

# MOCK - 3



**CLAT  
COMMUNITY**

# MASTER MOCK

**WHERE ACHIEVERS HELP  
YOU ACHIEVE!**

**2026**

## English

**Passage (Q.1-Q.5):** The study of artificial intelligence was originally conceived partly as an effort to make sense of the human mind. That is to say, the pursuit of practical computing machines ran parallel to an interest in computing as a model of human cognition. This was present from the start in Alan Turing's 1950 essay 'Computing Machinery and Intelligence'. Indeed, some scholars argue that the field of AI moved from a multidisciplinary effort to simulate the workings of the human mind, to a project of literally building human-like intelligence into machines.

The shift can be exaggerated; after all, figures such as John von Neumann spoke even in the twentieth century of an approaching technological 'singularity'. That said, the shift towards desiring human-like artificial intelligence is real, and it has resulted in an ever-intensifying trend that in fact devalues the human mind. Indeed, a routine association of computational models with biological minds in part prompted this warning in *Nature Machine Intelligence* in December 2024: "The era of machines as deterministic, predictable, and boring objects of fixed structure is coming to an end." One implication of all this is: we need clarity on the relation between engineered machines like AI systems and biological beings like us, and we need it now.

AI poses anew a centuries-old challenge: What, if anything, distinguishes the human mind from the workings of a machine? This problem traces back at least to René Descartes (1596-1650), who put it as follows: Suppose one comes across a creature that bears the outward appearance of a human being and moves through the world like a human. How are we to determine whether this being has a soul – or a mind – like ours?

Descartes' problem of other minds reveals that our current dilemma in understanding them is not new, and that this whole topic has deep ties with machine history. The Large Language Models (LLMs) of recent fascination are merely the latest iteration of this challenge.

The cultural influences on Descartes' thought help us understand why he posed this problem – why he thought it so important to distinguish humans from machines. For many Christians in Europe even before Descartes, machines were a common part of life. As Jessica Riskin details in *The Restless Clock* (2016), life-like automata of various kinds – humans, animals, angels – were constructed for use in churches and cathedral clocks. Such machines could have an active presence in the world, displaying, as Riskin puts it, 'a vital and even a divine agency.' This perception of agency was thus both attributed both to living beings and to (some) machines.

[Extracted with revisions and edits from "Rescuing Mind from the Machines", *Philosophy Now.*]

1. Which one of the following most accurately expresses the central thesis of the passage?

- (a) The history of artificial intelligence is deeply intertwined with historical attempts to understand and replicate the human mind, raising urgent questions about how we distinguish between biological and machine intelligence.
- (b) AI systems, such as Large Language Models, have surpassed the complexity of historical automata and now pose genuine threats to human cognition.
- (c) The deterministic nature of machines is being reasserted in light of contemporary developments in cognitive science and artificial intelligence.
- (d) AI systems are more advanced than Descartes could have predicted, yet the philosophical question he posed remains unresolved.
2. The author would most likely agree with which one of the following statements?
- (a) AI systems today differ from earlier machines primarily in their outward complexity rather than in how people relate to them.
- (b) The recurrence of the problem of distinguishing minds from machines shows that technological advances have not resolved fundamental philosophical questions.
- (c) Current AI systems have conclusively demonstrated that machines can possess minds equivalent to human consciousness.
- (d) Automata used in churches represented a purely mechanical fascination, divorced from religious or cultural meaning.
3. Which of the following best describes the author's attitude toward the trend of comparing AI systems to biological minds?
- (a) Cautiously concerned and historically aware
- (b) Entirely indifferent
- (c) Optimistic but poorly informed
- (d) Deeply skeptical and dismissive
4. Suppose a researcher argues that AI systems can now be considered sentient because they behave in human-like ways. Based on the passage, which one of the following would be most relevant as a counterpoint?
- (a) Only human beings possess agency in the world.
- (b) LLMs do not qualify as machines in the classical Cartesian sense.
- (c) AI systems are deterministic and thus incapable of consciousness.
- (d) Behavior alone is insufficient to determine whether an entity possesses a mind like ours.
5. Which of the following best describes the organization of the passage?
- (a) A narrative showing how AI will eventually overcome the limitations of human cognition
- (b) A chronological history of technological development in artificial intelligence
- (c) A critique of current AI capabilities followed by a proposal for reform
- (d) An exploration of a current philosophical problem through historical context and technological parallels

**Passage (Q.6-Q.10):** In September 1099 a letter addressed to Pope Paschal II sent from Latakia, in present-day Syria, recounted a number of important events taking place during the

First Crusade. As well as Latin Christian victories, it described moments of suffering and struggle – and two occasions in which crusaders had turned cannibal.

The first incident took place at Antioch. The Christian army was so weakened, having besieged the city for a number of months, that the letter – attributed to Archbishop Daimbert of Pisa, and two of the First Crusade's leaders, Raymond of Saint-Gilles and Godfrey of Bouillon – recorded how the Christians 'could scarcely refrain from eating human flesh'. The second occurred following the sieges of al-Bāra and Ma'arrat al-Nu'mān, during which time famine hit the army and 'the Christian people' were so desperate that they 'ate the putrid bodies' of Muslims. The accusation was shocking: according to the letter – one of the earliest Latin Christian sources for the First Crusade – at times of starvation, God's chosen people were capable of cannibalism.

This letter is not an outlier. Numerous histories, many of them written by monks and clerics in the campaign's aftermath, referenced this extreme act. Details vary: some stated that cannibalism occurred twice, others that it took place at either Antioch or Ma'arrat al-Nu'mān. Accounts also disagreed on how widespread it was. Some, such as the Latakia letter, referred vaguely to 'the army'; others represented it as a fringe event, taking place away from the main camp by outsiders or a handful of poor crusaders. Regardless, it was widely accepted that cannibalism took place during the First Crusade, and that it was committed by the crusaders.

The unprecedented successes of the First Crusade, including the conquest of the Holy City of Jerusalem, led to an outpouring of writing seeking to understand the events and record them for posterity. A military campaign aimed at 'reclaiming' Jerusalem, the Crusade was also considered an 'armed pilgrimage'. The expedition was framed as divinely willed; the crusaders as God's chosen people and the rightful heirs to the Holy Land. God's hand is present throughout these texts, and the crusaders are represented as heroes. We might therefore ask why so many authors included references to crusaders eating human flesh in their otherwise positive records of the campaign, and if this behaviour was considered beyond redemption.

Fulcher of Chartres, a cleric and participant in the First Crusade, reflected in his history of the campaign the horror felt by many contemporaries. He 'shuddered' to recount what had happened, writing that the Latins were 'terribly tormented', and 'savagely devoured' the flesh of their dead enemy. He concluded that 'the besiegers were harmed more than the besieged'. His disgust is evident, but even in the most horrific stories about the crusades, sin could always be followed by repentance – and salvation.

In historical accounts of the First Crusade, written in the aftermath of the expedition, biblical narratives were important sources of inspiration. The Bible contains numerous references to cannibalism, some rhetorical, others realistic. The Eucharist is perhaps the best known example of what might be considered rhetorical cannibalism. Though the doctrine of transubstantiation was not yet formalised, 12th-century commentators understood that

consuming bread and wine, which transformed into the body and blood of Christ, was required for salvation. Matthew 26:27-28 explicitly associates the shedding and drinking of Jesus' blood with the remission of sins. But that, of course, is a far cry from eating the bodies of actual people, including Muslims, while on crusade.

[Extracted with revisions and edits from “Reports from the First Crusade brought tales of victorious Christian soldiers eating dead bodies.”, *History Today*.]

6. Which one of the following most accurately expresses the primary purpose of the passage?
  - (a) To analyze how early historical sources reconciled accounts of cannibalism with religious narratives about the First Crusade.
  - (b) To prove that biblical references influenced real acts of cannibalism during the Crusades.
  - (c) To condemn acts of cannibalism committed by the crusaders and their historical whitewashing.
  - (d) To demonstrate the military and spiritual significance of the First Crusade.
7. Which one of the following is most strongly supported by the passage?
  - (a) The Latakia letter was the only contemporary source that mentioned cannibalism during the Crusades.
  - (b) The accounts of cannibalism were likely fabricated by Muslim historians to discredit the Crusaders.
  - (c) The First Crusade's chroniclers unanimously condemned the acts of cannibalism.
  - (d) Cannibalism was seen as a sin, but one that could be atoned for in the context of religious warfare.
8. The author's attitude toward the inclusion of cannibalism in crusade narratives can best be described as:
  - (a) Outraged and condemning
  - (b) Skeptical of its historical accuracy
  - (c) Analytical and interpretive
  - (d) Reverential and approving
9. The author mentions Matthew 26:27–28 primarily in order to:
  - (a) Demonstrate the incoherence of medieval Christian theology.
  - (b) Provide an example of how early Christians justified cannibalism.
    - (b) Contrast symbolic religious consumption with literal acts of cannibalism.
    - (c) Argue that cannibalism was encouraged by scriptural authority.
10. Which one of the following best describes the organization of the passage?
  - (a) A comparison of Muslim and Christian perspectives on warfare ethics
  - (b) A critique of modern misunderstandings of crusade history followed by a correction
  - (c) A historical overview of the First Crusade followed by a defense of its participants
  - (d) A recounting of horrific events followed by an exploration of how religious texts were used to contextualize them

**Passage (Q.11-Q.15):** There had to be a king and queen, of course. The king was a terrible old man who wore six-shooters and spurs, and shouted in such a tremendous voice that the rattlers on the prairie would run into their holes under the prickly pear. Before there was a royal family they called the man "Whispering Ben." When he came to own 50,000 acres of land and more cattle than he could count, they called him O'Donnell "the Cattle King."

The queen had been a Mexican girl from Laredo. She made a good, mild, Colorado-claro wife, and even succeeded in teaching Ben to modify his voice sufficiently while in the house to keep the dishes from being broken. When Ben got to be king she would sit on the gallery of Espinosa Ranch and weave rush mats. When wealth became so irresistible and oppressive that upholstered chairs and a centre table were brought down from San Antone in the wagons, she bowed her smooth, dark head, and shared the fate of the Danae.

To avoid lese-majeste you have been presented first to the king and queen. They do not enter the story, which might be called "The Chronicle of the Princess, the Happy Thought, and the Lion that Bungled his Job."

Josefa O'Donnell was the surviving daughter, the princess. From her mother she inherited warmth of nature and a dusky, semi-tropic beauty. From Ben O'Donnell the royal she acquired a store of intrepidity, common sense, and the faculty of ruling. The combination was one worth going miles to see. Josefa while riding her pony at a gallop could put five out of six bullets through a tomato-can swinging at the end of a string. She could play for hours with a white kitten she owned, dressing it in all manner of absurd clothes. Scorning a pencil, she could tell you out of her head what 1545 two-year-olds would bring on the hoof, at \$8.50 per head. Roughly speaking, the Espinosa Ranch is forty miles long and thirty broad--but mostly leased land. Josefa, on her pony, had prospected over every mile of it. Every cow-puncher on the range knew her by sight and was a loyal vassal. Ripley Givens, foreman of one of the Espinosa outfits, saw her one day, and made up his mind to form a royal matrimonial alliance. Presumptuous? No. In those days in the Nueces country a man was a man. And, after all, the title of cattle king does not presuppose blood royalty. Often it only signifies that its owner wears the crown in token of his magnificent qualities in the art of cattle stealing.

One day Ripley Givens rode over to the Double Elm Ranch to inquire about a bunch of strayed yearlings. He was late in setting out on his return trip, and it was sundown when he struck the White Horse Crossing of the Nueces. From there to his own camp it was sixteen miles. To the Espinosa ranch it was twelve. Givens was tired. He decided to pass the night at the Crossing.

There was a fine water hole in the river-bed. The banks were thickly covered with great trees, undergrown with brush. Back from the water hole fifty yards was a stretch of curly mesquite grass--supper for his horse and bed for himself. Givens staked his horse, and spread out his saddle blankets to dry. He sat down with his back against a tree and rolled a cigarette. From

somewhere in the dense timber along the river came a sudden, rageful, shivering wail. The pony danced at the end of his rope and blew a whistling snort of comprehending fear. Givens puffed at his cigarette, but he reached leisurely for his pistol-belt, which lay on the grass, and twirled the cylinder of his weapon tentatively. A great gar plunged with a loud splash into the water hole. A little brown rabbit skipped around a bunch of catclaw and sat twitching his whiskers and looking humorously at Givens. The pony went on eating grass.

[Extracted with revisions and edits from “The Princess And The Puma”, O Henry.]

