market entry for generic drugs immediately following the lapse of the exclusivity period, thereby streamlining the approval process for generics.

9. What is the central idea of the passage concerning India's position in the global pharmaceutical industry and its negotiations with EFTA?
- India is seeking to protect its agricultural interests in the face of demanding EFTA environmental standards.
  - The focus is on advancing India's technological and manufacturing capabilities to become self-sufficient in drug development.
  - India is poised to abandon its generic drug production in favor of investing in original drug research and development.
  - The negotiations are a balancing act between protecting domestic pharmaceutical interests and engaging in global trade dynamics.
10. Analyze the potential consequences of implementing data exclusivity in India as discussed in the passage. What could be the broader implication for the global healthcare landscape?
- It would likely enhance the global healthcare landscape by ensuring higher standards of drug safety and efficacy through protected clinical trial data.
  - The implementation could lead to increased healthcare costs globally due to restricted access to affordable generic drugs, especially in developing countries.
  - Data exclusivity in India would have a negligible impact on the global healthcare landscape, as the country's pharmaceutical industry is not significantly influential on a global scale.
  - It would encourage pharmaceutical companies in India to focus more on innovation and the development of new drugs, thereby improving global healthcare standards.
11. Evaluate the stance of Indian officials on data exclusivity within the context of the FTA negotiations as depicted in the passage. What does this indicate about India's priorities in the pharmaceutical sector?
- India's rejection of data exclusivity points to a prioritization of maintaining its sovereignty over domestic pharmaceutical policies.
  - India's refusal to negotiate data exclusivity shows its dedication to safeguarding its growing pharmaceutical sector and the production of affordable medications.
  - India's stance indicates a lack of interest in participating in global pharmaceutical innovation and a preference for relying on existing drug formulations.
  - The opposition to data exclusivity suggests that India is primarily focused on exporting drugs rather than meeting domestic healthcare needs.
12. Based on the passage, which part of speech most significantly influences the discussion on the balance between innovation and accessibility in the pharmaceutical industry?
- Nouns, as they name the key stakeholders and concepts central to the debate on trade agreements and drug manufacturing.
  - Verbs, because actions related to negotiations, legal innovations, and the process of drug development drive the narrative forward and outline the dynamic nature of the pharmaceutical industry and international trade discussions.
  - Adjectives, which describe the qualitative aspects of the drug industry and negotiations that underscore the contrasts and challenges in making drugs accessible while encouraging innovation.
  - Adverbs, emphasizing the manner in which actions are taken within the industry and negotiations (e.g., "significantly," "usually," "substantially"), thereby impacting the tone and perspective on the issue of drug development and accessibility.

**Passage (Q.13-Q.18):** The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law, and Justice recently submitted a significant report on legal education, making several path-breaking recommendations to strengthen the quality of legal education in India. Since Independence, legal education, unlike medicine and engineering, has not been a top priority for India's policymakers.

Things started to change for the better in the 1990s with the advent of the national law universities (NLUs) in India. Buoyed by the winds of liberalisation and globalisation, the Indian economy in the 1990s threw up many new opportunities for lawyers, which, in turn, led to bright young students opting to study law right after school. Several NLU graduates got placed in high-paying law firm jobs while many others went abroad to study at top universities, with quite a few bagging prestigious scholarships such as Rhodes and Chevening.

However, the same cannot be said about hundreds of other law schools nationwide that essentially represent a “sea of institutionalized mediocrity”. Most of the NLUs too, while successfully attracting excellent students, have failed to emerge as centres of excellence in legal research. This is borne by the fact that only two Indian law schools, Jindal Global Law School and National Law School of India University, figure in the QS rankings of the top 250 law schools worldwide.

Against this backdrop, a key recommendation of the committee is to limit the powers of the Bar Council of India (BCI) to regulate legal education. The BCI's role in regulating legal education that pertains to acquiring basic eligibility to practise in the courts is indispensable.

However, several other facets of legal education, especially at the post-graduation level, do not pertain to litigation. The committee recommends, and rightly so, that regulating these parts of legal education should be entrusted to an independent body called the National Council for Legal Education and Research (NCLR). This proposed body will develop qualitative benchmarks to regulate legal education. Eminent legal academicians who deplored before the parliamentary committee batted for the creation of the NCLR. In addition to judges and practising lawyers, the NCLR should have eminent law professors with an unimpeachable track record of research and serving legal education.

Many of India's 1,700-odd law schools principally focus on teaching, with scant attention to research. Consequently, India is chiefly the consumer of legal knowledge generated in the West, not its producer. An important data point that reveals this is that out of more than 800 law journals globally indexed in Scopus (an internationally recognised database that lists leading journals in all fields) barely a handful are Indian law journals. This shows the abysmally poor level of research in India's law schools.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from, <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/an-intervention-that-will-help-strengthen-legal-education/article67850437.ece>]

13. In the context of the passage, how does the establishment of national law universities (NLUs) contrast with the overall landscape of legal education in India?
  - (a) NLUs have universally catalyzed a paradigm shift in legal education, overshadowing traditional law schools in every aspect, including research and global rankings.
  - (b) Despite their allure for top-tier students and success in job placements, NLUs have not significantly distanced themselves from the prevalent academic mediocrity in legal research.
  - (c) The inception of NLUs has rendered traditional law institutions obsolete, making them irrelevant in the modern legal education framework of India.
  - (d) Focused solely on litigation, NLUs have inadvertently neglected the broader spectrum of legal education, unlike their traditional counterparts.

14. What rationale underpins the Parliamentary Standing Committee's proposal regarding the governance of legal education?
- Amplifying the Bar Council of India's (BCI) authority across all facets of legal education to streamline regulatory processes.
  - Segregating the regulation of foundational legal practice eligibility from advanced legal studies to foster specialized oversight.
  - Consolidating legal education under a singular governmental body to eliminate the current multiplicity of regulatory authorities.
  - Enhancing the involvement of legal practitioners in educational oversight to bridge the gap between academic theory and practical application.
15. Regarding the passage's discussion on legal research in India, what inference can be made about its current state and future directions?
- India's leadership in producing legal research is undisputed, setting global benchmarks for academic output in law.
  - The predominant role of Western nations in legal knowledge production is unchallenged, with India remaining a peripheral contributor.
  - Despite existing challenges, there's a potential shift towards India becoming a more significant contributor to legal research, contingent on strategic investments in academia.
  - The passage suggests an imminent overhaul in India's legal research paradigm, with traditional law schools leading the charge towards global recognition.
16. What is the central idea conveyed by the passage regarding the evolution and current challenges of legal education in India?
- The establishment of national law universities marked the pinnacle of legal education, making India a global leader in legal studies.
  - Legal education in India has seen significant progress since the 1990s, yet struggles with mediocrity in research and a lack of global standing among most law schools.
  - The Bar Council of India's regulatory practices have single-handedly uplifted the standards of legal education across the country.
  - Legal education in India remains highly competitive and solely focused on litigation, with little to no emphasis on other legal professions.
17. Based on the synthesis of the passage's recommendations for legal education reform, what can be inferred about the proposed direction for future improvements?
- A complete overhaul of the legal education system with a shift away from traditional law school models.
  - Enhanced focus on litigation and court practice as the core of legal education reform efforts.
  - Establishment of an independent regulatory body aimed at fostering research excellence and global competitiveness in legal education.
  - Integration of legal education under a single governmental authority to streamline education standards and practices.
18. Which of the following best summarizes the key points addressed in the passage regarding the evolution and current challenges of legal education in India?
- The primary focus of the passage is on the historical neglect of legal education in India by policymakers, with a brief mention of the positive impact of national law universities (NLUs) in the 1990s. It suggests minor adjustments to improve the current state of legal education without significant structural changes.
  - The passage highlights the transformative effect of NLUs in attracting talented students to the field of law, driven by economic liberalization. It suggests that the current system, while flawed, does not require

significant reform, as the success of NLUs and their graduates abroad is a testament to the system's overall effectiveness.

- (c) It outlines the progress made in legal education since the 1990s, acknowledges the shortcomings of most law schools outside the top tier, and recommends a major overhaul in the regulation of legal education, particularly by proposing the establishment of the NCLER to focus on research and global competitiveness.
- (d) The passage is a critique of the Bar Council of India's (BCI) excessive control over legal education, proposing the complete removal of BCI from this role. It suggests that all aspects of legal education, including basic eligibility to practice law, should be regulated by newly established bodies to ensure international standards are met.

**Passage (Q.19-Q.24):** During the Paris Commune of 1871, all government officers and judges had to be voted in by the people. Karl Marx celebrated this fact in the pamphlet *The Civil War in France*. This idea had been in the air in French revolutionary circles, but has its roots in the radical egalitarianism of the 17th-century Levellers in England.

However, when we trace the diverse origins of the proposal back from later versions found in the work of 19th-century utopians and socialists, we find that during the French revolutionary era of the late 18th century, the most prominent advocate of (at least a part of) this proposal was the aristocratic-born French translator of Adam Smith, Sophie de Grouchy (1764-1822). The **Letters on Sympathy**, Grouchy's only known, and signed, authored work, were published in 1798 as an appendix to her translations of the final edition of Smith's book *The Theory of Moral Sentiments* (1792) and of his essay *A Dissertation on the Origins of Languages* (1792). These remained the standard translations of Smith's key works for two centuries. Consequently, Grouchy's Letters on Sympathy remained in wide circulation too, and were able to influence the growth of political ideas.

In the seventh of her Letters on Sympathy, in the context of her broader argument on criminal reform, Grouchy wrote: 'if all appointments were granted by a general choice and a free election, our conscience would only rarely need to resist the sort of motivation that leads to crime or injustices inspired by ambition' (all translations are by Sandrine Bergès). Grouchy clearly assumed that a government and bureaucracy filled by elected officers would be a source of legitimacy and justice.

There are intimations of this approach in Jean-Jacques Rousseau's *The Social Contract* (1762) and Roman republicanism, but Grouchy's formulation of this hasn't been sufficiently recognised. How did a woman born of a rich aristocratic family become a conduit for radical democracy during the French revolutionary era?

In 1793, Grouchy worked as an artist, writer and translator from a tiny studio on the rue Saint-Honoré, a few doors down from where Maximilien Robespierre was lodging. Her husband, Nicolas de Condorcet, was in hiding from the Reign of Terror a few kilometres away, and she visited him when she could, bringing books and writing materials as well as moral support. Below her studio she had set up an underwear shop, and the brother of Condorcet's secretary managed it. One day the militia, aware that the wife of a renegade could be found at that address, knocked on the door, intent on arresting her. But instead of dragging her to prison, the arresting officer sat for his portrait in her studio – gratis, of course.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from, <https://aeon.co/essays/the-radical-political-writings-of-sophie-de-grouchy>]

19. What can be inferred about Sophie de Grouchy's perspective on the link between political governance and criminal behavior?
- (a) She believed that crime rates would escalate without the direct involvement of aristocracy in governance.
  - (b) Grouchy was of the opinion that a democratically elected government would not significantly alter the social fabric or reduce crime.
  - (c) She was convinced that the election of government officials by the populace would lead to a decrease in crime and injustices motivated by ambition.
  - (d) Her stance was that only through a monarchy could true justice and legitimacy in governance be achieved.