11. Which one of the following most accurately expresses the central point of the passage?
  - (a) The hardships faced by cattle ranchers on the American frontier were often underestimated by outsiders.
  - (b) Josefa O'Donnell's strength and complexity made her a central figure in a rugged, male-dominated world.
  - (c) The Espinosa Ranch was symbolic of the decline of traditional values in the face of expanding capitalism.
  - (d) Ripley Givens' decision to camp at the Crossing foreshadows his eventual downfall.
12. It can be reasonably inferred from the passage that the term “Cattle King” as applied to Ben O'Donnell is:
  - (a) An ironic title used to undermine his actual wealth.
  - (b) A formal honorific given by the local government.
  - (c) A nickname that signified both power and potential criminality.
  - (d) A derogatory term used by rival ranchers.
13. What is the most likely purpose of the description of Josefa's skill with a pistol and her ability to play with a kitten?
  - (a) To highlight her multifaceted nature, combining toughness and tenderness.
  - (b) To demonstrate that women on the frontier needed to adopt masculine traits.
  - (c) To establish her superiority over Ripley Givens as a potential suitor.
  - (d) To contrast her violent tendencies with her domestic upbringing.
14. The author's description of the king and queen in the first three paragraphs serves primarily to:
  - (a) Create a mythic frame for introducing the real protagonist.
  - (b) Highlight the failures of patriarchal hierarchy on the ranch.
  - (c) Contrast nobility with lawlessness on the frontier.
  - (d) Establish a romanticized version of frontier royalty.
15. The author's presentation of Josefa O'Donnell is most analogous to which of the following?
  - (a) An artist celebrated for consistency but lacking emotional depth.
  - (b) A scientist admired both for groundbreaking work and whimsical hobbies.
  - (c) A soldier criticized for brutality but praised for compassion.
  - (d) A political figure who hides their true beliefs behind a public persona.

**Passage (Q.16-Q.20):** When I'm making small talk at parties and suchlike, revealing to others that I'm a philosopher of physics is a little bit like rolling the dice. What reaction am I going to get? The range is pretty broad, from 'What does philosophy have to do with physics?' to 'Oh, that's way above my pay grade!' to (on happier occasions) 'That sounds amazing, tell me more!' to (on less happy occasions) 'What a waste of taxpayer's money! You should be doing engineering instead!'

Only the last of these responses is downright stupid, but otherwise the range of reactions is perfectly reasonable and understandable: philosophers of physics are, of course, not ten-a-penny, and what we're up to is hardly obvious from the job description. So what I want to do here is sketch what the philosophy of physics really amounts to, the current state of play in the field, and how this state of play came about.

To cut to the chase: the philosophy of physics is the systematic study of our best theories of physics. This goes well beyond our current best candidates for fundamental theories of physics, such as string theory, and rather encompasses everything from Newtonian mechanics (which still constitutes the bread-and-butter of a great deal of practical physics, as well as perhaps the overwhelming majority of engineering), to Albert Einstein's theories of relativity, to quantum mechanics, to the Standard Model of particle physics, to cosmology, and much else besides. And by 'systematic study' I mean something like asking questions such as these: 'What is the conceptual and mathematical architecture of such-and-such a theory?', 'What would the world be like if such-and-such a theory were true?', 'What are the implications of such-and-such a theory for so-and-so areas of classical philosophical enquiry, like time, causality and identity?'

Given questions like these, one would be excused for thinking that the philosophy of physics is in fact continuous with physics 'proper' – and one would be quite right! Not only would trying to answer the above questions without a good working knowledge of physics be a forlorn hope, but also physicists themselves, especially theoretical physicists, often grapple with the structure of our best theories (for instance, there are a great many physicists working on the mathematics of general relativity, on the foundations of quantum mechanics, and so on). Ultimately, the difference between physics 'proper' and the philosophy of physics is really one of emphasis: philosophers are interested in understanding the structure and upshots for reality of the theories of physics that we already have, while physicists engage in the first-order practice of building new theories and then testing those theories experimentally.

The philosophy of physics isn't some modern innovation – it's been around for as long as physics itself.

Indeed, its ultimate emphasis on bettering our understanding of the theories of physics that we already have helps to make clear that the philosophy of physics really is a discipline in

the arts – despite often requiring a good understanding of physics itself. As I see it, the philosophy of physics is in fact somewhat akin to art criticism – but where the subject matter is not music or visual art or architecture, but the theories of physics constructed by some of the greatest and most creative minds of all time (from Galileo to Newton to Einstein). Philosophers of physics all share the view that physical theories – these products of the highest level of human creativity – are just as worthy of aesthetic appreciation and critical study as anything else.

[Extracted with revisions and edits from “Why philosophy of physics?”, *aeon*.]

16. Which one of the following most accurately expresses the main point of the passage?
  - (a) The philosophy of physics is a rigorous and valuable discipline concerned with interpreting the structure and implications of physical theories.
  - (b) The public’s misunderstanding of the philosophy of physics makes it a less valuable academic pursuit.
  - (c) There is little meaningful distinction between physics and philosophy when it comes to theory formation.
  - (d) The philosophy of physics should be considered an extension of engineering due to its practical concerns.
17. Which one of the following can be most reasonably inferred from the passage?
  - (a) Most engineers today rely primarily on Einstein’s theories rather than Newtonian mechanics.
  - (b) The philosophy of physics, while focused on physical theories, belongs to the domain of the arts due to its emphasis on interpretation and critique.
  - (c) Physicists and philosophers are in competition over who best understands reality.
  - (d) Philosophers of physics are generally dismissed by physicists as irrelevant to the scientific community.
18. What is the primary function of the final paragraph in the context of the passage as a whole?
  - (a) It asserts that most philosophical interpretations of physics are aesthetically motivated rather than logically rigorous.
  - (b) It introduces a critique of modern physics from a philosophical standpoint.
  - (c) It explains how art criticism has evolved to include scientific theories.
  - (d) It situates the philosophy of physics within the broader humanities to reinforce its cultural and intellectual value.
19. Which of the following is most analogous to the relationship between philosophy of physics and physics “proper” as described in the passage?
  - (a) A literary editor proofreading a novel and a novelist writing it.
  - (b) A historian writing a textbook and a teacher using it in class.
  - (c) A film critic analyzing a movie and a director creating the film.
  - (d) A sports coach training athletes and a statistician analyzing sports data.

20. Which of the following best characterizes the author's attitude toward the philosophy of physics?
- (a) Enthusiastic and respectful, portraying it as intellectually rich and culturally valuable.
  - (b) Indifferent, seeing little practical application for the field.
  - (c) Hostile toward critics, insisting on the superiority of philosophical interpretations.
  - (d) Defensive and resigned, acknowledging its limited relevance.

**Passage (Q.21-Q.25):** Within the animal kingdom, a naturally produced molecule known as itaconate serves a prominent role in the immune system as a defensive agent against viruses and inflammation. Itaconate is classified as a metabolite, a natural compound that arises when organisms convert food into energy.

While itaconate is well known in animals, its presence and functions in plants has been largely unexplored. Biologists at the University of California San Diego have now undertaken the first comprehensive exploration of itaconate's functions in plants. Researchers at the School of Biological Sciences, working with colleagues at Stanford University, Peking University, Carnegie Institute of Science and Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, used chemical imaging and measurement techniques to not only prove that itaconate exists in plants, but to reveal its significant role in stimulating plant growth.

"We found that itaconate is made in plants, particularly in growing cells," said study senior author Jazz Dickinson, an assistant professor in the Department of Cell and Developmental Biology. "Watering maize (corn) plants with itaconate made seedlings grow taller, which was exciting and encouraged us to investigate this metabolite further and understand how it interacts with plant proteins."

The results of the study, which was supported in part by funding from the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health, were published June 6, 2025, in the journal *Science Advances*.

Dickinson's lab focuses on plant development, including research on processes related to root systems.

Using mass spectrometry, an imaging technique that reveals the chemical makeup of subjects by identifying individual molecules and compounds, the researchers confirmed that plants produce itaconate. Working with animal biochemists who specialize in itaconate, they described how itaconate interacts with plant-specific proteins in *Arabidopsis*, a member of the mustard family.

Further investigating these dynamics, the researchers found that itaconate plays multiple key roles in plant physiology. These include involvement in several critical plant processes, such as primary metabolism and oxygen-related stress response.

Optimizing the natural benefits of itaconate -- instead of synthetically derived chemicals -- could be crucial for safely maximizing crop growth to support growing global populations.

"This discovery could lead to nature-inspired solutions to improve the growth of crops, like corn," said Dickinson. "We also hope that developing a better understanding of the connections between plant and animal biology will reveal new insights that can help both plant and human health."

[Extracted with revisions and edits from "Scientists find immune molecule that supercharges plant growth", *ScienceDaily*.]

21. Which one of the following most accurately states the main idea of the passage?
  - (a) A new study provides the first evidence that itaconate is naturally produced in plants and contributes to their growth and stress response.
  - (b) The use of synthetic chemicals to boost plant growth has been definitively surpassed by itaconate-based methods.
  - (c) Chemical imaging techniques have largely failed to identify significant plant metabolites like itaconate.
  - (d) Itaconate has been conclusively shown to serve no role in animals but has significant functions in plants.
22. The author's attitude toward the potential applications of this research is best described as:
  - (a) Dispassionate and neutral, as befits a purely technical report.
  - (b) Cautiously optimistic about the implications for both agriculture and cross-species biological understanding.
  - (c) Dismissive of previous research that ignored itaconate's presence in plants.
  - (d) Primarily focused on the implications for synthetic fertilizer alternatives.
23. What is the most likely purpose of mentioning that Dickinson's lab focuses on plant development and root systems?
  - (a) To show that the focus on itaconate was accidental.
  - (b) To introduce an unrelated line of inquiry conducted by the same lab.
  - (c) To highlight a potential commercial application of the discovery.
  - (d) To emphasize the team's credibility and background relevant to the study.
24. Based on the passage, which one of the following can most reasonably be inferred?
  - (a) Itaconate is synthesized artificially in most plants and is not naturally occurring.
  - (b) Itaconate may function similarly in plants and animals in managing stress or defense.
  - (c) The presence of itaconate in plants suggests plants may also possess immune systems identical to those of animals.
  - (d) All plants produce itaconate in identical quantities regardless of species.
25. Which of the following is most analogous to the role of itaconate in the passage?
  - (a) A rare mineral discovered to have no commercial or biological value.
  - (b) A newly discovered species of plant that is entirely unrelated to existing crops.

- (c) A historical artifact found in a new location but serving an already-known purpose.
- (d) A synthetic fertilizer developed to mimic plant hormones.



## General Knowledge

**Passage (Q.26-Q.30):** After his name was announced for the prestigious Jnanpith award for 2024, [1], the Raipur-based poet-writer, called the recognition a responsibility.

“I had to write a lot but could write very little. I saw a lot, heard a lot, felt a lot, but could only write a fraction of that,” was the 88-year-old’s first reaction, looking back at a literary journey spanning over half a century. His name as the recipient of the 59th Jnanpith Award was announced on Saturday.

Born in 1937 in Chhattisgarh’s Rajnandgaon, [1], who has won the Sahitya Akademi Award and received several other recognitions over the years, is also the first writer from the State to receive the Jnanpith Award, India’s highest literary honour.

His journey as a writer started in 1971, when his first poetry collection Lagbhag Jaihind, was published. Over the years, he penned several other well-received poetry collections, including Kavita Se Lambi Kavita. His novels, including Deewar Mein Ek Khidki Rehti Thi and Naukar Ki Kameez, are also well-acclaimed, with the latter even being made into a film.

“This is a big award in my life. It gives me a sense of responsibility,” said [1]. While emphasising he wanted to write more, he added that at his age, it was difficult to keep pace with the speed of life.

[Extracted with revisions and edits from “Award gives a sense a responsibility: Jnanpith winner [1]”, *The Hindu*.]

26. Which of the following is redacted by [1] in the given passage?
  - (a) Vinod Kumar Shukla
  - (b) Mani Kaul
  - (c) Nirmal Verma
  - (d) Ashok Vajpeyi
27. When were the Jnanpith Awards first instituted?
  - (a) 1954
  - (b) 1967
  - (c) 1943
  - (d) 1961
28. Who was the first recipient of the Jnanpith Awards?
  - (a) Tarasankar Bandyopadhyay
  - (b) Umashankar Joshi
  - (c) G. Sankara Kurup
  - (d) Firaq Gorakhpuri

29. Who chaired the Jnanpith Selection Committee for the 2024 Awards?
- (a) Ramakanta Rath
  - (b) Pratibha Ray
  - (c) Sitakant Mahapatra
  - (d) Sachidananda Routray
30. Which of the following works did [1] win a Sahitya Akademi Award for, in 1999?
- (a) *Ped Par Kamra*
  - (b) *Naukar Ki Kameez*
  - (c) *Lagbhag Jai Hind*
  - (d) *Deewar Mein Ek Khirkee Rahati Thi*

**Passage (Q.31-Q.35):** A second round of direct peace talks between Russia and Ukraine have ended without a major breakthrough, and only a deal to swap more prisoners of war.