20. Based on the passage, how did Sophie de Grouchy's work and personal circumstances reflect the broader political and social upheavals of her time?
- Grouchy's involvement in translating Adam Smith and writing on sympathy, despite the dangers posed by her political affiliations, exemplifies the intertwining of intellectual pursuit and personal risk in revolutionary France.
  - Her engagement in art and translation, alongside her secretive support for her husband, showcases the limited roles women could play in public life, irrespective of their personal beliefs or the political climate.
  - The operation of an underwear shop below her studio, while harboring connections to political figures, suggests an attempt to maintain a semblance of normalcy and disguise her revolutionary activities.
  - Her actions, particularly the setup of a business and aiding her husband, indicate a passive acceptance of the political status quo rather than active resistance or contribution to the revolutionary cause.
21. What does the passage imply about the challenges faced by individuals advocating for radical democracy during the French revolutionary era?
- The primary challenge was in convincing the aristocracy and the monarchy of the benefits of democratic governance, as their opposition was the main barrier to the adoption of such ideas.
  - The challenge was largely ideological, focusing on overcoming the entrenched beliefs in the divine right of kings and the natural hierarchy of society, with little to no emphasis on personal risk.
  - The biggest hurdle was technological, as the lack of advanced communication methods made it difficult to spread democratic ideas among the populace effectively.
  - Advocates like Grouchy faced the dual challenge of contributing to intellectual debates on governance while also navigating the personal dangers posed by political turmoil, including threats to their safety and freedom.
22. What conclusion can be drawn about the societal impact of Sophie de Grouchy's work during the French revolutionary era?
- Grouchy's translations and writings, although significant, remained largely unrecognized and had little influence on the political ideologies of her time.
  - Her work contributed to a broader intellectual movement that questioned traditional governance structures, advocating for a system rooted in democratic principles and the moral philosophy of sympathy.
  - The primary impact of Grouchy's work was in the realm of linguistics, through her translation of Adam Smith's essay on the origins of languages, with minimal contributions to political thought.
  - Despite her efforts, Grouchy's ideas were overshadowed by the more radical propositions of her contemporaries, leading to her marginalization in historical accounts of the period.
23. Which of the following best summarizes the primary theme of the passage?
- The historical evolution of democratic ideas from the Enlightenment to the 19th century, with a focus on the contributions of lesser-known figures like Sophie de Grouchy.
  - A detailed account of the political upheavals during the French revolutionary era, with incidental references to intellectuals like Grouchy.
  - An exploration of the personal and professional life of Sophie de Grouchy, emphasizing her unique position as an aristocratic woman advocating for democracy.
  - A critique of the French revolutionary system's failure to fully embrace democratic principles, as evidenced by the experiences of Grouchy.
24. Which term best reflects the essence of Sophie de Grouchy's "Letters on Sympathy" as described in the passage?
- (a) Polemical      (b) Anachronistic      (c) Esoteric      (d) Egalitarian

**SECTION -B : CURRENT AFFAIRS, INCLUDING GENERAL KNOWLEDGE**

**Directions (Q.25-Q.52):** Read the information carefully and answer the questions.

**Passage (Q.25-Q.30): VAIBHAV Scheme**

The Department of Science and Technology (DST) announced the first batch of ‘Vaibhav’ fellows – a scheme meant to attract Indian-origin scientists based abroad for short-term collaboration – at a function on Tuesday.

Twenty-two scientists, mostly based at North American and European institutes including the California Institute of Technology, the University of Oxford, the University of Michigan, the University of Geneva, the University of Waterloo, Canada, and the University of Oslo, will spend anywhere from a month or two annually, for a maximum of [a] years, at host Indian institutes. Currently, the institutions include the Indian Institute of Science, the Indian Institutes of Technology, the Indian Institutes of Science, Education and Research, and the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, among others. Apart from these, two ‘distinguished fellowships’ were also offered to senior professors, Arogyaswami Paulraj (Stanford University) and Jitendra Malik (University of California, Berkley).

The Vaibhav fellowship scheme, first set into motion in June [X], and credited to Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s call to involve the Indian diaspora more closely to further India’s development, bears striking similarities to another scheme, called Visiting Advanced Joint Research Faculty (Vajra) scheme, again of the DST, initiated in 2018.

While the Vajra scheme did see participation and visits by foreign faculty, the Vaibhav scheme – other than the emphasis on Indian diaspora – expected clear, translational outcomes in areas of science of research that the government had earlier identified as critical to development.

Ref-<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/science-ministry-announces-first-recipients-of-vaibhav-fellows/article67769750.ece>

25. What has been redacted by [X] in this passage?  
(a) 2023                  (b) 2022                  (c) 2021                  (d) 2020
  
26. How many VAIBHAV Fellows and Distinguished VAIBHAV Fellows were recommended by the Apex Committee?  
(a) 22 VAIBHAV Fellows and 2 Distinguished VAIBHAV Fellows  
(b) 20 VAIBHAV Fellows and 3 Distinguished VAIBHAV Fellows  
(c) 25 VAIBHAV Fellows and 1 Distinguished VAIBHAV Fellows  
(d) 24 VAIBHAV Fellows and 2 Distinguished VAIBHAV Fellows
  
27. Apart from collaborating with Indian institutions, what else are Distinguished VAIBHAV Fellows expected to do?  
(a) Conduct independent research  
(b) Mentor Indian students  
(c) Network with international institutions  
(d) Exchange practices between countries and address joint research areas
  
28. What is the maximum duration for which the VAIBHAV Fellows can spend collaborating with Indian institutions?  
(a) 1 year                  (b) 2 years                  (c) 3 years                  (d) 4 years

29. According to the Union Minister of DST, what phrase captures the complexity of the relationship with People of Indian Origin and Non-Resident Indians abroad?
- "Our relationship is based on shared values."
  - "Our relationship is defined by our cultural heritage."
  - "Hamara toh khoon ka rishta hai, passport ka nahi."
  - "Our bond transcends borders."
30. When was the Vaishvik Bharatiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Summit inaugurated?
- September 2019
  - October 2020
  - December 2021
  - October 2022

**Passage (Q.31-Q.36): National Voters Day**

Election Commission of India is celebrating 14th National Voters' Day (NVD) on 25th January 2024. Hon'ble President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu will be the Chief Guest at the national function being organized in New Delhi by the Election Commission of India. Union Minister of State for Law and Justice (Independent Charge), Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal will grace the function as Guest of Honour. The event will also be attended by Heads and representatives of Election Management bodies viz. Maldives, Philippines, Russia, Sri Lanka and Uzbekistan. Dedicated to the voters, NVD 2024 theme - '[a]' is a continuation from last year's theme.

During the event, Hon'ble President will present the Best Electoral Practices Awards for the year 2023. Awards will be presented to State and District level officers for their outstanding performance in the conduct of elections during 2023 in different spheres such as IT initiatives, Security Management, Election Management, Accessible Election, Electoral Roll and contribution in the field of voter awareness and outreach. Awards will also be given to important stakeholders including government departments, and media organizations for their valuable contribution towards voters' awareness.

The first copy of the ECI Publication 'ECI initiatives for General Elections 2024' will be presented to the Hon'ble President by Chief Election Commissioner Shri [X].

Ref- <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1999141>

31. What has been redacted by [X] in this passage?
- V. S. Sampath
  - S. Y. Quraishi
  - Rajiv Kumar
  - N. Gopalaswami
32. Who was the Prime Minister of India when the first National Voters' Day was celebrated?
- Narendra Modi
  - Atal Bihari Vajpayee
  - Manmohan Singh
  - Indira Gandhi
33. What is the theme of National Voters' Day 2024?
- Voting for Progress
  - Power to the People
  - Nothing Like Voting, I Vote For sure
  - Empowering Citizens through Voting
34. What was the primary purpose of celebrating the first-ever National Voters' Day in 2011?
- To honor the Prime Minister
  - To encourage young voters to participate in the electoral process
  - To introduce a new electoral system
  - To celebrate the anniversary of the Constitution

35. Apart from the President of India and the Union Minister of State for Law and Justice, who else was attend the national function for National Voters' Day 2024?
- (a) Heads and representatives of Election Management bodies from other countries
  - (b) Leaders of political parties
  - (c) Representatives of NGOs
  - (d) Members of the United Nations
36. Consider the following statements about National Voter day:
- I. NVD 2024 theme - 'Nothing Like Voting, I Vote For sure' is a continuation from last year's theme. The President of India Droupadi Murmu was the Chief Guest at the national function being organised in New Delhi.
  - II. This year ECI has celebrated the 75th anniversary of the first general election conducted in 1951-52
- (a) Only I is correct. (b) Only II is correct.
  - (c) Both I & II are incorrect. (d) Both I & II are correct.

**Passage (Q.37-Q.42): NHRC and Idate Commission**

The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC, India organized an Open House Discussion on "Protection of Nomadic, Semi Nomadic and De-Notified Tribes (NTs, SNTs and DNTs) in India and forward trajectory" today on 19th January, 2024 at its premises. The NHRC, India Member, [x] inaugurated the discussion in the presence of the Members Shri Rajiv Jain, Smt Vijaya Bharati Sayani, Joint Secretaries Smt Anita Sinha and Devendra Kumar Nim.

Dr Mulay said that the right to life, equality, dignity and liberty are the four major pillars of human rights and every citizen, regardless of background, deserves an equal opportunity to thrive and contribute. He said that the De-Notified Tribes, Nomadic Tribes and Semi-Nomadic Tribes also require proper means of livelihood.

He said that the colonial mind set about the De-Notified Tribes having "criminal tendencies" needs to change to ensure their human rights are not violated. Proper documentation of their identities needs to be speeded up so that they get the benefits of welfare schemes and the basic needs are provided to them. He emphasized that the different stakeholders need concerted efforts and discussions to streamline the issues impacting their human rights.

Earlier, in his welcome address, NHRC Joint Secretary, Shri Devendra Kumar Nim said that the De-Notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes remain the most neglected, marginalized and economically and socially deprived communities.