Ukrainian negotiators said Russia had again rejected an "unconditional ceasefire" - a key demand by Kyiv and its allies in Europe and the US - but the two committed to return the bodies of 12,000 soldiers.

The Russian team said it had proposed a two- or three-day truce "in certain areas" of the vast front line, but gave no further details.

At Monday's talks, which were held in the Turkish city of Istanbul and lasted just over an hour, the two sides did agree to exchange all sick and heavily wounded prisoners of war, as well those aged under 25.

Expectations were low even before the talks started, with both sides remaining deeply divided on how to end a war that has been raging since Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

Moscow currently controls about 20% of Ukrainian territory, including the southern Crimea peninsula it annexed in 2014.

Speaking at a briefing after the meeting, Ukrainian Defence Minister [1], who led Kyiv's negotiating team, said Ukraine was insisting on a "full and unconditional ceasefire" for at least 30 days on land, at sea and in the air to "end the killings now".

[Extracted with revisions and edits from "Russia and Ukraine fail again to agree ceasefire but commit to prisoner swap", BBC.]

31. Who among the following has been redacted by [1] in the given passage?
- (a) Rustom Umerov
  - (b) Oleksii Reznikov

- (c) Andriy Taran
- (d) Andrii Zaharodniuk

32. When was USSR formed?

- (a) 1934
- (b) 1922
- (c) 1926
- (d) 1931

33. When was NATO established?

- (a) 1952
- (b) 1949
- (c) 1951
- (d) 1946

34. Which of the following countries did not broker the Minsk II agreement?

- (a) United States of America
- (b) Germany
- (c) France
- (d) None of the above

35. Which of the following organisations brokered the Minsk I agreement?

- (a) Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)
- (b) European External Action Service (EEAS)
- (c) Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)
- (d) Normandy Format Working Group

**Passage (Q.36-Q.40):** Armenian and Azerbaijani officials said on Thursday that they had agreed the text of a peace agreement to end nearly four decades of conflict between the South Caucasus countries, a sudden breakthrough in a fitful and often bitter peace process.

The two post-Soviet countries have fought a series of wars since the late 1980s when Nagorno-Karabakh, a region in Azerbaijan that had a mostly ethnic-Armenian population at the time, broke away from Azerbaijan with support from Armenia.

Armenia's Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Thursday that a draft peace agreement with Azerbaijan had been finalised from its side.

"The peace agreement is ready for signing. The Republic of Armenia is ready to start consultations with the Republic of Azerbaijan on the date and place of signing the agreement."

In its statement, Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry said: "We note with satisfaction that the negotiations on the text of the draft Agreement on Peace and the Establishment of Interstate Relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia have been concluded."

However, the timeline for signing the deal is uncertain as Azerbaijan has said a prerequisite for its signature is a change to Armenia's constitution, which it says makes implicit claims to its territory.

Armenia denies such claims, but Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has said repeatedly in recent months that the country's founding document needs to be replaced and has called for a referendum to do so. No date has been set.

[Extracted with revisions and edits from “Armenia and Azerbaijan agree treaty terms to end almost 40 years of conflict”, *Reuters*.]

36. India has not taken sides in the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan but supports a diplomatic resolution via which of the following organisations?
  - (a) United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)
  - (b) G-20
  - (c) International Crisis Group (ICG)
  - (d) OSCE Minsk Group
37. The name, Nagorno-Karabakh, is of mixed origin; what does "Nagorno" mean in Russian?
  - (a) Black
  - (b) Valley
  - (c) Mountainous
  - (d) Border
38. When did the first Nagorno-Karabakh War begin?
  - (a) 1992
  - (b) 1994
  - (c) 1989
  - (d) 1991
39. When was the Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation signed between India and Armenia?
  - (a) 1995
  - (b) 1987
  - (c) 1991
  - (d) 1989
40. Which of the following countries is an observer to the International North–South Transport Corridor?
  - (a) Belarus
  - (b) Bulgaria

- (c) Kyrgyzstan
- (d) Turkmenistan

**Passage (Q.41-Q.45):** India's first dedicated space based solar mission, Aditya-L1, has made a ground-breaking observation as one of its scientific payloads has captured the first-ever image of a solar flare 'kernel' in the lower solar atmosphere.

The Solar Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope (SUIT) payload has captured the image kernel in the lower solar atmosphere, namely the photosphere and the chromosphere.

ISRO said that this observation and associated scientific results mark a major step in understanding the Sun's explosive activity and its impact on Earth.

According to ISRO: "On February 22, 2025, the SUIT payload onboard Aditya-L1 observed an X6.3-class solar flare, which is one of the most intense categories of solar eruptions. The unique feature of this observation was that SUIT detected brightening in the Near Ultra Violet (NUV) wavelength range (200-400 nm) —a wavelength range never observed before in such greater detail".

The space agency added that these observations confirm that the energy released from the flare spread through different layers of the Sun's atmosphere.

This provides new insights into the complex physics responsible for these massive solar explosions, according to the space agency.

One of the most exciting revelations in this observation is that the localised brightening captured in the lower solar atmosphere corresponds directly with an increase in the temperature of plasma in the solar corona at the top of the solar atmosphere.

According to ISRO: "This confirms the linkage between flare energy deposition and associated temperature evolution. This finding also validates long-standing theories while offering new data that will help to reshape our understanding of physics of solar flare".

The Aditya-L1 mission was launched on September 2, 2023. On January 6, 2024, the spacecraft was successfully placed in a large halo orbit around first Earth-Sun Lagrange Point, known as Lagrange Point L1.

[Extracted with revisions and edits from "Aditya-L1 payload captures the first-ever image of a solar flare 'kernel'", *The Hindu*.]

41. Which of the following payloads of the Aditya-L1 mission has captured the image kernel of the photosphere and the chromosphere?
- (a) Visible Emission Line Coronagraph

- (b) Solar Low Energy X-ray Spectrometer  
(c) Solar Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope  
(d) High Energy L1 Orbiting X-ray Spectrometer
42. In which of the following wavelength ranges did the Aditya-L1 mission capture the image kernel of the photosphere and the chromosphere?  
(a) Infrared  
(b) Near Ultra-Violet  
(c) Radio waves  
(d) Ultraviolet
43. The Aditya-L1 mission was launched aboard which of the following ISRO rockets?  
(a) ISRO's PSLV C-57  
(b) GSLV Mk III-M1  
(c) GSLV Mk II-D5  
(d) PSLV-C54
44. What was ISRO's first satellite launched by an Indian-made launch vehicle?  
(a) Rohini (RS-1)  
(b) INSAT-1A  
(c) Ariane Passenger Payload Experiment (APPLE)  
(d) Aryabhata
45. Who among the following has recently been appointed as the Secretary of the Department of Space?  
(a) Dr. S. Somanath  
(b) Dr. P. Kunhikrishnan  
(c) Dr. V. Narayanan  
(d) Dr. M. Annadurai

**Passage (Q.46-Q.50):** On March 10, 2025, the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) Headquarters celebrated International Women's Day 2025, alongside the successful conclusion of the ESIC Special Services Fortnight. The event, held at ESIC Headquarters, was an empowering occasion that underscored the organization's ongoing commitment to advancing the rights, recognition, and welfare of women employees and beneficiaries.

This year's International Women's Day theme, "Accelerate Action," resonated deeply with ESIC's continued efforts to promote gender equality and foster inclusive growth within its structure. Senior ESIC officials and guest speakers delivered inspiring messages about the critical importance of creating equal opportunities for women in all sectors. Women employees who participated in various competitions held in honour of International Women's Day were also recognized and celebrated for their contributions.

The ESIC Special Services Fortnight, which ran from February 24 to March 10, 2025, was a proactive initiative aimed at bringing healthcare, social security, and welfare services closer to the homes of insured workers. During this period, ESIC raised awareness and provided essential services to benefit insured workers and their families.

The celebration of International Women's Day and the conclusion of the ESIC Special Services Fortnight were also observed across all ESIC Field Offices, Hospitals, and Medical Institutions, emphasizing the vital role women play in shaping society. The event highlighted the continued importance of supporting women's health, empowerment, and their equal access to opportunities.

The event was graced by the presence of Shri Ashok Kumar Singh, Director General of ESIC, Ms. T. L. Yaden, Financial Commissioner, Prof. Punam Kumari, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Ms. Renu Saini, acclaimed author along with senior officials and staff from ESIC Headquarters.

[Extracted with revisions and edits from “ESIC Celebrates International Women’s Day 2025 and Concludes Special Services Fortnight with Empowering Initiatives”, PIB.]

46. Which of the following was the theme of International Women's Day 2025, as chosen by the International Women's Day Organization?
  - (a) DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality
  - (b) Accelerate Action: Swift and decisive steps to achieve gender equality
  - (c) Women in Leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world
  - (d) #PressForProgress: A call to action for gender parity
47. When is International Women's Day celebrated every year?
  - (a) March 11
  - (b) March 3
  - (c) March 8
  - (d) March 13
48. Where was the first Women's Day observed?
  - (a) United Kingdom
  - (b) Sweden
  - (c) Canada
  - (d) United State of America
49. What does purple, as an official colour of International Women's Day, symbolise?
  - (a) Dignity, justice, and commitment to gender equality
  - (b) Empathy, pacifism, and the transcendence of traditional gender roles
  - (c) Resistance to oppression, intellectual liberty, and political neutrality
  - (d) Spiritual depth, ancestral remembrance, and collective mourning

50. Which of the following is known as the international “bill of rights” for women?
- The Global Covenant on Gender Equity and Social Justice (GCGESJ), 1982
  - The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), 1979
  - The Universal Charter on Women's Legal Empowerment and Autonomy (UCWLEA), 1994
  - The International Declaration on Women's Rights and Human Dignity (IDWRHD), 1977

**Passage (Q.51-Q.55):** As Prime Minister Narendra Modi embarked on a pivotal two-nation visit, starting with the 6th BIMSTEC Summit in Bangkok, India's foreign policy in South Asia entered a new phase of strategic recalibration. This visit marked Modi's third trip to Thailand and the first physical meeting of BIMSTEC leaders since 2018. It underscored India's commitment to regional stability, security, and economic cooperation.

The summit happened at a time when India faces immense challenges—from the collapse of Saarc due to strained bilateral relations to China's growing influence in the region through its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). With China expanding its economic and strategic presence in Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, and the Maldives, and trade with South Asia exceeding \$190 bn in 2023, India finds itself in a fierce competition for influence.

India's deep ties with Bangladesh are rooted in shared history, especially the 1971 liberation war, fostering an emotional connection. At the BIMSTEC meet, Modi reaffirmed India's support for a democratic, stable, and inclusive Bangladesh. Emphasising a people-centric approach, he highlighted the long-standing cooperation between the two nations that has benefited both. He reiterated India's commitment to fostering a positive, pragmatic relationship with Bangladesh in discussions with Professor Muhammad Yunus.

However, younger Bangladeshis are increasingly distancing themselves from this attachment, and anti-India rhetoric is gaining traction in certain political circles. Despite being Bangladesh's second-largest trading partner, bilateral trade has declined by 5% due to Bangladesh's foreign currency shortages and economic challenges. With trade standing at \$14 bn annually, this decline threatens these exchanges. In response, India must engage with Bangladesh's government, considering the shifting political landscape.

[Extracted with revisions and edits from “How India can recalibrate regional diplomacy”, *Economic Times*.]

51. Which of the following led to the formation of BIMSTEC?
- Colombo Charter
  - Dhaka Resolution
  - Kathmandu Accord
  - Bangkok Declaration

52. Which of the following was the theme of the 6<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Summit?
- (a) BIMSTEC: United for Regional Stability and Growth
  - (b) One Bay, One Future
  - (c) BIMSTEC: Prosperous, Resilient, and Open
  - (d) BIMSTEC: Regional Cooperation in a Post-Pandemic World
53. What does BIMSTEC stand for?
- (a) Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation
  - (b) Bilateral Initiative for Maritime Security and Trade Enhancement Cooperation
  - (c) Bangladesh-India Multilateral Scientific and Technological Exchange Council
  - (d) Bay of Bengal International Mechanism for Science, Trade, and Economic Coordination
54. Which of the following was BIMSTEC originally started as?
- (a) Bay of Bengal Initiative for Regional Economic Cooperation (BIREC)
  - (b) Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, and Thailand Economic Cooperation (BIST-EC)
  - (c) Bay of Bengal Initiative for South Asian Regional Trade and Economic Cooperation (BIRSTEC)
  - (d) Bay of Islands Multinational Strategic and Economic Coalition (BIMSEC)
55. Which of the following is an announcement made by India to bolster BIMSTEC's institutional and operational capacities?
- (a) India announced the establishment of a BIMSTEC Technology Transfer Hub to enhance digital cooperation.
  - (b) India committed to providing financial support to establish the BIMSTEC Disaster Management Centre.
  - (c) India proposed the launch of the BIMSTEC Master Plan for Transport Connectivity to boost regional infrastructure.
  - (d) India declared the setting up of a BIMSTEC Secretariat in Dhaka to improve coordination.

## Legal Reasoning

**Passage (Q.56-Q.60):** While closing the 2007 Salwa Judum case, the Supreme Court recently observed that any law made by the Parliament or a State Legislature cannot be held to be an act of contempt of Court.

"We also observe that the passing of an enactment subsequent to the order of this Court by the legislature of the State of Chhattisgarh cannot, in our view, be said to be an act of contempt of the order passed by this Court...The promulgation simpliciter of an enactment is only an expression of the legislative function and cannot be said to be an act in contempt of a Court unless it is first established that the statute so enacted is bad in law constitutionally or otherwise", said a bench of Justices BV Nagarathna and Satish Chandra Sharma.

While rejecting a plea that State of Chhattisgarh's enactment of the Chhattisgarh Auxiliary Armed Police Force Act, 2011 amounted to contempt of Court, the Court opined that every State Legislature has plenary powers to pass an enactment and such an enactment continues to have the force of law unless it is declared ultra vires of the Constitution by a constitutional Court.

While Courts can address interpretative doubts and questions regarding validity of such enactments, "the interpretative power of a Constitutional Court does not contemplate a situation of declaring exercise of legislative functions and passing of an enactment as an instance of a contempt of a Court", it said.

The Court also noted, "We must remember that central to the legislative function is the power of the legislative organ to enact as well as amend laws. Any law made by the Parliament or a State legislature cannot be held to be an act of contempt of a Court, including this Court, for simply making the law".

Emphasizing on the doctrine of separation of powers, it further said that any legislation can be challenged only on the twin prongs of legislative competence and constitutional validity.

"A legislature has, inter alia, the powers to pass a law, to remove the basis of a judgment or in the alternative, validate a law which has been struck down by a Constitutional Court by amending or varying it so as to give effect to the judgment of a Constitutional Court which has struck down a portion of an enactment or for that matter the entire enactment. This is the core of the doctrine of separation of powers and must always be acknowledged in a constitutional democracy such as ours", the Court observed.

[Extracted with revisions and edits from "Passing Of Any Law By Parliament Or State Legislature Can't Be Held To Be Contempt Of Court : Supreme Court", *LiveLaw*.]

56. The Supreme Court, in a previous ruling, restrained unregulated private bus operators from offering intra-city transport services, citing safety and public interest concerns. Six months

later, the State Legislature of Niramand enacts the Urban Mobility Act, allowing "Registered Private Fleet Operators" to operate under a stringent licensing and monitoring framework. A PIL is filed alleging that this legislation defies and undermines the earlier Court ruling, and thus amounts to contempt. Which of the following best reflects how the Court is likely to respond?

- (a) Legislative defiance of judicial orders always attracts contempt jurisdiction.
- (b) The law is in contempt because it weakens the effect of the previous decision.
- (c) Contempt arises only when an order is ignored; here, it was bypassed through legislation.
- (d) The law's enactment is a legislative act and not contempt unless declared unconstitutional.

57. The Supreme Court issued a binding judgment restricting sand mining along riverbanks to protect ecological balance. Citing this, the Union Ministry of Environment issued guidelines urging all States to halt mechanized riverbed extraction. Despite this, the State of Dakshin Pradesh enacted the Sustainable Sand Mining (Cooperatives) Act, allowing local miners to extract sand manually under village-level supervision. Environmental groups challenged the state law via a contempt petition, claiming it flagrantly violates the Court's ruling and disregards central policy. The State defended its action as legislative regulation that complements, rather than contradicts, the Court's intent. Which of the following best reflects the correct legal position based on the Court's reasoning in the Salwa Judum case?
- (a) Since the Court has spoken, the State cannot legislate in that field again.
  - (b) The State's legislative intent must be examined to determine contempt.
  - (c) The State law is contemptuous as it defies central policy guided by the Court.
  - (d) The law is valid until declared unconstitutional, and legislative enactment alone is not contempt.
58. A year after the Supreme Court declared that banning street performers from public squares was unconstitutional as it violated cultural freedoms, the State of Ratanpur enacted the Public Decency and Harmony Zones Act. This Act reimposed restrictions on performance zones, citing new objectives such as avoiding traffic congestion and promoting communal harmony. Civil rights groups filed a contempt petition, alleging that the timing and framing of the new law show it is a disguised re-enactment of the previously invalidated ban. The State contended that the law addressed different concerns, based on fresh data and public consultations. Which of the following best describes how the Court should approach this situation?
- (a) The Court must presume contempt, as the new law mimics the prior ban.
  - (b) Contempt cannot be presumed merely from timing; lawmaking is not contempt unless declared invalid.
  - (c) The law is void ab initio because it interferes with the prior judgment.
  - (d) The State must prove that the law was passed without knowledge of the earlier ruling.
59. After the Apex Court struck down a 2019 environmental surcharge statute for lack of clarity and discriminatory rates, the State of Himarashtra enacts a revised version titled the Environment Protection Levy Act, 2024. This version introduces more rational classifications

and improved procedural safeguards. However, a group of industrial petitioners files a new writ petition, alleging that the legislature's reintroduction of a similar scheme amounts to a deliberate undermining of the earlier judgment and is thus contemptuous. Which of the following responses best aligns with constitutional principles?

- (a) Once a statute is struck down, the legislature permanently loses power over that area.
  - (b) Amending and reenacting a law to address judicial concerns is within legislative competence.
  - (c) The new statute is only valid if approved by the Supreme Court before enactment.
  - (d) The State has committed contempt by reintroducing a scheme on the same subject matter.
60. In a 2021 ruling, the Supreme Court restricted special police recruitment under executive directions, citing transparency concerns. To address the issue, the State of Vardhanya enacts the Special Police Recruitment Act, 2022, establishing a statutory process. Civil society activists file a contempt petition, alleging that by authorizing the same kind of recruitment previously restrained, the State has committed contempt of court. Which of the following legal conclusions is the most accurate?
- (a) The new enactment is not contempt unless it is first declared invalid or unconstitutional.
  - (b) Since the Court disapproved the policy earlier, the legislature cannot revive it through statute.
  - (c) Any new enactment mirroring a stayed practice automatically amounts to contempt.
  - (d) Only executive orders are immune from contempt scrutiny; laws are not.

**Passage (Q.61-Q.65):** The Supreme Court, in a recent ruling has enhanced the permanent alimony payable to the wife to ₹50,000 per month, nearly doubling the amount previously awarded by the Calcutta High Court, to ensure that she can live with the standard of living she enjoyed during the marriage and which reasonably secures her future.

The Court observed that the appellant-wife, who has remained unmarried and is living independently, "is entitled to a level of maintenance that is reflective of the standard of living she enjoyed during the marriage and which reasonably secures her future."

A bench comprising Justice Vikram Nath and Justice Sandeep Mehta delivered the judgment in Rakhi Sadhukhan v. Raja Sadhukhan while deciding an appeal challenging the quantum of alimony awarded following the irretrievable breakdown of the marriage. The couple, married in 1997, separated in 2008, with a son born in 1998.

The High Court had earlier granted a decree of divorce on grounds of mental cruelty and irretrievable breakdown of marriage, awarding permanent alimony at ₹20,000 per month, subject to a 5% increase every three years. Dissatisfied with this, the wife approached the Supreme Court seeking an increase in the alimony, arguing that the award was inadequate given her estranged husband's financial status.

During the hearing, the wife pointed out that the husband, who is employed at the Institute of Hotel Management in Kolkata, has a net monthly income of ₹1.64 lakh. She contended that the alimony awarded was too low to match the standard of living she had enjoyed during the marriage and did not reflect the current cost of living.

The husband argued that he had substantial financial commitments, including supporting his second wife, a dependent family, and aged parents. He also highlighted that their son was now 26 years old and financially independent.

The Supreme Court, however, observed:

“The respondent-husband's income, financial disclosures, and past earnings establish that he is in a position to pay a higher amount. The appellant-wife is entitled to a level of maintenance that is reflective of the standard of living she enjoyed during the marriage and which reasonably secures her future.”

The Court enhanced the alimony to ₹50,000 per month, subject to a 5% increase every two years, taking into account inflationary pressures and the wife's continued reliance on maintenance as her sole financial support.

Regarding the son's claim, the bench clarified that since he is now an adult, no mandatory maintenance would be required, but the father may voluntarily assist with educational or other reasonable expenses if he wishes. The Court also emphasized that the son's inheritance rights remain unaffected and can be pursued under applicable laws.

[Extracted with revisions and edits from “Divorced Wife Remaining Unmarried Entitled To Maintenance Reflective Of Standard Of Life She Had During Marriage: Supreme Court”, *LiveLaw*.]

61. Rina, divorced after 17 years of marriage, receives ₹22,000/month in permanent alimony. She appeals, stating that during the marriage she lived in a 3BHK home with two domestic helps, a car with a driver, and club access. Her ex-husband now earns ₹1.6 lakh monthly. He argues that Rina's demand reflects “luxury, not necessity,” and claims he is already supporting his elderly parents and wife from a second marriage. What should the court most reasonably consider?
  - (a) Rina's claim is invalid unless she proves the money is being misused.
  - (b) Alimony should only cover food, rent, and medical care, not luxury items.
  - (c) Alimony must reflect the standard of living enjoyed during the marriage.
  - (d) His new financial responsibilities reduce her right to maintenance.
62. Twelve years after divorce, Alka continues to receive ₹20,000/month in alimony, as fixed in the decree. She now approaches the court for enhancement, saying inflation has sharply increased her living costs and the original amount no longer supports even her basic needs.

Her ex-husband argues that since the decree never mentioned cost escalation, the court cannot revise it. Which of the following most closely aligns with how such a plea should be treated?

- (a) Maintenance amounts fixed by decree are unchangeable after several years.
- (b) Inflation can justify an upward revision of maintenance to secure future needs.
- (c) The court cannot consider inflation unless Alka shows medical bills.
- (d) The husband's financial growth is irrelevant in reassessing alimony.

63. Vikram pays ₹40,000 per month as permanent alimony to his ex-wife, Nisha. Their son, 25 years old and working, studies abroad. Nisha requests additional funds for the son's tuition, claiming Vikram should contribute. Vikram says his obligation ended with alimony to Nisha and he has no legal duty to pay for the adult son's expenses. Which statement best reflects the court's likely position?

- (a) Vikram is legally bound to pay only Nisha's alimony, but may voluntarily support the son.
- (b) Nisha's alimony should be increased to cover the son's expenses.
- (c) The son can claim maintenance directly from Vikram.
- (d) Vikram must pay all educational expenses for the son as part of alimony.

64. Seema has been receiving ₹20,000 per month as permanent alimony for the past eight years. The original divorce decree included a clause allowing a 5% increase in alimony every three years. Recently, Seema petitioned the court for a higher increase, citing rising inflation, increased living expenses, and medical costs due to a chronic illness. She argues that the fixed 5% increments are inadequate to meet her current needs and asks the court to revise the amount upwards. Her ex-husband opposes this, stating that the original order's scheduled increases were meant to address future changes and should be strictly followed. He insists that without mutual consent, the court should not modify the alimony amount beyond what was agreed. How should the court decide?

- (a) Strictly enforce the original 5% increments and deny any further increase.
- (b) Exercise discretion to increase alimony based on changed circumstances.
- (c) Disallow any modification without both parties' consent.
- (d) Modify the amount only if the ex-husband agrees.

65. Sunil pays ₹35,000 per month as permanent alimony to his ex-wife, Ritu. Their son, now 26 years old, has recently started earning and claims financial independence. Sunil requests the court to reduce the alimony payments, arguing that since their son is financially independent, Ritu should rely on their son for support rather than continuing to receive alimony from him. Ritu opposes this, stating that her alimony is a separate entitlement and should not be affected by her son's financial status. What is the court's likely stance in this situation?

- (a) Alimony should be reduced because the son is now financially independent.
- (b) Alimony to Ritu is independent of the son's financial situation.
- (c) The son must legally support his mother instead of Sunil.
- (d) Cannot be determined.