Ref- <https://nhrc.nic.in/media/press-release/nhrc-organizes-open-house-discussion-protection-nomadic-semi-nomadic-and-de>

37. What is one of the key recommendations made by the Idate Commission report?
- (a) Establishment of a permanent commission for Nomadic, Semi Nomadic, and De-Notified Tribes
  - (b) Implementation of a new taxation system
  - (c) Creation of special economic zones for marginalized communities
  - (d) Expansion of urban infrastructure in tribal areas
38. Who out of the following inaugurated the Open House Discussion on "Protection NTs, SNTs, and DNTs in India and forward trajectory"?
- (a) Sanjeev Sinha (b) Vinod Mehra
  - (c) Dnyaneshwar M. Mulay (d) Rahul Bajaj

39. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) was established in which of the following year?  
 (a) 1999   (b) 2002   (c) 1993   (d) 1969
40. Consider the following statements about the NHRC:  
 I. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) was established on October 12, 1993. Its statute is contained in the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 and is in conformity with the Paris Principles adopted at the first international workshop on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights held in Paris in October, 1991.  
 II. Section 2 (d) of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 defines human rights as rights relating to life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual, guaranteed by the Constitution, or embodied in the International Covenants and enforceable by courts in India.  
 (a) Only I is correct.   (b) Only II is correct.  
 (c) Both I & II are incorrect.                                 (d) Both I & II are correct.
41. Who out of the following is the present chairperson of National Human Rights Commission?  
 (a) Arun Kumar Mishra   (b) Kalpana Dwivedi  
 (c) Nirendra Kumar rai   (d) Devendra Kumar Nim
42. Section 2(1)(d) of the PHRA defines Human Rights as \_\_\_\_\_ of the individual guaranteed by the Constitution or embodied in the International Covenants and enforceable by courts in India.  
 (a) the rights relating to only liberty  
 (b) the rights relating to life, liberty, equality and dignity  
 (c) the rights relating to only equality  
 (d) the rights relating to only dignity

**Passage (Q.43-Q.48): Corruption Perception Index,2023**

The 2023 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) shows that corruption is thriving across the world. The CPI ranks [X] countries and territories around the globe by their perceived levels of public sector corruption, scoring on a scale of 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean).

Over two-thirds of countries score below 50 out of 100, which strongly indicates that they have serious corruption problems. The global average is stuck at only 43, while the vast majority of countries have made no progress or declined in the last decade. What is more, 23 countries fell to their lowest scores to date this year.

The global trend of weakening justice systems is reducing accountability for public officials, which allows corruption to thrive.

Both authoritarian and democratic leaders are undermining justice. This is increasing impunity for corruption, and even encouraging it by eliminating consequences for criminals. Corrupt acts like bribery and abuse of power are also infiltrating many courts and other justice institutions across the globe. Where corruption is the norm, vulnerable people have restricted access to justice while the rich and powerful capture whole justice systems, at the expense of the common good. Countries ranking high on the CPI have an impunity problem of their own, even if this isn't reflected in their scores. Many cross-border corruption cases have involved companies from top-scoring countries that resort to bribery when doing business abroad.

Ref- <https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2023>

43. What has been redacted by [X] in this passage?  
 (a) 136   (b) 120   (c) 180   (d) 168
44. Which of the following country ranked at the bottom of the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) for 2023?  
 (a) Afghanistan   (b) North Korea   (c) Somalia   (d) Myanmar

45. Consider the following statements about the corruption perceptions index:
- I. INDIA ranked 93 out of 180 countries on the corruption perceptions index (CPI) for 2023, according to the latest report released by Transparency International.
  - II. The index, which lists countries by their perceived levels of public sector corruption, ranked Denmark at the top, followed by Finland, New Zealand and Norway.
  - (a) Both I & II are correct. (b) Both I & II are incorrect.
  - (c) Only I is correct. (d) Only II is correct.
46. What is the scale used in the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2023?
- (a) 0 to 50 (b) 0 to 75 (c) 0 to 100 (d) 0 to 150
47. Choose the incorrect statement about corruption perceptions index (CPI) 2023:
- (a) In 2023, India's overall score was 39 while in 2022, it was 40.
  - (b) China (rank 76) has made headlines with its aggressive anti-corruption crackdown by punishing more than 3.7 million public officials for graft over the last decade.
  - (c) Pakistan rank 180 with the lowest score of 11.
  - (d) The bottom of the index included Myanmar (162), Afghanistan (162) and North Korea (172).
48. According to the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) for 2023, what was India's rank among 180 countries?
- (a) 68 (b) 57 (c) 46 (d) 93

**Passage (Q.49-Q.52): Tigers-Melanistic, White, Golden and other types**

Odisha is gearing up to provide an unparalleled experience to visitors through its upcoming black tiger safari, offering a rare glimpse into the lives of these majestic creatures in their natural habitat. This exclusive safari of three melanistic tigers, will be one-of-a-kind for sure.

The melanistic tigers are distinct for their dark and dense stripes that are reportedly found only in Simlipal Tiger Reserve. It's expected that this move will boost tourism in this region, wherein tourists will get the opportunity to catch sight of the rare big cat.

While sightings of black tigers in Odisha have been documented since 2007, the launch of this safari marks a historic moment as the world's first melanistic tiger safari.

Referring to this, Chief Minister [X] announced the groundbreaking initiative on X (formerly Twitter) recently, unveiling plans for the world's first melanistic tiger safari near the Simlipal Tiger Reserve in Mayurbhanj. This region is the exclusive habitat for pseudo-melanistic tigers, showcasing stripes that are notably darker and denser compared to their counterparts worldwide.

The safari site, strategically located near Baripada and approximately 15 km from the Simlipal Tiger Reserve, will sprawl across more than 200 hectares. Out of this expanse, 100 hectares will be dedicated to the display area, while the remaining area will be utilized for the establishment of veterinary care facilities, staff infrastructure, visitor amenities, and a rescue center.

Ref- <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/travel/travel-news/odisha-all-set-to-start-worlds-first-ever-black-tiger-safaris/articleshow/107226963.cms#:~:text=kind%20for%20sure.-%20melanistic%20tigers%20are%20distinct%20for%20their%20dark%20and%20dense,of%20the%20rare%20big%20cat>.

49. What has been redacted by [X] in this passage?
- (a) Naveen Patnaik (b) Pawan Kumar Chamling
  - (c) virbhadr singh (d) Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu

50. How large is the Similipal Tiger Reserve in Odisha?  
(a) 1,500 sq km      (b) 2,250 sq km      (c) 2,750 sq km      (d) 3,000 sq km
51. Consider the following statements:  
I. Spanning across a vast area of 2,750 sq km, the Similipal Tiger Reserve in Odisha stands as witness to the state's rich biodiversity.  
II. The project is currently pending statutory clearances from relevant authorities, a feasibility study of the final site by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), and approval from the Central Zoo Authority before commencing.  
(a) Only I is correct.      (b) Only II is correct.  
(c) Both I & II are correct.      (d) Both I & II are incorrect.
52. Which out of the following authority is conducting a feasibility study of the final site for the project?  
(a) National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)  
(b) Central Zoo Authority of India  
(c) Ministry of Science and Technology  
(d) International Wildlife Conservation Society

**SECTION – C: LEGAL REASONING**

**Directions (Q.53-Q.84):** Read the comprehension carefully and answer the questions.

**Passage (Q.53-Q.57):** Bombay high court's Nagpur bench has struck a powerful blow against misuse of IPC's criminal defamation provision. It ruled that newspaper fairly reporting information in the public domain without insinuation or innuendo cannot attract defamation charges. The case involved a Marathi daily that had reported on a police FIR in 2016. The person booked in the FIR subsequently lodged a criminal defamation complaint. He claimed the newspaper hadn't done due diligence, citing as defense the charge sheet in the case not naming him an accused. The Nagpur bench rightly concluded that registration of crimes, filing of cases in courts, progress of investigations, and arrest of persons constitute "news events which public has the right to know". An FIR may predate a charge sheet by several weeks, months or years. No reporter can know a case's trajectory at its inception. Moreover, FIRs are public documents, uploaded on police websites. The bench noted that a newspaper isn't expected to investigate an FIR's contents and verify its truthfulness but to report facts correctly. Of course, journalists should follow best practices, and seek the other side's version. But sometimes this isn't possible when reporting on breaking news like registration of cases or arrest of persons. Criminal defamation is particularly problematic, allowing complainants to claim the accused had intention to harm reputation. Claiming defamation on intent to harm reputation sets a very low and subjective bar for prosecution. Tamil Nadu's AIADMK governments were infamous for lodging criminal defamation cases indiscriminately against journalists. With public prosecutors appearing, magistrates often take cognizance of even frivolous matters, prompting a dash to HCs for relief. Sometimes, multiple cases are filed in faraway places because the statute even allows offences only "partly committed" in that jurisdiction. This is punishment disguised as process. The UK's history of murderous duels to settle slander and insults is said to have precipitated criminal defamation's entry as a modern penal offence. But the British decriminalized defamation in 2009. India must shed this colonial baggage, too, and get an effective civil libel law.

(Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/toi-editorials/shooting-messengers-criminal-defamation-must-go-from-ipc-effective-civil-libel-law-is-enough-for-protecting-reputations/> )

53. Which of the following arguments the author is least likely to agree with, as per your understanding of the given passage?
- The bench of Nagpur has ruled that newspapers that accurately publish material in the public domain without using innuendo or slurs can in exceptional cases be sued for defamation.
  - The bench stated that a newspaper's only responsibility is to accurately publish the facts and is not required to look into a FIR's contents and confirm its veracity.
  - Criminal defamation presents additional difficulties since complainants can assert that the accused intended to hurt their reputation thereby setting an extremely low and arbitrary standard for prosecution by claiming defamation on the basis of intent to hurt reputation.
  - The statute also permits offences that were only "partially committed" in that jurisdiction, which leads to occasionally filing multiple prosecutions in distant locations.
54. V published news about a particular party losing seats in Gujarat and its rival party winning with a 90% majority. This was reported in a national newspaper. It also mentioned public opinion on the reason for the party's defeat. Since the news of their defeat offended and insulted them, they filed a criminal defamation suit against V. What are your thoughts on their claim?
- The party's argument is valid because it may cause voters to change their minds, and they may also lose seats in other regions.
  - Since the article was specifically about public opinion and there was no indication of any insinuation, the party's contention is inappropriate and should not be upheld.
  - The newspaper isn't supposed to publish such a divisive topic, so the party's argument will be upheld.
  - Since the newspaper published the actual facts, the party's argument is unfounded.