**Passage (Q.66-Q.70):** The Madras High Court recently observed that while same-sex marriage has not been legalised in India, that does not mean that people from the LGBTQIA+ community do not form families.

A Bench of Justices GR Swaminiathan and V Lakshminarayanan acknowledged that in the case of Supriyo @ Supriya Chakraborty Vs Union of India, the Supreme Court refused to hold that LGBTQIA+ couples have a fundamental right to marry.

However, marriage is not the only way to form a family, the High Court observed.

"While Supriyo @ Supriya Chakraborty Vs Union of India may not have legalised marriage between same sex couples, they can very well form a family. Marriage is not the sole mode to found a family. The concept of 'chosen family' is now well settled and acknowledged in LGBTQIA+ jurisprudence," it said.

The Court also pointed out that a single-judge of the High Court, Justice N Anand Venkatesh, had also called for taking steps to recognise civil unions between LGBTQAI+ partners,

The division bench made these observations while coming to the rescue of a lesbian couple who were made to part after one of the partners (detenue) was forcibly detained by her family.

The detenue's partner (petitioner) moved the High Court for relief after the police declined to come to the couple's aid. Rather, the police forced the detenue to go with her parents, who were accused of then beating her up and forcing her to undergo certain 'rituals' to make her 'normal.'

The detenue's mother claimed that her daughter was a drug addict who was led astray by the petitioner. The Court interacted with the detenue and debunked her mother's claim.

"It would be unfair to accuse her (detenue) of any kind of addiction ...She made it clear that she wants to go with the petitioner. She confirmed the allegation that she is being detained against her will by her natal family. It appeared that she was forcibly taken to her home and beaten," the Court noted.

The Court went on to observe that sexual orientation is one of the most basic aspects of self-determination, dignity and freedom.

"It is an integral part of personal autonomy and self-expression and falls within the realm of personal liberty guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution of India," it said.

The Court eventually ruled that the detenue is entitled to unite with her lesbian partner and that she cannot be detained by her family against her will.

The Court further criticised the police for failing to protect the couple earlier, adding that it should ensure them adequate protection in future.

"We censure the rank inaction on the part of the Police and the insensitivity shown by them ... We hold that the Government officials, in particular the jurisdictional Police, have a duty to expeditiously and appropriately respond whenever complaints of this nature are received from the members of the LGBTQIA+ community ... We restrain the detenu's natal family members from interfering with her personal liberty. We issue a writ of continuing mandamus to the jurisdictional Police to afford adequate protection," the Court said.

[Extracted with revisions and edits from "Same-sex marriage not legal, but LGBTQ+ couples can make families: Madras High Court", *Bar and Bench*.]

66. Kavya and Reena have been living together in a committed relationship for over six years. They jointly manage household expenses, make decisions together, and are regarded by friends and colleagues as a family unit. When they try to rent an apartment in a gated housing complex, the landlord declines their application, stating that the housing society permits occupancy only by "traditional families"—defined as married heterosexual couples or blood relatives. Kavya explains that although they are not legally married, they have built a life together that reflects mutual care, stability, and co-dependence. The landlord insists that since there is no legal documentation proving they are a family, he is not bound to treat them as one. The couple considers legal recourse. Based on the reasoning in the passage, what outcome is most consistent with a fair and constitutional understanding?
- Courts should defer to private housing policies.
  - The landlord may define family strictly based on marriage.
  - Non-marital partnerships lack legal standing.
  - Kavya and Reena form a chosen family deserving equal recognition.
67. Rohit becomes increasingly concerned after losing contact with his close friend Deepak, who had recently started living with his same-sex partner against his family's wishes. After repeated attempts to reach Deepak fail, Rohit visits Deepak's home, where his parents refuse to let him meet or speak to Deepak. Suspecting unlawful confinement, Rohit files a complaint with the local police, explaining the situation in detail and requesting immediate intervention. However, the police decline to register any complaint, dismissing the issue as a "private domestic matter" and saying that such "lifestyle choices" do not warrant interference. A week later, Deepak manages to escape and reveals he was forcibly confined, denied communication, and coerced to undergo certain "corrective rituals" against his will. In this situation, what should have been the appropriate action by the police at the time Rohit approached them?
- Wait for Deepak to confirm the facts in person.
  - Act promptly to register a complaint and ensure Deepak's safety.
  - Refer the matter to social workers instead of registering an FIR.
  - Refuse intervention since the family dispute wasn't a criminal issue.
68. Meera, 24, voluntarily moves out to live with her same-sex partner, Devika. Her parents file a habeas corpus petition, alleging Meera has been brainwashed. The police bring Meera to court, where she clearly states she left on her own and wants no contact with her parents. Her

parents argue that she is mentally unstable due to her "unusual lifestyle" and must be brought home. What is the court's most appropriate response?

- (a) Respect Meera's autonomy and permit her to live with Devika.
- (b) Appoint a guardian to assess Meera's choices.
- (c) Accept the parents' claim and send Meera for psychological evaluation.
- (d) Allow Meera to return home temporarily for counselling.

69. Ananya and Tara, a lesbian couple, report threats from Tara's family to the local police. Despite repeated calls, the police refuse to file an FIR or offer protection. Later, Tara is abducted and assaulted by her brother. When Ananya seeks help again, the officer tells her that "these relationships are not recognised, so no official protection can be offered." Which course of action best aligns with the expectations from public authorities?
- (a) The police should refer the matter to a local panchayat.
  - (b) The police acted reasonably as the relationship isn't legally recognised.
  - (c) The police should have acted promptly to prevent harm.
  - (d) The couple must go to the family court first for protection.
70. Nikhil and Rishi, who have shared a home and finances for over six years, apply for a state-sponsored affordable housing scheme meant for "families without property." They submit documents proving joint tenancy and financial interdependence. However, the registrar summarily rejects their application, claiming that since they are not legally married—and since same-sex marriage is not recognized in India—they do not qualify as a "family" under the scheme. The registrar further insists that no rights flow from such a relationship. Based on the legal understanding reflected in the passage, which assessment is most accurate?
- (a) They must obtain a court declaration first to be considered a family.
  - (b) Their claim is valid only if same-sex marriage is legalized.
  - (c) The registrar is correct; without legal marriage, the couple has no claim.
  - (d) The couple should qualify, as the idea of family extends beyond marriage.

**Passage (Q.71-Q.75):** The Punjab & Haryana High Court has made it clear that the anticipatory bail in corruption case can be granted only in exceptional cases, the court is required to be *prima facie* satisfied either of false implication, political vendetta, or manifest frivolity in the complaint.

Justice Manjari Nehru Kaul said, "it is well settled law, and reaffirmed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Devinder Kumar Bansal Versus State of Punjab, that anticipatory bail in cases involving offences under the Corruption Act is to be granted only in the rarest of rare circumstances. The court is required to be *prima facie* satisfied either of false implication, political vendetta, or manifest frivolity in the complaint."

The Court was hearing a pre-arrest bail plea of a Patwari namely Kewal Singh, who along with his co-accused, Balkar Singh (Superintendent, Panchayat Samiti Office) was accused of demanding an illegal gratification of Rs.60,000 from the complainant in order to facilitate a

favourable report in an inquiry. The FIR was lodged under Section 7 of Prevention of Corruption Act.

Counsel for the petitioner contended that the alleged recovery of the tainted money was effected not from the petitioner but solely at the instance of the co-accused, Balkar Singh, Superintendent, Panchayat Samiti Office and he was falsely implicated.

Drawing attention to FIR, the counsel emphasised that the case of the prosecution is primarily built upon an unauthenticated audio recording, which, in his submission, does not attract the ingredients of the offence under Section 7 of the PC Act against the petitioner.

After hearing the submissions, the Court noted that the case of the prosecution is not premised on an oral complaint alone, but is fortified by documentary and corroborative material, including an audio recording, trap proceedings conducted in accordance with law, and the recovery of tainted currency notes from the co-accused.

Justice Kaul highlighted that the gravity of allegations reflects a serious abuse of official position and a breach of public trust.

"The claim of the petitioner regarding lack of direct involvement is a matter of factual determination which cannot be conclusively addressed at this stage while considering a petition for grant of anticipatory bail," the Court added.

The judge opined that the contention that the inquiry report had already been submitted on 29.03.2024 does not, by itself, rule out the possibility of prior or subsequent misconduct, particularly in the context of the alleged illegal demand and quid pro quo.

It further noted that the specific allegations are supported by preliminary material including the trap proceedings, indicate a *prima facie* involvement of the petitioner in the commission of the alleged offence.

Considering the "seriousness of the allegations, the position of trust held by the petitioner as a public servant, and the need for thorough investigation through custodial interrogation", the Court rejected the plea.

[Extracted with revisions and edits from "Pre-Arrest Bail In Corruption Cases Can Be Granted Only When FIR Was Filed On Political Vendetta Or Prima Facie False Implication: P&H High Court", *LiveLaw*.]

71. Arvind, a Revenue Inspector, is accused of orchestrating a bribe through his assistant Rajeev, who was caught red-handed accepting ₹50,000 in a trap operation. Although Arvind was not present during the handover, the complainant submitted a clear audio clip where Arvind assigns Rajeev to "handle the matter" and assures that the "payment will be sorted once received." Arvind claims innocence, arguing that he never directly received the money and is being targeted. He seeks anticipatory bail. What should the court do?
- Grant bail since Arvind never handled the money.

- (b) Deny bail because prima facie material connects him to the illegal demand.  
(c) Grant bail because Rajeev was caught, not Arvind.  
(d) Deny bail only if Arvind confesses.
72. Anita, a Junior Accounts Officer, is named in a bribery complaint where she allegedly agreed to release pending payments for ₹20,000. The complainant provided an audio recording and a screenshot of a text conversation confirming the arrangement. Although no marked currency was recovered from her directly, the tainted money was found in an unlocked drawer in her cabin. Anita argues the drawer is accessible to others and claims the evidence is planted. She moves the High Court for anticipatory bail. What is the appropriate legal response?  
(a) Grant bail as the money was not in her direct possession.  
(b) Deny bail because corroborated trap recovery indicates her involvement.  
(c) Grant bail due to absence of physical handover.  
(d) Deny bail if the drawer was not locked.
73. Arun, a municipal engineer, is booked under a corruption FIR a week after he denied a local MLA's request to approve illegal encroachments. The FIR alleges he demanded ₹40,000 to pass a sewage contract. Arun submits call logs and emails showing he had no direct involvement with the tendering process, and that the complaint came from a political aide of the MLA. There is no audio/video recording or recovery. What is the most appropriate legal response?  
(a) Grant bail as there is prima facie political vendetta.  
(b) Deny bail unless money is recovered.  
(c) Grant bail only after inquiry report clears him.  
(d) Deny bail due to serious charges.
74. Rachna, a retired Block Education Officer, is accused in an FIR of accepting a ₹15,000 bribe during her tenure for approving school furniture purchases. The FIR is based only on a vague anonymous letter with no date, name, or contact details. No trap, recording, or supporting material exists. She has no pending disciplinary action and left service a year ago. She applies for anticipatory bail. How should the court proceed?  
(a) Deny bail as all corruption must be thoroughly investigated.  
(b) Grant bail since the complaint shows manifest frivolity.  
(c) Deny bail unless the complaint is withdrawn.  
(d) Grant bail only if she furnishes proof of retirement.
75. Suresh, a Forest Department officer, is named in an FIR alleging demand of ₹25,000 to process timber clearance. The complainant later admitted in a private affidavit that he was pressured by Suresh's departmental rival to file the complaint, and retracted his statement before a magistrate. No recovery or trap was carried out, and no corroborative evidence exists. Suresh seeks anticipatory bail. What is the legally sound decision?  
(a) Deny bail since the FIR has not been quashed.  
(b) Grant bail only if departmental rival confesses.  
(c) Deny bail until a departmental inquiry is complete.

- (d) Grant bail as false implication is supported by retraction.

**Passage (Q.76-Q.80):** Observing that “rashness and negligence are multi-faceted concepts which cannot be comprehended and interpreted in isolation, it significantly depends on facts and circumstances of each case,” the Karnataka High Court recently acquitted an accused convicted for driving his car rashly and causing the death of a motorcyclist.

Justice Rajesh Rai K, while allowing a revision petition filed by one Harish, quashed the order passed by the trial court convicting him for offences punishable under sections 279 and 304(A) of Indian Penal Code. He said, “The petitioner/accused is acquitted for the offence punishable under Sections 279 and 304(A) of IPC.”

Referring to 'Principle of Foreseeability and Proximity' as laid down by Lord Atkin in the landmark case of *Donoghue v Stevenson*, the court opined, “Rashness innately implies recklessness coupled with a state of conscious breach of duty to care where there exists a necessity of care i.e., negligence.”

Then it said, “The deceased was inebriated and under the influence of alcohol when he rode the motorbike. As such the degree of negligence of the accused cannot be ascertained on applying 'Principle of Foreseeability and Proximity' since the accused was driving his vehicle in right direction i.e. on the left side of the road, which rendered him unable to anticipate that the deceased would appear before him out of the blue.”

[Extracted with revisions and edits from “‘Rashness Must Be Assessed On Case-To-Case Basis’: Karnataka High Court Acquits Man Convicted For Causing Death Of Motorcyclist By Rash Driving”, *LiveLaw*.]

76. Ravi was driving his car on a highway with a posted speed limit of 100 km/h. He maintained a speed of approximately 90 km/h, well within the limit, while keeping full attention on the road. Suddenly, a pedestrian unexpectedly darted across the highway without any warning or use of a crosswalk. Despite Ravi applying the brakes immediately, he was unable to avoid colliding with the pedestrian. There were no visible signs or signals to indicate pedestrian crossing, and Ravi had no prior opportunity to foresee this event. Based on the circumstances, what is the most accurate description of Ravi’s conduct in relation to rashness and negligence?
- Ravi was rash because he failed to anticipate a pedestrian crossing.
  - Ravi was negligent for driving at a high speed on a highway.
  - Ravi’s conduct was neither rash nor negligent since he drove within the speed limit and the pedestrian’s sudden crossing was unforeseeable.
  - Ravi was negligent because he did not stop in time to prevent the accident.
77. Anita was driving through a crowded marketplace at 60 km/h, double the speed limit of 30 km/h. She honked repeatedly at pedestrians crossing the road, refusing to slow down. Despite clear warning signs, she swerved dangerously close to a group of children playing near the

- road, forcing them to jump out of the way. A vendor's cart was knocked over causing injury to a bystander. Which option correctly reflects Anita's driving behavior?
- (a) Anita was not rash since she was trying to clear traffic by honking.
  - (b) Anita was negligent but not rash because she did not directly hit anyone.
  - (c) Anita was not negligent because marketplace rules are informal.
  - (d) Anita was rash because she ignored speed limits and endangered pedestrians deliberately.
78. Nisha was driving on a highway with a speed limit of 100 km/h. She was traveling at 80 km/h. The sun was directly in her eyes due to the time of day, significantly reducing visibility. Despite this, she did not reduce her speed or take extra precautions. Unable to see clearly, she failed to notice a stationary vehicle ahead and collided with it. No other vehicles or pedestrians were involved. Which best describes Nisha's behavior in this accident?
- (a) Nisha was negligent for not reducing speed or exercising caution despite poor visibility.
  - (b) Nisha was not negligent because glare is uncontrollable.
  - (c) Nisha was rash because she should have anticipated the hazard ahead.
  - (d) Nisha was rash because she was driving too fast given the glare.
79. Rahul was driving his car at 120 km/h on a highway where the speed limit was 80 km/h. Despite heavy rain reducing visibility and making the road slippery, he refused to slow down. As a result, he lost control of his vehicle and collided with a motorcyclist who was riding safely within the lane. The motorcyclist suffered serious injuries. Rahul admitted he was aware of the poor weather conditions but chose to maintain his high speed. Which of the following best describes Rahul's conduct?
- (a) Rahul was rash because he drove well above the speed limit despite adverse weather conditions, showing reckless disregard for safety.
  - (b) Rahul was negligent but not rash because speeding alone doesn't imply rashness.
  - (c) Rahul was not negligent because the motorcyclist should have been more cautious.
  - (d) Rahul was not rash as he was on a highway and driving fast is normal there.
80. Manisha was driving her car through a well-lit city street during the evening. The speed limit on the road was 50 km/h, and she was maintaining a speed of 40 km/h, driving cautiously. Suddenly, a construction site barricade without proper warning signs appeared directly in her path. The barricade was unlit and difficult to see in the dim light. To avoid collision, Manisha swerved suddenly, inadvertently causing her vehicle to collide with a motorcyclist traveling alongside. The motorcyclist was unharmed but upset by the accident. Considering the facts, which is the best legal conclusion about Manisha's conduct?
- (a) Manisha was negligent because she failed to slow down more on a city street.
  - (b) Manisha was not rash or negligent because the barricade was unforeseeable and she drove responsibly within speed limits.
  - (c) Manisha should have anticipated hazards and therefore was negligent.
  - (d) Manisha was rash because she caused a collision.

**Passage (Q.81-Q.85):** The Bombay High Court stated that the purchasers during pendency of suit bound by the decree of specific performance.

The Bench of Justice Madhav J. Jamdar observed that “the doctrine of lis pendens show that the need for it arises from the very nature of the jurisdiction of the Courts and their control over the subject matter of litigation so that parties litigating before it may not remove any part of the subject matter outside the power of the Court to deal with it and thus make the proceedings infructuous.”

In this case, an application was filed by the Original Plaintiff i.e. Respondent No.1 under Order XXI Rule 97 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 for removal of obstructionists i.e. Appellants from the suit property and seeking prayer that vacant and peaceful possession of the suit property be handed over to the Respondent No.1.

By Order, the Executing Court allowed the said Application and rejected the objection of the obstructionists.

The said Judgment and Decree of the Executing Court has been challenged by the obstructionists by filing Regular Civil Appeal. Both the appeals were dismissed by the judgment passed by the District Judge, Pune.

The appellants submitted that the decree of specific performance is not sufficient to elevate the Decree Holder to the status of an owner, it merely recognizes a claim for specific performance of contract which is capable of being specifically enforced at the instance of a Decree Holder and no steps available in law has been taken to elevate the Respondent No.1 to the status of an owner. In absence of these actions the Decree Holder will have no right, title and interest in the suit property.

The respondent submitted that as the Appellants have purchased the portion of suit property during pendency of the Suit their purchase is governed by Section 52 of the Transfer of Property Act (TP Act) and therefore the said transactions are pendente lite. Thus, the decree of specific performance is also binding on them.

Referring to various cases the bench observed that the transactions on the basis of which the Appellants are claiming right, title and interest are covered by the doctrine of lis pendens as per Section 52 of the TP Act. Consequently, said transactions are subservient to the decree which has been passed. The Appellants have failed to prove any independent right, title and interest and therefore not entitled to obstruct the decree.

The transactions on the basis of which the Appellants are claiming right in the subject property, have been admittedly executed after the filing of the Suit. Although the said transactions are not annulled by the decree of specific performance, the same are subservient to the rights of parties to a litigation and subservient to the decree which has been passed, added the bench.

The bench stated that “it is settled legal position that the principle of lis pendens enshrined in Section 52 of the TP Act is the principle of public policy. Although the mere pendency of a Suit does not prevent parties dealing with the property constituting the subject matter of the suit, what is contemplated by Section 52 is that the alienation will in no manner affect the rights of the other party under any decree which may be passed in the Suit unless the property was alienated with the permission of the court and then in that case, the same will be subject to the conditions put up by the Court.”

The purpose of lis pendens is to ensure that the process of the court is not subverted and rendered infructuous. In the absence of the doctrine of lis pendens, a defendant could defeat the purpose of the Suit by alienating the suit property, stated the bench.

[Extracted with revisions and edits from “Transfer Of Property Act | Purchasers During Pendency Of Suit Bound By Decree Of Specific Performance: Bombay High Court”, *LiveLaw*.]

81. Mr. Sharma files a suit for specific performance of a contract relating to a plot of land. While the suit is still pending and no decree has been passed, the defendant, Mr. Kumar, sells a portion of the disputed land to Ms. Mehta without obtaining any permission from the court. After the suit concludes, the court passes a decree in favor of Mr. Sharma directing possession of the entire suit property. Ms. Mehta refuses to vacate the property claiming she is a bona fide purchaser with valid title. Based on the facts, what is the legal position regarding Ms. Mehta’s claim of ownership and possession in light of the court’s decree?
  - (a) Ms. Mehta’s purchase cancels out the effect of the decree and entitles her to keep possession permanently.
  - (b) Ms. Mehta’s claim is independent of the decree unless the decree is expressly annulled by a court order.
  - (c) Ms. Mehta’s ownership claim takes precedence over the decree because she bought the property in good faith.
  - (d) Ms. Mehta’s rights and claim to the property are subordinate to the decree passed in the suit and must yield to Mr. Sharma’s decree-holder rights.
  
82. In a suit for specific performance concerning a residential property, the defendant seeks permission from the court to sell a part of the property during the pendency of the suit. The court grants permission but attaches specific conditions to the sale to protect the interests of the decree holder. Later, after the decree is passed in favor of the plaintiff, the buyer claims full ownership and possession free from any claims by the decree holder. Which of the following best describes the legal effect of the buyer’s purchase under these circumstances?
  - (a) The buyer’s ownership is absolute and cannot be challenged by the decree holder because court permission was obtained.
  - (b) The buyer’s rights are subject to the conditions imposed by the court and are subordinate to the decree passed in the suit.
  - (c) The buyer’s purchase nullifies the decree and frees the buyer from any obligations arising from the suit.

- (d) The decree holder cannot enforce possession against the buyer unless the court revokes the permission granted for the sale.
83. After a suit for specific performance of sale of a commercial property is decreed in favor of the plaintiff, possession of the property is to be handed over to the decree holder. However, a third party claims possession based on a purchase made during the pendency of the suit and refuses to vacate the premises. The third party insists that possession obtained prior to the decree grants them independent rights to remain. Considering the facts, what is the legal position regarding the third party's possession in relation to the decree holder's entitlement?
- (a) Possession during pendency of the suit is subordinate to the rights of the decree holder and must yield to the court's order.
  - (b) Possession is protected regardless of the suit's outcome unless the third party voluntarily relinquishes it.
  - (c) The third party's possession is valid unless the decree holder initiates a separate suit for eviction.
  - (d) Possession acquired during the pendency of the suit gives the third party independent ownership and possession rights that override the decree holder's claim.
84. During an ongoing lawsuit for specific performance, the defendant, fully aware of the suit, tries to sell the entire disputed property to a third party. The plaintiff learns of this attempt and files a petition seeking to have the sale declared invalid, arguing that such a sale undermines the court's ability to effectively enforce any decree it may pass at the conclusion of the suit. The court must consider whether this alienation should be allowed. Why is it important for the court to restrict or invalidate such sales of property during the pendency of litigation?
- (a) To automatically grant purchasers complete ownership unaffected by the suit's outcome.
  - (b) To allow defendants unrestricted rights to transfer property regardless of ongoing disputes.
  - (c) To prevent any acts that could remove the property from the court's control and render the suit ineffective by frustrating the judicial process.
  - (d) To encourage buyers to purchase property even if legal disputes exist.
85. A civil suit seeking specific performance of a property agreement is filed in 2021. During the pendency of this suit, the defendant seeks and obtains formal permission from the trial court to sell the disputed property to Vikram, citing urgent financial distress. The court grants permission but notes that any such sale will be subject to the final outcome of the case. In 2024, a decree for specific performance is passed in favor of the plaintiff. Vikram now asserts full ownership and claims the sale should override the decree. How should Vikram's claim be assessed?
- (a) Vikram is not bound because he wasn't made a party to the original suit.
  - (b) The sale becomes void because a decree has now been passed.
  - (c) The buyer's rights continue, but are subject to whatever conditions the court imposed when granting permission.
  - (d) Vikram becomes absolute owner since the court initially allowed the transaction.

## Logical Reasoning

**Passage (Q.86-Q.90):** If you were doubting that Nigel Farage had a serious chance of heading a hard-right British government in 2029, the people of Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse just poured a bucket of particularly icy water over your head. Though Labour won the Scottish parliamentary byelection, defying predictions it would be beaten into third place, Reform UK chalked up more than a quarter of the vote – trailing the victors by an unsubstantial 1,500 voters.

This tells a devastating story. Nigel Farage's outfit seriously outperformed the level of support indicated by Scottish polling: the last four surveys had Reform on between 12% and 19%, yet it secured 26% of the vote after standing here for the first time. This suggests it is mobilising previous non-voters whom pollsters are not picking up. The latest UK-wide YouGov poll, which asked people how they would vote if there were a general election tomorrow, put Reform in first place, eight points ahead of Labour. Imagine if that polling in fact underestimates their reach.

There is, however, an important caveat. The multimillionaire businessman Zia Yusuf did an impressive job as Reform's chair in professionalising its operations: his resignation speaks to a perennial threat of internal chaos. Like Ukip, Reform may be hobbled by its excessive dependence on its frontman.