55. P was detained after it was discovered that he had dumped the dead body of a well-known politician's son. The man who saw P informed the politician of this. He went right away to see if it was true, and to his shock, found his son's body lying immobile on the farm's corner. So he went to the police station right away and made a FIR. He described the entire incident, and J, a journalist, decided to write an article about it. Following that, it was published. P felt offended after reading the article and asserted that the accusation was made about him. He filed a criminal defamation complaint as a result. Comment.
- P's assertion cannot be accepted because he was an accused party in this case and is therefore not allowed to make a complaint against anyone else.
  - Such articles shall not be published as they tend to harm the reputation of the accused until it is established that P is the perpetrator.
  - Since the article was just an illustration of the entire incident, P's objection cannot be accepted.
  - P's argument should be upheld because information about him that was published in a national newspaper could harm his reputation and lead to career hardships for him.
56. Y received some information about a commotion taking place in his neighbourhood. He went right away to look into it because it was a Sunday evening. He learned that a few riots were occurring, and the Hindu resident was sitting in protest because a Muslim had just opened a meat shop directly in front of his residence. He took note of the entire incident and wrote a piece on the decades-long riots between Hindus and Muslims. There was no reference to anything that happened in the evening. The Muslim person read it and believed it was directed at him, so he went to report it as criminal defamation. Comment.
- The facts already indicate that there was no evidence of anything that occurred that evening, so the man's assertion cannot be accepted.
  - Since he was presented as the main antagonist of the entire incident, the man's argument should be upheld.
  - Only once it is known whether the journalist was a Muslim or a Hindu will the man's claim be upheld.
  - The article only provided accurate descriptions of the actual events which happened in the neighbourhood, so the man's argument cannot be accepted.
57. Since ABC Company declared bankruptcy in a single night, it was forced to lay off its employees. The workers received no advanced notice and were not even paid their salary for that month. The company's 26 employees went to the police station the following morning to lodge a complaint. By evening, the number had doubled, and this was reported right away in an article. After reading the article, the company's CEO filed a defamation lawsuit, claiming that his point of view had not been taken into consideration. Check to see if his claim is true.
- His claim will stand since no article can be published without hearing both sides' points of view.
  - Since the publishers ought to have first checked the validity of the complaints, his argument will be upheld.
  - His proposition will not be upheld because more than fifty of his employees filed complaints against him.
  - His argument cannot be accepted because it was a case that needed to be reported right away.

**Passage (Q.58-Q.62):** As per Article 21 of the Constitution of India, "No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law, nor shall any person be denied equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India". It also covers a just and fair trial without any arbitrary procedure, which confers that arrest, should not only be legal but also justified. In this context, this article consists of the procedural and constitutional rights of the accused before and after the arrest in India such as:

**(a) Rights to know the grounds of arrest:** Article 22 of the Constitution of India deals with the protection against arrest and detention in certain cases. It says that no person who is arrested shall be detained in custody without being informed, as soon as possible, of the grounds for such arrest nor shall he be denied the right to consult and to be defended by a legal practitioner of his choice.

**(b) Right to be produced before the Magistrate without unnecessary delay:** Article 22 (2) of the Constitution of India provides that every person who is arrested and detained in custody shall be produced before the nearest magistrate within twenty-four hours of such arrest, excluding the time necessary for the journey from the place of detention to the court of the magistrate and no such person shall be detained in custody beyond the said period without the authority of a magistrate.

**(c) Rights to be released on Bail:** Section 50 (2) of the Code of the Criminal procedure (Cr.P.C.) states that where a police

officer arrests without warrant any person other than a person accused of a non-bailable offense, he shall inform the person arrested that he is entitled to be released on bail and that he may arrange for sureties on his behalf. (d) **Right to keep silence:** When a confession or statement is made in court, the magistrate must determine whether the announcement was made voluntarily or not. No one can be compelled to speak in court against their will. This act of exposing oneself is the principle of self-incrimination.

(Source: <https://www.mondaq.com/india/crime/1207678/rights-of-accused-before-and-after-arrest-in-india>)

58. Article 22 of the Indian Constitution outlines essential rights related to arrest and detention. Determine the significance of Article 22 (2) and how it safeguards the rights of arrested individuals in India.
- Article 22 (2) guarantees that every person arrested and detained in custody must be produced before a magistrate within 24 hours, ensuring a prompt judicial review of the arrest and preventing arbitrary detention.
  - Article 22 (2) grants arrested individuals the right to be informed of the grounds of their arrest and the right to consult a legal practitioner, ensuring a fair and just legal process from the outset.
  - Article 22 (2) provides arrested individuals the right to secure their release on bail, allowing them to avoid unnecessary detention while awaiting trial.
  - Article 22 (2) mandates that no person can be compelled to speak in court against their will, protecting the principle of self-incrimination during legal proceedings.
59. Since X was suspected of assaulting G sexually, police detained him. One night, while G was returning from work, a man approached her, grabbed her, and abused her sexually. She was unable to fully see the face because just one of the area's street lamps was functioning. The final image, though, resembled X because she gave the sketch artist the specifics. He was detained for allegedly assaulting G sexually, although this information was not given to him while he was being detained. Analyze the passage carefully to see if X's rights have been violated in this particular situation.
- Since there was no concrete evidence against X, his rights have been infringed.
  - If X had been informed, there was a chance he might have escaped, his rights have not been violated.
  - X must be detained right away because his rights have not been infringed since he committed such a serious offense.
  - Since X was not informed of the grounds for his arrest, his rights have been violated.
60. A non-bailable offense was alleged to have been committed by J. After the victim filed a complaint, he was taken into custody. His elder brother submitted a bail application on behalf of J. The bail was categorically rejected without being given an adequate reason. Determine whether any of J's rights have been violated. Give appropriate legal justification for your answer.
- J's right to appear in front of a magistrate has been violated.
  - J's right to be granted bail was violated because no valid reason was provided to deny the bail.
  - J's rights have not been violated since he committed a heinous crime and deserves no bail.
  - J's rights have not been infringed because he committed a non-bailable offense.
61. V was charged with committing theft at the residence of her employer. She worked as a maid at her house. She was terminated from her position after she asked a pay raise. She asked to stay on the job, but she was turned down. Additionally, her employer used the influence of other friends to have her fired. V was fired from all four of her employment. She once broke into her owner's home to exact revenge, robbing her of all the jewellery. She was apprehended, though, and was compelled to admit her guilt in court under threat of a harsher punishment if she refused. Comment on the threat that she was subject to.
- If she refuses to admit her crime voluntarily, she must receive a harsher punishment.
  - It is within her rights not to be compelled or coerced into testifying against herself.
  - She cannot be charged unless and until there is compelling evidence against her.
  - There isn't enough information in the passage to determine whether V will be compelled to admit her culpability or not.

62. Y was charged with public nuisance when a political party rally was taking place. He yelled various insults and incited people to act against the political party. There was a lot of commotion on the streets. He was arrested around 4 p.m. and was set to appear before the magistrate the next morning. However, because the inspector's wife had been injured in an accident, he was unable to take Y to the magistrate. He arrived at the station at 3 p.m., took Y to the magistrate, and reached at the magistrate's at 7 p.m. Comment on the procedure's legality as a whole.
- The proceeding is null and void because Y did not appear before the magistrate within the time limit.
  - The procedure is valid because the police officer presented Y within 24 hours excluding the time taken in journey.
  - If the magistrate was informed of the delay, the procedure will be considered legitimate.
  - The procedure is invalid because the officer was expected to present Y to the magistrate on the same day of his arrest.

**Passage (Q.63-Q.67):** While all the personal laws make provision for matrimonial reliefs on various grounds, the right of the aggrieved party or the petitioner to seek relief is not absolute. He/She has not only to establish that the grounds prescribed for relief sought exist, but also that there are no situations or circumstances which would debar him/her from getting the relief despite the existence of the statutory ground. Thus, all statutes provide for certain bars to relief, for instance, taking advantage of one's own wrong, condonation, collusion and delay. The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, Section 23(1)(a) makes it very specific that before granting any decree, the court has to satisfy itself that the grounds for the relief sought exist, and that the petitioner is not in any way taking advantage of his or her own wrong or disability for the purpose of such relief. This duty is enjoined on the court, irrespective of the fact whether the proceeding defended or not. Thus, even where a case is ex parte, the court has to be satisfied. Under Section 23(1)(c) of the Hindu Marriage Act, the court, before granting relief under the Act, has to satisfy itself that the petition is not presented or prosecuted in collusion with the respondent.

Collusion is an agreement between the parties for obtaining matrimonial relief by deceiving or misrepresenting the court or producing false evidence. The only exception to this bar is divorce by mutual consent. Collusion as a bar to matrimonial relief has been provided, to safeguard the administration of those conditions on the fulfillment of which alone, the marriage tie can be dissolved. Its object is to ensure, as far as possible, that nothing but the truth shall be laid before the court, and that no matrimonial facts shall be hidden from its consideration. Condonation means forgiveness of the matrimonial offence and the restoration of offending spouse to the same position as he or she occupied before the offence was committed. Thus, when a spouse condones a matrimonial lapse of the other, then he or she cannot later seek relief on that ground.

Delay in filing a suit for matrimonial relief is another bar in matrimonial litigation. It is, however, not any delay, but only unnecessary and improper delay, which would operate as a bar. The idea is that the offended spouse should not be allowed to hold his weapon, i.e. the ground which entitles him/her to relief, over the head of the other party for an unlimited or unreasonable period.

63. Balwinder Kaur was duped into signing a divorce petition by the husband; the husband did not appear before the court and an ex parte decree was passed by the District Judge, Patiala. The wife approached the High Court saying that a fraud was perpetrated upon her by her husband in filing the petition for divorce which she said she never intended to file and never sought a divorce from her husband. The High Court set aside the ex parte divorce. Choose an incorrect statement:
- Husband duped the wife by filing the case, and then did not appear before the court to get an ex parte divorce. He should not be allowed to take the benefits of his own wrong.
  - A fraud has been committed with Balwinder Kaur, and now she is before the court, so any order against her should be set aside and fresh proceedings should be initiated.
  - Section 23(1)(a) of the Hindu Marriage Act makes it very clear that before granting any decree, the court has to satisfy that the petitioner is not in any way taking advantage of his or her own wrong.
  - The husband duped the wife by filing the case and then failing to appear in court to obtain an ex parte divorce. He should be allowed to take profit from his own mistakes.