The SNP, meanwhile, has ruled Holyrood for nearly two decades in an age in which most incumbents are clobbered. The party has lost its best asset, Nicola Sturgeon. Even so, it did not expect to lose 17 points in this byelection. Its activists are divided on whether this loss is down to the party soft-pedalling on the independence cause, or failing to address voters' bread-and-butter concerns. It seems almost certain that it suffered the opposite phenomenon to Reform: its demotivated supporters stayed at home.

The byelection offered up yet more striking evidence that the Tories are being replaced as the standard bearers of the right, as they bagged a paltry 6% of the vote. This is the end stage of a process kickstarted by David Cameron in 2010: try to placate the right of his own party by throwing them endless red meat, making them fatter and hungrier. It's the same phenomenon that is unfolding across the west: the old centre-right is dying, and being replaced by a radical right that is increasingly contemptuous of democratic norms.

[Extracted with revisions and edits from “Don’t think Nigel Farage will kill off the Tories? Just look at Reform UK’s surge in Scotland”, *The Guardian*.]

86. Which one of the following can be most reasonably inferred from the passage?
- The SNP would have won the byelection if Nicola Sturgeon were still in charge.
  - Reform UK’s performance in the byelection may reflect support from previously disengaged voters not captured by traditional polling methods.

- (c) Labour's victory in the by-election indicates that Reform UK poses no real threat in future national elections.
- (d) The Conservative Party can recover its former strength if it ceases pandering to the radical right.
87. The passage argues that Reform UK's strong by-election performance suggests it could head a hard-right British government in 2029. Which of the following, if true, would most seriously undermine this argument?
- Reform UK failed to field candidates in many Scottish constituencies.
  - Labour remains the dominant party in most UK-wide polls.
  - A strong showing in a single by-election does not necessarily translate to national-level electoral success.
  - Zia Yusuf resigned shortly after the by-election.
88. Which of the following principles, if accepted, would best support the author's conclusion that "the old centre-right is dying, and being replaced by a radical right"?
- If a traditional political faction consistently fails to outperform emerging rivals, it signals long-term ideological decline.
  - Public dissatisfaction with economic conditions always results in political realignment.
  - The resignation of a party's key leader indicates the collapse of its political ideology.
  - Electoral volatility is more pronounced in Scotland than in the rest of the UK.
89. What is the primary function of the sentence: "The multimillionaire businessman Zia Yusuf did an impressive job as Reform's chair in professionalising its operations: his resignation speaks to a perennial threat of internal chaos"?
- It strengthens the claim that Nigel Farage is the most capable leader in the party.
  - It shifts the focus from voter behavior to media coverage of Reform UK.
  - It presents a counterexample to the claim that Reform UK lacks organizational strength.
  - It offers a potential limitation to the idea that Reform UK's rise will be sustainable.
90. Which of the following arguments exhibits reasoning most similar to the author's assertion that David Cameron's attempts to appease the right wing of his party only strengthened it?
- A teacher who ignores unruly students finds that their behavior gets worse over time.
  - A government that censors opposition parties discovers those parties grow in underground popularity.
  - A manager who tries to satisfy an aggressive employee by giving more privileges finds the employee becomes even more demanding.
  - A politician who refuses to debate opponents loses popularity among undecided voters.

**Passage (Q.91-Q.95):** It's worth remembering how the G7 began. A 'fireside chat'-turned-'Library Group' started by US treasury secretary George Shultz in 1970 to address currency turbulence bloomed into G6 five years later. On 15 November 1975, about five months after Indira Gandhi had imposed Emergency in India, leaders of six democracies — the US, UK, France, Germany, Italy, and Japan — met at the Castle of Rambouillet near Paris.

Today, none of the leaders from the “Summit of the Six”—James Callaghan (UK foreign secretary), Henry Kissinger (US secretary of state), Gerald Ford (US president), Takeo Miki (Japan prime minister), Helmut Schmidt (German chancellor), Jean Sauvagnargues (French foreign minister), Valery Giscard d’Estaing (French president), and Mariano Rumor (Italian foreign minister)—are alive, and most of the countries no longer dominate the global economy.

The G6 became the G7 in 1976 with Canada’s inclusion, and the G8 between 1997 and 2013 with Russia onboard—until Russia’s suspension after the Crimea annexation in 2014.

Collectively, the group expressed concern about their respective economies, donned the mantle of the “white man’s burden” to discharge their responsibilities toward the ‘Third World’, and decided to meet again. Fifty years later, none of the world’s problems have been solved by these countries, and except for the US, the rest are no better off than the countries of the “poor South.”

Over the years, G7 summits have taken on a broad agenda: gender equality, global health, climate change, and sustainable development. In 2021, the UK-led summit committed itself to a “green revolution” and net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. Germany’s 2022 presidency established a “Climate Club” to implement the Paris Agreement, and the 2023 Hiroshima summit reaffirmed commitment to phasing out fossil fuels.

India participated in all these meetings, contributing immensely to the resolution and their implementation. Ironically, it was Donald Trump-led “G1 within G7” that derailed consensus, dismissing global warming as a “hoax.” Now, with Trump 2.0 back in the mix and India 3.0 out, can the G7’s green agenda survive?

The G7’s agenda of connecting with emerging economies and adopting an inclusive approach has often rung hollow. Italy included an “African Segment” in the 2001 summit, but without serious financial commitments and steps to resolve issues of poverty and migration. African leaders left disappointed, questioning the G7’s sincerity. In contrast, India, during its G20 presidency, successfully pushed for the African Union—representing 55 African countries—to become a permanent G20 member.

Who, then, is more relevant and committed to inclusive global development: the G7 or the G20?

[Extracted with revisions and edits from “G7 is no more than a relic of the past. India should focus more on G20, BRICS”, *ThePrint*.]

91. Which one of the following statements is most strongly supported by the passage?  
(a) The G7’s commitment to climate goals has been unwavering since the Paris Agreement.

- (b) India has taken a more proactive and effective role in fostering inclusive global development than the G7.
- (c) The G20 has existed longer than the G7 and has had more success in dealing with climate change.
- (d) The African Union was first introduced into a multilateral global forum through the G7 summit's African Segment in 2001.
92. The author suggests that because the G7 countries have not solved the world's problems in 50 years, their global relevance is in question. Which of the following most clearly identifies a flaw in this reasoning?
- (a) It fails to consider that global issues have become more complex over time.
- (b) It presumes that solving all global problems is an achievable standard for international groups.
- (c) It overlooks the fact that the G7 continues to include the world's most powerful economies.
- (d) It ignores the contributions of other international organizations like the United Nations.
93. What is the main function of the sentence: "*Now, with Trump 2.0 back in the mix and India 3.0 out, can the G7's green agenda survive?*" in the context of the passage?
- (a) It highlights a current political shift that may affect the credibility of G7's environmental commitments.
- (b) It compares the climate commitments of G7 with those of the African Union.
- (c) It criticizes the G7's failure to include India in climate policy discussions.
- (d) It demonstrates how G7 agendas are primarily shaped by economic powerhouses like the US and India.
94. Which one of the following principles, if accepted, would most strengthen the author's argument that the G20 is now more committed to inclusive global development than the G7?
- (a) Symbolic gestures without material support do not qualify as genuine commitments to inclusion.
- (b) Climate action and migration reform must be addressed separately to be effective.
- (c) International institutions that exclude African nations lack legitimacy.
- (d) Any forum that includes India is automatically more representative of the Global South.
95. Which of the following arguments is most similar in reasoning to the author's argument that G7 summits' broadening agenda hasn't translated into substantive progress?
- (a) A bank expands its branches globally and sees exponential growth in profits.
- (b) A hospital increases patient intake and also hires more staff to maintain quality care.
- (c) A politician introduces more bills in parliament and gains greater public approval.
- (d) A university offers more courses each year but sees no improvement in student outcomes.

**Passage (Q.96-Q.100):** The Trump administration is preparing to cancel a large swath of federal funding for California, an effort that could begin as soon as Friday, according to multiple sources.

Agencies are being told to start identifying grants the administration can withhold from California. Sources said the administration is specifically considering a full termination of federal grant funding for the University of California and California State University systems.

“No taxpayer should be forced to fund the demise of our country,” White House spokesman Kush Desai said in a statement Friday afternoon, criticizing California for its energy, immigration and other policies. “No final decisions, however, on any potential future action by the Administration have been made, and any discussion suggesting otherwise should be considered pure speculation.”

Singling out one state for massive cuts would be an unusual move, but President Donald Trump has long made Democratic-led California a target.

Just last month, he threatened to withhold federal funding from California over a transgender athlete’s participation in a sporting event — the latest example of the president trying to use funding as leverage to enact his agenda. The administration recently cut \$126.4 million in flood prevention funding projects, and Trump repeatedly went after the state’s handling of devastating wildfires earlier this year. The president and California Gov. Gavin Newsom have also publicly feuded for years.

Two sources said that the administration is targeting California universities over alleged antisemitism on campus, an issue the schools have made efforts to address over the past year. The administration has already taken steps to punish Harvard and Columbia universities for similar reasons.

The UC system is the state’s third largest employer, and both systems are major engines of research in the biotechnology and medical fields, among others.

It is unclear how the school systems plan to fight back, though it is possible they could be represented by the state’s attorney general, Rob Bonta, a Democrat.

CNN has reached out to Bonta’s office, the UC system and the CSU system for comment.

California Rep. Zoe Lofgren, the top Democrat on the Science, Space and Technology Committee, said, “Trump is a bully. We’ve now heard from sources that he may be intending to cut grants to California because we didn’t vote for him and we’re Democratically inclined. … I will fight back on this. This will be immediately challenged in court.” Former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, another California Democrat, said: “Whatever cruel crusade the President may announce against California, we will fight back.”

California’s state legislature appropriated \$25 million in its budget for efforts to fight Trump administration policies and has spent only approximately \$5 million of that so far, a source said.

[Extracted with revisions and edits from “Trump preparing large-scale cancellation of federal funding for California, sources say”, CNN.]

96. Which one of the following is most strongly supported by the passage?
- The Trump administration has already formally canceled all federal funding to California’s public university systems.
  - The UC and CSU systems have not taken any steps to combat antisemitism on their campuses.
  - Cutting federal grants to the UC and CSU systems would likely have economic and scientific consequences beyond California.
  - The primary reason for federal funding cuts is California’s wildfire prevention failures.
97. The argument that “no taxpayer should be forced to fund the demise of our country,” offered as a justification for cutting California’s funding, is flawed because:
- It falsely claims California has no taxpayers contributing to federal funds.
  - It fails to recognize that all states are equally dependent on federal funding.
  - It confuses cultural disagreements with economic decline.
  - It assumes that California’s policies pose an existential threat to the country without offering proof.
98. Which of the following principles, if accepted, would most support California’s likely legal argument against the proposed funding cuts?
- Federal funding may not be withheld to punish states for exercising constitutional rights or political disagreements.
  - Antisemitism on campuses must be addressed primarily through civil rights litigation, not funding withdrawal.
  - The state attorney general must be involved in any dispute involving state universities.
  - The federal government has wide discretion in how it allocates educational grants across states.
99. What is the primary role of the sentence:  
*“No final decisions, however, on any potential future action by the Administration have been made, and any discussion suggesting otherwise should be considered pure speculation.”*
- It confirms that federal agencies have already begun cutting funding.
  - It offers a justification for the administration’s actions.
  - It limits the scope of the administration’s intentions and distances it from definitive claims.
  - It provides evidence that antisemitism is a primary concern in university funding.
100. Which of the following scenarios uses reasoning most similar to the Trump administration’s approach to federal funding in the passage?
- A parent reduces a child’s allowance after the child refuses to follow family rules.
  - A city council withdraws funding from neighborhoods that fail to submit zoning plans.

- (c) A landlord threatens to evict a tenant for not recycling, though recycling is not required in the lease agreement.
- (d) A school rewards top-performing students with scholarships based on academic merit.

**Passage (Q.101-Q.105):** A byelection just 10 months ahead of a State Assembly election is a headache for any party in power, and an opportunity for the Opposition to shape the narrative for the next election. That is exactly what is playing out in Kerala, where the Nilambur Assembly constituency is set to elect an MLA for a brief term ahead of the announcement of the 2026 Assembly election. In 2021, the Election Commission announced the State election in late February.

This headache could have been avoided if the ruling coalition—the Left Democratic Front (LDF)—had managed to strike a compromise with maverick businessman P.V. Anvar, the independent MLA who resigned on January 13, 2025, after joining the Trinamool Congress. The terms were pretty straightforward: Anvar thought he should be in the Pinarayi Cabinet; the LDF thought otherwise.

In fact, by joining the TMC ahead of his resignation, Anvar had attracted provisions of the anti-defection law, but the LDF government decided to accept his resignation, instead of sacking him.