64. Mahesh was having illicit relations with a lady in his vicinity, irrespective of having his own family. He was caught red handed by his wife at a café with his love affair. His wife objected to it and quarrelled on that account. Mahesh filed the petition for divorce on the grounds of mental cruelty to him inflicted by the wife on account of the quarrel. Decide outcome of the case.
- (a) Mahesh will not succeed because he was the one who was having an illicit relationship, so such a quarrel was inevitable.  
(b) Mahesh will succeed because quarrel does amount to mental cruelty as she could have sat and ironed out the dispute.  
(c) Mahesh will not succeed because it is the wife who should take divorce in the instant case, not the husband.  
(d) Mahesh will succeed because adultery is a ground for divorce.
65. A consent decree, per se, cannot be as collusive in matrimonial matters. A wife filed a petition for judicial separation, which was resisted by the husband. However, in order to put an end to the tension, he indicated in his written statement that he had no objection to it. After making all efforts at reconciliation, the decree was passed. When, after a year, the husband sought divorce on the grounds that there has been no resumption of cohabitation between the parties to the marriage for a period of one year, the wife resisted the same. Can the family court reject the husband's petition on the grounds that the decree of judicial separation was a collusive decree?
- (a) Yes, because it is the case of fraud with the court because firstly he resisted the separation and later he demanded divorce on the ground of separation.  
(b) Yes, because it appears to be the perfect case of collusion. Earlier he resisted and later on taking the benefit of the same.  
(c) No, because he is asking for divorce on the valid ground without any misrepresentation or frud and he has given consent for the judicial separation to ease the tension, in a hope that things will get better.  
(d) No, this cannot be considered a case of collusion as consent decree is an exception to collusion as a bar to matrimonial relief.
66. A wife was caught having an adulterous relationship. The parents of the wife were called and they assured that there will be no such lapse by their daughter in future, and thereupon the parties lived together. After ten months, husband decided to file a divorce using the previously committed adultery as a ground. Can he do so?
- (a) Yes, he can. Adultery is a valid ground of divorce.  
(b) No, he cannot. He has already condoned that adultery.  
(c) Yes, he can. He tried to live for ten more months, but was not able to do so.  
(d) No, he cannot. There is no proof to show that wife was in an adulterous relationship.
67. A second wife, married to the respondent six years before the commencement of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, filed a divorce petition on the grounds that her husband already had a wife when he married her. She lived happily with the husband along with his first wife for 7 years, and also had two children after the Act came into force, with full knowledge of her right to seek relief under the Act. Can she still claim the divorce on the grounds of having a second wife?
- (a) She cannot, because of the improper delay of 7 years in filing the suit for matrimonial relief.  
(b) She can, because bigamy is an offence and a ground for divorce.  
(c) She can take judicial separation and later on after a year can claim for divorce.  
(d) She can file for divorce for the benefit of her two children

**Passage (Q.68-Q.72):** The parties to an agreement should be capable of entering into the contract. According to the Contract act, every person is competent to contract who is the age of majority to which he/she is subject to and who is of the sound mind and is not disqualified from the contracting by any law to which he/she is subject. Another essential of the valid contract is the consent of parties, which should be free. As per the Contract Act, two or more parties are said to consent when they agree upon the same things in the same sense. The consent is considered free when any of the following things do not induce it: These factors are (1) Coercion (2) Misrepresentation (3) Fraud (4) Undue influence (5) Mistake.

Coercion was originally based on threats of physical violence, however the modern doctrine requires that the victim be subjected to pressure amounting to compulsion of the will and that the pressure was illegitimate, taking in to account the nature of the threat. The modern doctrine manifests itself as economic duress covers situations where there are more subliminal threats rather than overt threats of physical violence. A threat to commit a lawful act can sometimes amount to unlawful coercion. In relation to compulsion of the victim cases on economic duress suggest that the court should ask; (1) Did the victim protest? (2) Was there an alternative route available to the victim? (3) Was the victim independently advised? (4) Did the victim take steps to avoid the agreement after entering in to it? Coercion renders a contract voidable as opposed to void and the party subject to the coercion can rescind the contract unless there has been some affirmation of the contract after the coercion has been lifted. Undue influence may be actual or presumed. If undue influence is to be presumed there must be a relationship which gives rise to the presumption and something about the transaction which requires an explanation. Undue influence will be presumed irrebuttably where certain relationships exist. Examples include solicitor/client, doctor/patient, and parent/child. A rebuttable presumption will apply in other relationships if it can be shown one party dominated the other. Where a loan is secured by a person who is not in a commercial arrangement with the debtor, the lender is put on notice that undue influence may be presumed. The contract of security will in such a situation may be set aside if there has been any undue influence or misrepresentation by the debtor, unless the lender has made sure that the person providing the security has received independent legal advice before entering in to the contract.

68. Ram and Shyam live next door to each other. Ram has a farming company where he grows potatoes to supply the demands of food manufacturing businesses that use potatoes as a base ingredient. Ram was 17 years old when he entered into a contract with his friend, Shyam that he will buy 50 Kg of potatoes from him when he turns 20. When Ram turned 20, Shyam reminded Ram of the contract, but Ram denied the existence of any such agreement. Thereafter, Shyam sued Ram in the court.
- Ram will win the suit as Ram was not qualified to enter into a contract when he signed the contract.
  - Ram will lose the suit as the contract did not come into effect till Ram was a major. Hence, now he will have to perform his part of the obligation.
  - Ram will win the suit because Shyam being his friend put undue influence on him when he was 17 years old and didn't have the capacity to contract.
  - Ram will not win the case as he himself entered into a contract with Shyam and that it is not a case of undue influence where one party dominated the will of another.
69. Pankaj is a daily wage worker who lives in a slum with his ailing parents. He has no choice but to steal to save his mother because the treatment is highly expensive as compared to his income. Pankaj was caught red handed by the police when he was stealing medicines for his ailing mother. The police threatened Pankaj to give them a bribe of fifty thousand rupees else they will file an FIR against him. Pankaj accepted the offer.
- Contract will be valid because there was no threat to commit any physical harm.
  - Contract will be void because of economic duress put on by the police on Pankaj.
  - Contract will be voidable because of the threat that was given by the police to Pankaj to perform their lawful act if he fails to pay.
  - Contract will be void because of the threat that was given by the police to Pankaj to perform their lawful act if he fails to pay.

70. Pankaj is Ahmed's therapist. Pankaj is also involved in a couple of real estate development deals around town. Ahmed starts talking to Pankaj about how he has heard about units for sale in the complex that Pankaj is interested in developing. Ahmed isn't interested and doesn't feel it's appropriate for him to purchase a home at that time, but feels left behind by his friends who are all purchasing units or making other investments in the project. However, Pankaj persuades him that it's a good step forward in his life also to make an investment in the project. Ahmed before investing however took legal advice of Mr. Surender who is a practicing lawyer at the Supreme Court of Arbadia. Mr. Surender advised Ahmed to go ahead with the investment as it looked like a very lucrative deal. Ahmed's investment led to his financial detriment. Choose the correct statement.
- (a) Consent is vitiated by undue influence where the presumption is rebuttable.
  - (b) Consent is vitiated by economic duress where the presumption is rebuttable.
  - (c) Consent is vitiated by undue influence where the presumption is irrebuttable.
  - (d) Consent is vitiated by economic duress where the presumption is rebuttable.
71. In the same question above, if Ahmed went on to sue Pankaj on the grounds of undue influence, what would be the result be?
- (a) The court will take the side of Ahmed as in the case of doctor patient relationship, undue influence is presumed and in this case, Pankaj persuaded Ahmed to make the investment even when he was hesitant.
  - (b) The court will not take the side of Ahmed as Ahmed was in possession of all his mental faculties and was merely pushed by Pankaj to make a sound investment.
  - (c) The court will not take the side of Ahmed, as even if there was undue influence that was put on by Pankaj on Ahmed to make the investment, Ahmed took the independent legal advice of a lawyer before investing.
  - (d) Mr. Surender will be held liable as was the one who told that Ahmed should take the deal and in the case of attorney-client, undue influence should be presumed.
72. X refused to pay sums properly due under a contract, knowing that party Y was in desperate financial straits. X offered to pay a reduced amount only in full and final settlement on the basis that if the reduced sum was not accepted, then he would pay nothing. Y who was in desperate need for money, accepted the offer.
- (a) The contract will be valid as X merely gave a choice to Y to pay him a reduced amount now to help him in his dire needs.
  - (b) The contract will be void due to economic duress put on by X.
  - (c) The contract will be void due to undue influence put on by X.
  - (d) None of the above.

**Passage (Q.73-Q.78):** The Indian Penal Code offers general defences which can give an accused person immunity from criminal responsibility, which is based on a principle that though the person committed the offence, he cannot be held liable. The word accident means a sudden unintended and misfortune act by chance without any apparent cause. It is considered one of the general defences under criminal law for lack of mens rea, as a vital part of committing a crime, at the time of action. Mere an act without a guilty mind doesn't constitute a crime. This section says that "Nothing is an offence which is done by accident or misfortune, and without any criminal intention or knowledge in the doing of a lawful act in a lawful manner by lawful means and with proper care and caution." An accident falls under excusable defence, which is treated as a general defence of IPC, as there is no criminal intention, while an occurring accident is widely proven that intention is a vital part of constituting a crime. The word 'intention' is nowhere defined in IPC. But words like voluntarily, deliberately, wilfully and etc., are used to get the approximate meaning of word intention. There are four elements of crime, namely: Person, Mens Rea, Actus Reus and Injury. According to mens rea, it's the most important element to be proved that a crime has been committed. It means that it was the intention of the accused to purposely cause harm to a person or property.

[Source: [https://blog.ipleaders.in/all-about-section-80-ipc/#:~:text=upon%20the%20accused.-,Accident%20under%20Section%2080%20IPC,at%20the%20time%20of%20action.\]](https://blog.ipleaders.in/all-about-section-80-ipc/#:~:text=upon%20the%20accused.-,Accident%20under%20Section%2080%20IPC,at%20the%20time%20of%20action.)

73. Raj was a big sports bike enthusiast, he owned a lot of bikes and always strived to buy more bikes. On his twenty first birthday his father, Ram, gifted him a brand new sports bike which was one of the fastest bikes ever. The roads in the city where they currently live were not fit for the bike, but since Raj was leaving for another place soon, he was happy. While going to another city, he lost control of the bike and hit a passer by. Can he claim accident as a defence here?
- (a) No, because there was a knowledge that the roads were not fit for the bike.
  - (b) Yes, because he had no mens rea of hurting the passer by and so, he would not be liable.
  - (c) No, because it happened when he was leaving to another city and so, he can claim it.
  - (d) Yes, because he was merely enjoying his bike and did not want to hurt the person.
74. Shambhu was a gardener in the garden that was situated in the house of a very famous politician named Jai Srikar. Srikar was a very famous and rich politician and his half reputation was because he owned a very big garden that was also very pretty. Shambhu was his gardener for ten years and he trusted him a lot with his expensive and imported plants, however lately he was very rude towards him. Once however, something happened and Shambhu lost control over one of the machines and then he ended up ruining a very expensive plant. Srikar got very angry and sued him for destroying his valuable property. Can he claim the defence of accident?
- (a) No, because we do not know whether there was no intention or not.
  - (b) No, because he did have mens rea as Srikar was rude to him for some time now.
  - (c) Yes, because as per the facts he did lose control and did not intend to do anything.
  - (d) He should compensate Srikar because he ruined a very expensive plant.
75. Ramu was a sweeper in a very big hotel. The hotel was a very luxurious and a very expensive hotel, it used to have a lot of customers who came from abroad and so, it demanded that sort of a maintenance as well. The hotel owners and the manager used to emphasize a lot on cleanliness and more. Once a very important event was supposed to be organized there. Ramu had to clean the floor and he ended up leaving the bucket there which was kicked by a child and the hotel manager sued him for ruining the hotel's reputation in front of the guests. Can Ramu be held liable?
- (a) No, because he did not do it on purpose, there was no intention to do so.
  - (b) Yes, because he cost the hotel its reputation due to his negligence.
  - (c) No, because he was working there for a long time and so, there is nothing to show he had ill intentions.
  - (d) Yes, as Ramu did not act with proper care and caution and therefore, his act cannot be regarded as accident.
76. Amit was a police officer who was placed in a forest and a tribal area. There were a lot of instances of encroachment and also animal killing and a lot of poachers were there and so, he needed to be on his toes all the time and be vigilant too. He often had night duties and then it would get difficult to see far because it would get severely dark. Once, he was on a night duty and he heard some ruffling in the bushes, he fired a shot towards the direction of the sound and he ended up hurting a buffalo which belonged to Kalua. Kalua decided to sue Amit. Can Amit claim accident?
- (a) Yes, because he did not have any intention to kill Kalua's buffalo.
  - (b) No, because he had a duty to protect the place and so, it was a deliberate act in furtherance of the same.
  - (c) Yes, because he has immunity as he is a police officer.
  - (d) No, because he shot knowing there could be someone and so, he is responsible.
77. A and B were fighting on the street and they are using fists and some other small weapons to beat each other up in the middle of the street. A's wife, D saw this happening and came in to intrude and she was holding their toddler in her arms. She tried to interrupt and B ended up hurting the child on his head with a bat because he was very angry with the interruption. The child died as a result of this hit. B was sued for culpable homicide amounting to murder and he claimed the defence of accident. Can he do so?
- (a) No, because he hit the child with a deliberate intention of hurting him and so, he cannot claim accident.
  - (b) Yes, because he was angry at A and his wife interrupted and he accidentally hit the child.

- (c) Yes, because he did not have any intention to kill the child.  
(d) No, because he was anyways doing an illegal thing by beating another person.
78. Suppose in the previous question instead of the wife interrupting B while fighting with A decided to throw his chappal towards A and that went and hit A's child and he suffered injury and dies. Can B now claim accident?  
(a) Yes, because he did not intend to hurt the child, he wanted to hurt A.  
(b) Yes, because there was no intention to hurt the child it was an accident.  
(c) No, because he was anyways doing an illegal thing and so, he does not fulfil the requirement of accident.  
(d) No, because there was still an intention to hurt someone be it A himself.

**Passage (Q.79-Q.84):** Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow in the light of the same.

The principle embodied in law in Section 6 is usually referred to as the res gestae doctrine. The facts that can be proved as a part of res gestae must be facts other than those in question but must be linked to them. Although hearsay evidence is not admissible, it may be admissible in a court of law when it is res gestae and may be reliable proof. Res gestae contains facts that are part of the same transaction. It is, therefore, appropriate to examine what a transaction is, when it begins and when it ends. If any fact does not connect to the main transaction, it is not a res gestae and, therefore, inadmissible. Res gestae includes elements that completely fall outside the definition of modern hearsay, such as circumstantial evidence of a state of mind, so-called "verbal acts", verbal parts of acts, and certain non-verbal behaviour. Because excited utterances are closely connected with the event in time, and the excitement flows from the event, excited utterances have been considered part of the action and, therefore, admissible despite the rule of hearsay. The hearsay exceptions were also hired by Res gestae for present-sense impressions, excited utterances, direct evidence of a state of mind, and statements made to doctors.

[Source: <https://blog.ipleaders.in/doctrine-of-res-gestae/>]

79. Sumay and Rahul were two witnesses in the murder of two people, A and B. Sumay and Rahul were the deceased people's neighbour. Both of the witnesses were in an unconscious state. They said that when they had been sleeping in their respective homes, they had heard a loud cry coming from the home of the deceased. They had run towards the house and then Sumay had seen the wife of X crying loudly and Rahul was beaten unconscious. Then Sumay had screamed for help and the police were called. Can the act of Sumay screaming be termed evidence under Res Gestae?  
(a) No, because screams can be very generic as well and should not be used in a criminal case.  
(b) No, because this was not the part of the same transaction.  
(c) Yes, because the passage mentions the verbal acts can be part of Res gestae.  
(d) No, because it was mere hearsay on which they went to the deceased people's house.
80. Mr X was an employee at Medrema companies. The company had thrown a huge party with alcohol and food for all the employees, and Mr X had gone there and had a lot of fun. He was coming back driving in his car when he lost control and collided with a bike. The bike was being driven by Y and Z was sitting behind Y. Y died on the spot and Z fell down and broke his neck. While the ambulance was on its way, Z heard a man say that X was very drunk. Later, in the court Z admitted the sentence that X was intoxicated and is solely liable for the accident. Can this be admitted as Res Gestae?  
(a) No, because it is merely hearsay which isn't reliable, and so not admissible.  
(b) Yes, because the party was full with alcohol and hence it can be reasonably assumed that Mr X was drunk.  
(c) No, because Z had been in the accident and so he can use the statement.  
(d) Yes, because there is no link between drunkenness and the accident.

81. Suppose in the previous question, of Mr X, Y and Z, after Y died, and Z had fallen off the bike, Mr X's wife who was at the time of the accident present in the car with Mr X, had after the collision started to throw away certain glass bottles that were shaped like wine bottles out of the car, and Z had heard her ask Mr X to chew mint to hide breath and had heard the bottles clink as well, can now his statement that Mr X was drunk when the accident occurred be admissible in the court under Res gestae?
- (a) No, because there is still nothing to show that those were alcohol bottles.
  - (b) No, because the wine could have been drunk by the wife and she might have just been nervous and threw them away.
  - (c) Yes, because now there are circumstantial evidence to support the statement and not mere hearsay.
  - (d) No, because there is no link to the main transaction.
82. In the following options, choose the option which can be an example of an event not linked with the main event. Assume the facts to be the same as the question number 28, Mr X driving a car and colliding with Y and Z and the latter claiming that Mr X was drunk.
- (a) Y died and Z sustained injuries.
  - (b) The bike was brand new.
  - (c) Mr X was driving in opposite direction and on the wrong side of the road.
  - (d) Mr X was drunk.
83. Ramaj and his wife Sunita lived in a joint family. Ramaj did not earn a lot and his wife Sunita would always keep on nagging him about it. Ramaj's brother on the other hand was a rich engineer and he owned a lot of expensive things. Ramaj and Sunita decided to murder his brother and then to claim his will and get his fortune. One day Ramaj went to his room poured poison in the juice and gave it to his brother, and he came out and told his wife and Sunita shrieked in excitement and said now we will be rich, I will take his car. The brother heard it and did not drink the juice. Can he use this statement as evidence under Res Gestae?
- (a) No, because it was very presumptuous as he had not seen anything on his own.
  - (b) No, because it cannot be classified as Res Gestae.
  - (c) Yes, because the excited words from Sunita is admissible as evidence under Res Gestae.
  - (d) No, because there is nothing to prove he would have died only.
84. Nidhi was a college student. She had a family member who was terminally ill and her parents used to provide the former with the medical expenses because the ill relative was very poor. Nidhi did not like this, as because of the medical ex her pocket money would decrease. One day she decided to kill the person and so she broke into his house and killed him with a knife. Then she came home and was very visibly stressed, as everyone got to know about the murder, she started getting more stressed and her mother saw it. Nidhi was asked about the incident by the mother and she started sweating. Can the mother use this as evidence under Res Gestae?
- (a) No, because there is no link of that with the main transaction.
  - (b) No, because there is nothing to show that Nidhi was the one who murdered the man.
  - (c) Yes, because state of mind is also evidence under Res Gestae.
  - (d) No, because it is mere presumption.

## SECTION D: LOGICAL REASONING

**Directions (Q.85-Q.108):** Read the passage carefully and answer the questions.

**Passage (Q.85-Q.90):** The Supreme Court's suggestion for a mechanism to eliminate the perception of vendetta behind the use of investigative agencies against political opponents is sound in principle, but may not address all aspects of the problem. A case under formal investigation may be scrutinised for its legal tenability or political motive, but such a mechanism can do nothing about offences and allegations that are covered up for political reasons. During a recent hearing on a bribery case against an Enforcement Directorate (ED) officer in Tamil Nadu, the ED sought the transfer of the probe to the CBI. It also charged that the State police was not sharing details of FIRs it had registered on complaints against Ministers, officials and others in instances of corruption and illegal mining. The ED, presumably, wants to probe the money-laundering aspects of these offences, whereas the State government believes these details will be used to target its ministers and officials as the State is run by a party opposed to the ruling BJP at the Centre. The Bench's idea that an independent, pan-India mechanism to vet such cases appears reasonable. However, much of the criticism of the use of central agencies against political adversaries of the BJP stems from the view that similar allegations against its party members and allies across the country are seldom investigated.

Corruption allegations abound in several States against key political figures seen as friendly to the Centre, but the Opposition parties believe the CBI, ED and Income-Tax Department are hardly active there. The Bench is right in observing that offenders should not be spared only because they claimed to be victims of vendetta. Its remarks disapproving of retaliatory arrests are also salutary. However, despite the Solicitor-General's argument that the courts could intervene in the case of vindictive action, it has to be noted that the ED's power to summon and arrest anyone, and the difficulty in obtaining bail in money-laundering cases, renders the Union government quite invincible if it chose persecution in the name of prosecution. An unsavoury instance of how far politics over the use of central agencies can sully institutions is the recent episode of a Calcutta High Court judge ordering a CBI probe into charges against the ruling party in West Bengal, and a Division Bench staying the order. The single judge chose to ignore the Bench's order, accusing its presiding judge of political motive. In a welcome move, the Supreme Court formed a Bench of its senior-most judges and transferred the whole case file to itself for disposal. The perception of vendetta can only be removed if all agencies chose independence over subservience.

85. Which of the following would most weaken the author's argument regarding the misuse of investigative agencies for political vendettas?
  - (a) Data showing an equal number of investigations initiated against members of all political parties.
  - (b) Testimonies from former agency officials denying political bias in their operations.
  - (c) Instances where the Supreme Court intervened to prevent misuse of power.
  - (d) Evidence of corruption allegations being actively pursued against allies of the BJP.
  
86. What can be inferred as the primary reason behind the Supreme Court's suggestion to establish an independent, pan-India mechanism for vetting cases brought by investigative agencies?
  - (a) To ensure that all allegations of corruption are investigated without bias.
  - (b) To streamline the investigation process and make it more efficient.
  - (c) To prevent the misuse of investigative agencies for political vendettas.
  - (d) To facilitate better cooperation between state and central investigative agencies.

87. How does the passage illustrate the potential misuse of power by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in the context of the bribery case in Tamil Nadu?
- By highlighting the ED's request to transfer the case to the CBI for impartial investigation.
  - By accusing the state police of not cooperating with the ED's investigation efforts.
  - By suggesting the ED wants to probe only selective cases of corruption and illegal mining.
  - By indicating the ED's intentions to investigate money-laundering aspects for political reasons.
88. What is the role of the judiciary in dealing with situations where central investigative agencies are believed to be acting out of vengeance?
- The judiciary depends entirely on the instructions from the government to take corrective measures.
  - It serves as a mediator between the agencies and the individuals or parties facing accusations.
  - It offers a platform for the accused individuals to lodge appeals against the actions taken by these agencies.
  - The judiciary intervenes, by reviewing cases to ensure that legal standards are upheld.
89. What evidence does the passage provide to support the claim that central agencies are selectively active against political figures not aligned with the BJP?
- The Supreme Court's suggestion for an independent mechanism to vet cases.
  - The Enforcement Directorate's request to transfer a bribery case to the CBI.
  - Allegations of corruption in States against figures friendly to the Centre are ignored.
  - A Calcutta High Court judge's controversial decision involving the ruling party.
90. According to the passage, what is the significance of the difficulty in obtaining bail in money-laundering cases in relation to the powers of the Enforcement Directorate (ED)?
- It ensures that all accused individuals are treated equally under the law.
  - It reinforces the perception of the ED as an unbiased investigative body.
  - It renders the Union government quite invincible in persecution efforts.
  - It highlights the efficiency and effectiveness of the ED in combating corruption.

**Passage (Q.91-Q.96):** Milton Friedman believed the “long and variable lags” of active monetary policy made its goal of hitting an inflation target essentially unachievable. Central bankers invoked these flaws earlier in this cycle to allay fears of runaway inflation, by claiming that their rate rises would eventually come to tame it. Now that price growth has fallen rapidly, they could end up contradicting themselves by being too slow to cut rates.

The US Federal Reserve and the Bank of England this week followed the European Central Bank's recent decision to hold rates. With annual price growth now between 2.8 per cent and 4 per cent in the US, the eurozone and the UK, it is clear that the general direction for bank rates will be downwards this year. But central bankers remain in no rush to say when they will start to cut nominal rates. ECB president Christine Lagarde said summer was most likely, Fed chair Jay Powell pushed back on a March cut, and the BoE governor Andrew Bailey wants to wait for more evidence.

Caution is understandable. Central bankers fear that inflation could bounce back. Wage growth is still high by historic standards. In America, economic growth has surprised to the upside. Instability in the Middle East is creating new supply chain disruptions, and the threat of higher oil and gas prices remains.

Central bankers are also trying to manage market expectations. In the US, financial market conditions are only as tight as they were in the summer. As investors started to believe that the rate cycle had peaked, they priced in future cuts. Any suggestion that a cut is imminent could loosen conditions further than central banks want. Markets may have got ahead of themselves. In the US, they have priced in six cuts this year, compared to the three indicated by the Fed's “dot-plot” of rate projections. Nonetheless, there is a risk that central bankers are being overly cautious.

First, the predominant drivers of inflation in this cycle — supply chain snags, a natural gas price shock and soaring food costs — appear to have washed out. Weaker demand will also blunt the impact of any further supply chain snarl-ups. Goldman Sachs estimates that, as things stand, disruption to shipping in the Red Sea will only raise global core inflation by 0.1 percentage points this year.

Second, although jobs markets remain strong, the evidence of cooling has mounted. Vacancies in Britain are at their lowest since the second quarter of 2021. Wage growth and job openings in the US have also slowed. Three-month annualised core inflation, which focuses on recent trends in underlying inflation, is near 2 per cent across the UK, the eurozone and the US. This means the need to maintain highly restrictive rates has fallen.

Friedman's lags are also still in play. More fixed-rate lending, particularly in the US and the UK, has slowed the transmission of higher rates to the economy. The full effect of peak rates is yet to be felt. Many households and businesses are yet to refinance; when they do, demand will weaken further. Cutting rates from their current restrictive levels would, then, hardly amount to a significant loosening, particularly as real rates are rising.

The case for faster action is perhaps stronger in the particularly weak eurozone economy, compared to the US. But there are several moving parts, and geopolitical instability makes the task ever more complex. The ghost of Arthur Burns, the Fed chair who cut rates in the 1970s only to reverse course and raise them again when inflation jumped back, is clearly haunting central bankers. Avoiding embarrassment, however, is not a policy objective. If they claim to be “data dependent”, central banks may find themselves needing to cut rates sooner rather than later.

91. How does the passage resolve the paradox between the central bankers' fear of premature rate cuts leading to inflation resurgence and the evidence suggesting inflation drivers are subsiding?
  - (a) By highlighting the role of geopolitical instability in sustaining inflationary pressures.
  - (b) By acknowledging the lag effect of monetary policy on the economy.
  - (c) By emphasizing the cautious optimism of central bankers based on current economic data.
  - (d) By noting the reduction in core inflation rates across major economies.
92. What assumption underlies central bankers' reluctance to cut interest rates, despite acknowledging a rapid fall in price growth, as discussed in the passage?
  - (a) Lowering interest rates now may not sufficiently stimulate economic growth.
  - (b) Inflation could rebound due to factors like wage growth and supply chain disruptions.
  - (c) Interest rate cuts could lead to excessive market optimism and financial instability.
  - (d) The current economic indicators do not accurately reflect underlying inflation pressures.
93. Given the evidence presented in the passage, which piece of information most significantly undermines the central bankers' justification for delaying interest rate cuts based on fears of inflation rebounding?
  - (a) The full effect of peak rates has not yet impacted the economy.
  - (b) Central banks are managing market expectations to prevent financial instability.
  - (c) Core inflation trends are near 2 percent across major economies.
  - (d) Economic growth in America has been stronger than expected.
94. Which factor, if proven true, would most strengthen the argument in favor of central bankers' cautious stance on not rushing to cut interest rates, as outlined in the passage?
  - (a) Global core inflation is predicted to decrease further in the coming months.
  - (b) Fixed-rate lending has lessened the immediate impact of rate changes on the economy.
  - (c) New supply chain disruptions are emerging due to instability in the Middle East.
  - (d) Financial markets are already pricing in future rate cuts, easing conditions prematurely.

95. What can be inferred about the potential impact of geopolitical instability on central banks' monetary policy decisions, based on the information provided in the passage?
- It may lead central banks to increase interest rates to combat potential inflation spikes.
  - Geopolitical instability could justify a more rapid reduction in interest rates.
  - Central banks might disregard geopolitical factors as irrelevant to monetary policy.
  - It contributes to the cautious approach in adjusting rates due to uncertain economic impacts.
96. Based on the passage, what is a major flaw in the argument against immediate rate cuts, considering the analysis of inflation drivers and market expectations?
- The assumption that current economic growth will continue to exceed expectations.
  - Overestimating the impact of previous rate hikes on the current economic conditions.
  - Ignoring the diminishing impact of primary inflation drivers such as supply chain disruptions.
  - Misinterpreting financial markets' pricing in of future cuts as an immediate economic need.

**Passage (Q.97-Q.102):** All you need to know about Liz Truss offering lessons on how to be popular is that one of her signature policies is to raise the state pension age to 68. Such is its vote-winning potential that the plan was ditched by Rishi Sunak's administration as soon as the electoral consequences became clear. The trouble is not that people are living longer, but that they are living longer with ill health. As it stands, the pension age will rise to 67 in April 2026. At the same time, there has been a sustained rise in people out of work because of sickness.

In Greek mythology, Cassandra had the gift of prophecy, but was cursed so no one listened to her. Those making the case that people should have to wait until they are 71 to retire might feel aggrieved that they are being similarly dismissed while speaking the truth. But that fails to understand the hardship, alienation and anguish currently being experienced by the working-age population.

The Institute for Public Policy Research found, astonishingly, that just 9% of men and 16% of women born today can expect to reach state retirement age in good health. The poor not only die sooner, they also spend more of their lives with a long-term condition or disability. This is an avoidable, unfair difference with the rich that should be morally unacceptable.

By raising age limits, it means another year on working-age benefits rather than the relatively more generous state pension. Analysis by the Health Foundation suggests that people living in some of the most deprived areas in Scotland, the north-east, the east Midlands and Yorkshire and the Humber would be the most disadvantaged by the upward drift in pensionable age.

If the argument is that more and more of us will live longer lives, but are not saving enough to enable us to consume after retirement, then the answer is to allow more people to have the money to put aside. Revitalising the NHS is key to strengthening the UK economy. But there needs to be a wider system rethink about employment conditions, pay and the dignity of work – not just blindly raising age limits with little care about inequality.

This week, the Office for National Statistics found that there are now 2.8 million people classified as not looking for work because of health issues – a one-third increase on the 2.1 million before the pandemic. It ought to be a national mission to prevent human life on such a scale from going to waste. Bringing those resources back into the labour force would also, potentially, allow for more saving and reduce the need for raising pension limits precipitately. As would looser fiscal policy – one that prioritises humanity over arbitrary spending rules.

Voters get indignant when they feel an ethical norm is being violated. Governance should be an ethical matter. Electorates are not happy with being told to go along with policies regardless of how indefensible they are. No doubt many think that the next government will have to raise the retirement age once freed from the electoral

cycle. Labour ought to have a plan to ensure that this is not inevitable, starting with targets to reduce poverty, obesity and anxiety – and increase healthy life expectancy. The evidence was that under the last Labour government such policies produced a fairer and healthier society. There's no reason to think they couldn't work again.

97. Which of the following represents a flaw in the argument that simply raising the retirement age addresses the challenges posed by a growing number of people out of work due to health issues?
  - (a) It overlooks the possibility of improving health outcomes through better workplace conditions.
  - (b) It assumes that the physical capacity of individuals to work increases with life expectancy.
  - (c) It does not consider the impact of technological advancements on workplace productivity.
  - (d) It ignores the role of early education in promoting long-term health and workability.
98. What assumption underlies the argument that raising the state pension age to 68 is not a vote-winning policy due to its unpopularity among the electorate?
  - (a) The majority of the electorate is close to or at the current retirement age.
  - (b) Voters prioritize immediate personal benefits over long-term economic stability.
  - (c) The electorate is well-informed about the implications of pension age policies.
  - (d) Public opinion on pension policies is a significant factor in electoral success.
99. Based on the passage, what can be inferred about the relationship between health disparities among the rich and the poor and the impact on life expectancy?
  - (a) Wealthier individuals have access to better healthcare, extending their healthy years.
  - (b) The poor are more likely to engage in unhealthy lifestyles, reducing life expectancy.
  - (c) Economic status directly determines the length of one's life without exception.
  - (d) Health disparities have no significant impact on national life expectancy averages.
100. Which piece of evidence would most strengthen the argument that revitalizing the NHS is crucial for strengthening the UK economy and addressing issues of inequality?
  - (a) An increase in NHS funding has historically correlated with higher GDP growth rates.
  - (b) Countries with universal healthcare systems have lower levels of income inequality.
  - (c) Improved health outcomes in deprived areas following targeted NHS interventions.
  - (d) Public opinion polls show widespread support for increased NHS funding.
101. What information would most weaken the argument that increasing the retirement age is necessary due to longer life expectancies and insufficient savings for retirement?
  - (a) Data showing that life expectancy increases are not uniform across socio-economic groups.
  - (b) Evidence that the majority of retirees have sufficient savings for retirement.
  - (c) Studies indicating that working longer can lead to improved mental health in the elderly.
  - (d) Information that technological advancements have improved productivity among older workers.
102. How can the paradox be resolved that despite longer life expectancies, a significant proportion of the population will not reach retirement age in good health?
  - (a) Increasing investment in preventative healthcare to reduce the onset of chronic diseases.
  - (b) Raising awareness about the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and regular exercise.
  - (c) Implementing policies to reduce healthcare disparities across different socio-economic groups.
  - (d) Encouraging private savings and investment for healthcare needs in later life.

**Passage (Q.103-Q.108):** Following Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine two years ago, more than three dozen countries, led by the West, slapped economic sanctions on Russia. They were unprecedented in their scope for a target of its size, covering energy and other commodities, finance, technology, travel, shipping and more. Their aim was to raise the cost to Russia of continuing the war.

The reorganisation of trade that has followed highlights the relentless eastward shift in the world's economic centre of gravity. Asia accounts for two-fifths of the world's gdp. Its ever-increasing commercial pull is diverting much trade that Russia previously conducted with the West, undermining sanctions. That is despite the fact that three of the six Asian countries which have joined the sanctions—Japan, Australia and South Korea—number among the region's five biggest economies. America should bear this in mind if it ever considers slapping similar sanctions on China.

Of course China itself, under Mr Putin's pal, Xi Jinping, has done the most to undermine the West's sanctions. Trade between Russia and China jumped by 29% in 2022 and probably by more last year. China and Hong Kong are now Russia's chief suppliers of microchips, frustrating Western efforts to starve Russia of the integrated circuits essential to the war effort. China has also swiftly become the top supplier to Russia of cars and smartphones.

Chinese support is far from the only factor, however. The Insider, an online newspaper, recently revealed how Russian military enterprises are getting hold of sophisticated machine tools from Taiwan, despite sweeping sanctions there: middlemen in Turkey and elsewhere are sourcing what Russia needs. In Central Asia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan are key conduits for shady "parallel imports" into Russia: their trade with neighbouring Russia has boomed.

From the start sanctions had to be designed around Asia's apathy. The alternative was for the West to compel its involvement by imposing massive and indiscriminate "secondary" sanctions: that is, measures targeting third parties who help Russia. But Asia is too important, economically and geopolitically, for the West to issue such threats.

Another important example is oil. On the eve of the invasion, Europe bought three-fifths of Russia's oil exports; that has fallen sharply because Europe has banned those that come via sea. Russia's oil exports to Asia, meanwhile, have leapt to more than half its total, with India the biggest buyer. Singapore is one odd case. It condemned Russia's aggression and was the only member of ASEAN to sanction Russia. Oil, though, is not covered. Singapore is a refining and oil-trading giant, as well as the world's busiest bunkering port. In the year to May 2023 its imports of Russian oil nearly doubled. Demand for storage has also risen, suggesting that Russian oil products are being blended and sold on as non-Russian oil with a juicy mark-up.

In part Asia's appetite for Russian oil is helpful to the West. America and Europe have tried to use their control of maritime insurance and vessels to cap the price of Russian oil while ensuring it still flows, thereby avoiding a global supply crunch that would hurt their own consumers. Yet Russia's sales to Asia also highlight that even if the West had wanted to stop Russia's oil exports, it could not have done so. The price cap is leaky, too, because a "shadow fleet" accounting for roughly 10% of all tankers ignores it. Today Russia earns more from oil exports than before the invasion.

Now the speculation in Asia is about how much America might ratchet up secondary sanctions aimed at Asian entities deemed to be supporting Russia's war economy. In December President Joe Biden issued an executive order detailing secondary measures against foreign firms and banks. Asian banks appear keen to be seen as compliant.

Even if the West successfully uses secondary sanctions to coerce Asian countries, says Nicholas Mulder, a sanctions scholar at Cornell University, the long-term risk is that economic warfare undermines both the primacy of the dollar-based financial system and America's influence in Asia. And if America is having this much trouble getting Asians to support a sanctions regime against a (for them) relatively unimportant country such as Russia, think how much more trouble it would have with China's neighbours should it ever attempt to impose a similar regime on the region's military and economic colossus.

103. Considering the passage's discussion on the potential consequences of escalating economic warfare, what concerns are raised about the future of the dollar-based financial system and America's influence in Asia?
  - (a) Increased economic warfare may lead to the immediate collapse of the dollar-based financial system.
  - (b) The potential for economic warfare to incentivize the creation of alternative financial systems.
  - (c) Economic sanctions could inadvertently strengthen America's economic dominance in Asia.
  - (d) The escalation of economic warfare has no significant impact on global financial markets.
104. What does the passage suggest about the effectiveness of Western sanctions on Russia in light of the eastward shift in global economic dynamics?
  - (a) Sanctions have had a limited impact due to increased trade between Russia and Asian countries.
  - (b) The sanctions have successfully isolated Russia economically from the global market.
  - (c) The sanctions prompted Russia to become self-sufficient, reducing its reliance on imports.
  - (d) Western sanctions have encouraged Russia to improve diplomatic relations with Western countries.
105. How does the relationship between China and Russia, as described in the passage, impact the aims of Western sanctions imposed in response to the invasion of Ukraine?
  - (a) It undermines the sanctions by increasing Russia's access to essential goods and markets.
  - (b) It has led to a significant decrease in Russia's economic growth and stability.
  - (c) It has prompted China to reconsider its diplomatic ties with Western countries.
  - (d) It has resulted in the total failure of Western sanctions against Russia.
106. Based on the passage, what role do third-party countries and regions play in undermining the sanctions imposed on Russia, and what strategies are they employing?
  - (a) They primarily offer diplomatic support to Russia, countering Western political pressure.
  - (b) They have ceased all trade with Russia, inadvertently supporting the sanctions' objectives.
  - (c) They act as intermediaries, facilitating the acquisition of restricted goods for Russia.
  - (d) They directly challenge Western sanctions by imposing counter-sanctions on the West.
107. What implications does the passage draw about the use of secondary sanctions by the West, particularly in relation to maintaining geopolitical and economic relationships with Asian countries?
  - (a) Secondary sanctions are an effective tool for compelling Asian countries to support Western policies.
  - (b) The use of secondary sanctions risks undermining the dollar-based financial system and U.S. influence.
  - (c) Asian countries are largely indifferent to secondary sanctions, maintaining neutral stances.
  - (d) Secondary sanctions have strengthened the economic bonds between Asian countries and the West.
108. How does the passage describe the impact of Asia's demand for Russian oil on the objectives of Western sanctions and the global oil market?
  - (a) Asia's demand has inadvertently supported the effectiveness of Western sanctions against Russia.
  - (b) The demand has led to a significant reduction in global oil prices, benefiting consumers.
  - (c) Asia's demand for Russian oil highlights the limited reach of Western sanctions on global trade.
  - (d) It has ensured the failure of Western sanctions by completely offsetting any potential impact.

## **SECTION - E : QUANTITATIVE TECHNIQUES**

**Directions (Q.109-Q.120):** Study the following information carefully and answer the questions that follow.

**Directions (Q.109-Q.114):** These questions are based on the following information.

A corporation ABC Inc. has three divisions - A, B, and C. Each of these divisions comprises five departments: Production, Marketing, Finance, HR, and Administration. The total number of employees in divisions A, B, and C are in the ratio 9:8:8. The total number of employees in Production, Marketing, Finance, HR, and Administration across all three divisions together are in the ratio 5:3:2:2:3. The ratio of male employees to female employees in ABC Inc. is 3:2. In each of the three divisions, there are no female employees in the Production department and no male employees in the HR department. In Marketing, Finance, and Administration departments in each division, males and females are equal in number. The company has a total of 45,000 employees, and the number of male employees in the production department in divisions A, B, and C are in the ratio 4 : 3 : 3.

109. What is the total number of male employees in divisions A and C together?  
 (a) 15000                        (b) 16000                        (c) 17000                        (d) 18500
110. The number of female employees in the HR and Marketing departments together in division B is approximately what percentage of the total number of employees in division B?  
 (a) 24%                           (b) 30%                           (c) 33%                           (d) 28%
111. What is the sum of the total number of female employees in division A and the total number of female employees in division B of company ABC Inc.?  
 (a) 12100                        (b) 13600                        (c) 12500                        (d) 13200
112. In how many departments of ABC Inc. is the number of employees, as a percentage of the number of employees in division A, more than 75%?  
 (a) 1                               (b) 0                                (c) 2                                (d) 3
113. The total number of male employees in the Production departments and the total number of female employees in HR departments together is approximately what percentage of the total number of employees in the company?  
 (a) 52%                           (b) 50%                              (c) 47%                            (d) 56%
114. What is the difference between the number of female employees in division A and the number of male employees in division B of company ABC Inc.?  
 (a) 2600                           (b) 2300                            (c) 2900                            (d) 3200

**Directions (Q.115-Q.120):** These questions are based on the following information.

In 2022, a community health survey was conducted over 1500 individuals. It was found that 75% of the population experienced health issues such as flu, stomach flu, and seasonal allergies in the previous year. Out of those affected, 60% reported flu symptoms, 20% experienced stomach flu, and the remainder suffered from seasonal allergies. The individuals surveyed consisted of professionals, retirees, students, and caregivers, with their respective ratios being 4:3:2:1. Ratio of number of professionals, retirees, students, and caregivers who fell sick to diseases is 7: 4: 3: 1 respectively.

115. What fraction of the total number of people surveyed were “professionals” who fell ill?  
 (a)  $\frac{1}{5}$                             (b)  $\frac{1}{8}$                                 (c)  $\frac{1}{10}$                                 (d)  $\frac{1}{20}$

116. The number of people who fell ill due to seasonal allergies is what percentage less than the number of people who fell ill due to stomach flu?
- (a) 25%                      (b) 0%                      (c) 33.33%                      (d) 30%
117. Find the ratio of the number of Professionals who fell ill to the number of Students, retirees and Caregivers Surveyed together who fell ill.
- (a) 19 : 23                      (b) 17 : 21                      (c) 21 : 25                      (d) 23 : 25
118. How many retirees were unaffected by any diseases?
- (a) 125                              (b) 50                              (c) 100                              (d) 150
119. How many caregivers were unaffected by any diseases?
- (a) 0                                      (b) 75                              (c) 150                              (d) 100
120. What is the total number of students and professionals who participated in the survey?
- (a) 900                                      (b) 600                              (c) 1200                              (d) 1000

**Notes:**