Interestingly, before his resignation, Anvar travelled to Chennai in an attempt to persuade Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK president M.K. Stalin to make the party's Kerala unit more active. But Stalin declined to meet him. Speaking later to media friends in Kerala, Anvar reiterated his intention to join the DMK. In October 2024, he even floated a social outfit—the Democratic Movement of Kerala, which shares its acronym with Stalin's party—but the latter showed no inclination to make Anvar the face of the DMK in the State.

Anvar then moved to the political party which had tried to expand its India footprint via acquisitions—the TMC. He was also seen on Congress platforms till recently. Only when he was sure that the Congress would dump him ahead of the byelection did he decide to disassociate from the party.

Anvar said two things the day he resigned: one, he would not contest again when the byelection is held, and two, his resignation marks the beginning of the end of the decade-long Communist rule in Kerala. He promptly went back on promise number one. He is the spoiler in the race as of now.

Anvar, who was in the good books of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, fell from grace after he raised shocking allegations against a police official and a staffer in the CM's secretariat. Anvar, whose businesses had come under the adverse notice of the LDF government and even the Kerala High Court, had alleged that the two were involved in smuggling gold from the Gulf countries to Kerala.

Even now, Anvar is in the news almost every passing day. On June 3, his nomination as TMC's candidate was rejected, since TMC was not a national political party. If Anvar had provided signatures of 10 proposers (as is the requirement for an independent), it would have been accepted. But he had also filed another set of nomination papers, as an independent. This was accepted. Anvar said that he was sure that people will vote for him a third time—he had won in 2016 and 2021—and that the symbol on the ballot paper did not matter.

[Extracted with revisions and edits from “Nilambur byelection: A litmus test for Kerala’s political fault lines”, *Frontline*.]

101. Which one of the following is most strongly supported by the information in the passage?
  - (a) The TMC’s status as a national party was a determining factor in the rejection of Anvar’s nomination.
  - (b) P.V. Anvar has consistently been aligned with the ideological goals of the TMC.
  - (c) The DMK played an active role in facilitating Anvar’s resignation from the LDF.
  - (d) The Election Commission is required to announce byelections exactly one year before general elections.
102. Anvar claims: “People will vote for me a third time and the symbol on the ballot paper does not matter.” Which of the following, if true, most clearly undermines Anvar’s reasoning?
  - (a) In the past two elections, Anvar’s symbol was different from other independent candidates.
  - (b) Voters in Nilambur have historically been loyal to the LDF’s official symbol.
  - (c) Independent candidates are not allowed to use any symbol in Kerala elections.
  - (d) Voter surveys in Nilambur show that a significant portion of Anvar’s past supporters are now undecided.
103. Which one of the following principles, if true, would most justify the LDF’s decision to accept Anvar’s resignation rather than dismiss him under the anti-defection law?
  - (a) Political resignations should be scrutinized to determine whether they are in good faith.
  - (b) Coalition governments should maintain a zero-tolerance policy for internal dissent.
  - (c) An elected official’s resignation, when voluntarily submitted, must be accepted regardless of party-switching behavior.
  - (d) The anti-defection law must be applied strictly to discourage opportunistic politics.
104. What role is played by the sentence: “*Anvar said that he would not contest again when the byelection is held, and two, his resignation marks the beginning of the end of the decade-long Communist rule in Kerala.*”
  - (a) It explains the motive behind Anvar’s attempt to join the DMK.
  - (b) It presents a contrast with Anvar’s subsequent decision to file a nomination.
  - (c) It offers evidence that Anvar still supports the LDF’s ideology.
  - (d) It clarifies why the TMC accepted Anvar into the party.

105. Which one of the following scenarios is most analogous to Anvar's political trajectory as described in the passage?
- (a) A student applies to multiple universities, is rejected by their first choices, and ultimately enrolls in a local college while claiming he chose it deliberately.
  - (b) An athlete retires, then returns to the sport under a different team and wins a championship.
  - (c) A professor switches departments within the same university for better research opportunities.
  - (d) A mayor finishes a term in one city and runs for office in another city as an independent candidate.

**Passage (Q.106-Q.110):** Quantum materials exhibit remarkable emergent properties when they are excited by external sources. However, these excited states decay rapidly once the excitation is removed, limiting their practical applications. A team of researchers from Harvard University and the Paul Scherrer Institute PSI have now demonstrated an approach to stabilize these fleeting states and probe their quantum behaviour using bright X-ray flashes from the X-ray free electron laser SwissFEL at PSI. The findings are published in the journal Nature Materials.

Some materials exhibit fascinating quantum properties that can lead to transformative technologies, from lossless electronics to high-capacity batteries. However, when these materials are in their natural state, these properties remain hidden, and scientists need to gently ask for them to pop up. One way they can do this is by using ultrashort pulses of light to alter the microscopic structure and electronic interactions in these materials so that these functional properties emerge. But good things do not last forever - these light-induced states are transient, typically persisting only a few picoseconds, making them difficult to harness in practical applications. In rare cases, light-induced states become long-lived. Yet our understanding of these phenomena remains limited, and no general framework exists for designing excited states that last.

A team of scientists from Harvard University together with PSI colleagues overcame this challenge by manipulating the symmetry of electronic states in a copper oxide compound. Using the X-ray free electron laser SwissFEL at PSI, they demonstrated that tailored optical excitation can induce a 'metastable' non-equilibrium electronic state persisting for several nanoseconds - about a thousand times longer than they usually last for.

The compound under study, Sr<sub>14</sub>Cu<sub>24</sub>O<sub>41</sub> -- a so-called cuprate ladder -- is nearly one-dimensional. It is composed of two distinct structural units, the so-called ladders and chains, representing the shape in which copper and oxygen atoms organize. This one-dimensional structure offers a simplified platform to understand complex physical phenomena that also show up in higher-dimensional systems. "This material is like our fruit fly. It is the idealized platform that we can use to study general quantum phenomena," comments experimental condensed matter physicist Matteo Mitrano from Harvard University, who lead the study.

One way to achieve a long-lived ('metastable') non-equilibrium state is to trap it in an energy well from which it does not have enough energy to escape. However, this technique risks inducing structural phase transitions that change the material's molecular arrangement, and that is something Mitrano and his team wanted to avoid. "We wanted to figure out whether there was another way to lock the material in a non-equilibrium state through purely electronic methods," explains Mitrano. For that reason, an alternative approach was proposed.

[Extracted with revisions and edits from “Scientists freeze quantum motion using ultrafast laser trick”, *ScienceDaily*.]

106. Which one of the following is most strongly supported by the passage?
  - (a) The metastable state created in Sr<sub>14</sub>Cu<sub>24</sub>O<sub>41</sub> persisted far longer than typical excited states.
  - (b) Quantum properties in materials are only observable when external structural changes are imposed.
  - (c) Structural units in cuprates must be three-dimensional to model quantum phenomena.
  - (d) The use of structural phase transitions is the most reliable method for stabilizing excited quantum states.
107. Which one of the following, if assumed, would most seriously undermine the researchers' approach to stabilizing quantum states?
  - (a) The SwissFEL X-ray flashes disrupt the very states they are meant to detect.
  - (b) The energy required to manipulate symmetry in electronic states also affects the atomic lattice.
  - (c) The duration of metastable states does not exceed the duration of X-ray pulses used to observe them.
  - (d) Other research teams have already induced non-equilibrium states using structural phase transitions.
108. Which one of the following principles, if true, most helps justify the approach used by the researchers?
  - (a) Research tools must avoid disturbing the equilibrium of the system under study.
  - (b) Any scientific model must first be tested in three-dimensional systems before being generalized.
  - (c) Understanding the structural makeup of a material is more important than understanding its electronic states.
  - (d) Simplified, low-dimensional systems provide an ideal starting point for exploring complex physical phenomena.
109. What is the primary role of the sentence: "*One way to achieve a long-lived ('metastable') non-equilibrium state is to trap it in an energy well from which it does not have enough energy to escape.*"
  - (a) It provides a contrast to the approach the researchers actually took.
  - (b) It identifies the mechanism behind all observed metastable states.

- (c) It challenges the relevance of previous research on structural phase transitions.  
(d) It provides an example of a failure mode in experimental design.
110. Which of the following is most analogous to the researchers' approach as described in the passage?
- (a) An engineer adds an extra battery to a flashlight to keep it on longer.  
(b) A chemist discovers a way to freeze a reaction mid-process by cooling the solution.  
(c) A zoologist uses a transparent cage to observe animals without affecting their behavior.  
(d) A musician edits a recorded track to make it sound like a live performance.

## Quantitative Techniques

**Passage (Q.111-Q.115):** Zenith University organized a three-day cultural fest with a total budget of ₹6,00,000. The budget was allocated as follows: 40% to logistics, 25% to hospitality, 20% to events, and the remaining to miscellaneous expenses. The expected revenue from the fest was ₹7,50,000, which came from registrations, sponsorships, and food stalls in the ratio 3:4:3. The stall revenue was distributed across three days in the ratio 12:5:3. On Day 1, early stall bookings attracted a 20% discount. The registration fee per student was ₹750, and 25% of the registration revenue was collected in advance. On Day 1, the organizers spent ₹1,80,000 on logistics, hospitality, and events in the ratio 4:3:3. They decided to invest the sponsorship revenue in a scheme offering 10% simple interest per annum for 2 years. Additionally, on Day 3, stalls had a 25% profit margin. The organizing committee later decided to reduce the events budget by 10% and allocate the savings to miscellaneous expenses.

111. If the organizers offer a 20% discount on stall booking prices for early registrations and still earn ₹1,08,000 on Day 1 from stalls, what was the original price of stalls booked early on Day 1 (assuming all earnings were at discount)?  
(a) ₹1,20,000  
(b) ₹1,35,000  
(c) ₹1,50,000  
(d) ₹1,60,000
  
112. Suppose the registration fee per student is ₹750. If 25% of the registration revenue is collected in advance, how many students paid in advance?  
(a) 75  
(b) 60  
(c) 90  
(d) 100
  
113. If ₹1,80,000 is spent on logistics, hospitality, and events on Day 1 in the ratio 4:3:3, what is the average amount spent per head under each head?  
(a) ₹50,000  
(b) ₹55,000  
(c) ₹60,000  
(d) ₹65,000
  
114. The sponsorship revenue is invested in a 2-year scheme giving 10% simple interest annually. What will be the total amount (principal + interest) received at the end of 2 years?  
(a) ₹3,40,000  
(b) ₹3,50,000  
(c) ₹3,60,000  
(d) ₹3,75,000

115. On Day 3, the stall revenue is 15% of total stall income. If the profit margin on Day 3 from stalls is 25%, what was the cost incurred for stalls on Day 3?

- (a) ₹28,000
- (b) ₹30,000
- (c) ₹27,000
- (d) ₹29,000

**Passage (Q.116-Q.120):** The town of Aranya organized a 5-day eco-fair to promote sustainable businesses. The total organizing cost was ₹12,00,000, divided into four categories: Venue & Setup (35%), Publicity (25%), Staff & Volunteers (20%), and Miscellaneous (remaining). The municipality provided a grant covering 40% of the total expenses.

Revenue was earned from three sources: entry tickets, eco-stall rentals, and donations, in the ratio 2:3:5. The total revenue collected was 25% more than the uncovered portion of the expenses.

Stalls were rented at ₹6,000 each for the whole fair, and 60% of the stalls were booked in advance at a 10% discount. A total of 100 stalls were available, and all were sold. The profit margin on each stall after all costs was 20%.

Entry tickets were priced at ₹100 per person. The fair saw an average footfall of 2,400 visitors per day, of which 10% were students eligible for a 50% concession.

From the donation amount, ₹50,000 was kept aside as a contingency fund. The remaining amount was invested in a one-year deposit at 8% simple interest.

116. What was the total actual revenue collected from all sources?

- (a) ₹7,20,000
- (b) ₹8,40,000
- (c) ₹9,00,000
- (d) ₹10,00,000

117. What was the effective average price per stall after accounting for advance booking discounts?

- (a) ₹5,640
- (b) ₹5,850
- (c) ₹5,700
- (d) ₹5,760

118. What was the total interest earned from the donation investment after 1 year (excluding the contingency fund)?

- (a) ₹32,000
- (b) ₹36,000
- (c) ₹40,000
- (d) ₹45,000

119. If only 75% of ticket revenue was realized due to technical glitches and all other revenue sources remained the same, what percentage of total expected revenue was actually realized?
- (a) 91.66%
  - (b) 93.75%
  - (c) 88.88%
  - (d) 96.25%
120. What was the total cost incurred by organizers on all stalls (given profit margin was 20%)?
- (a) ₹4,70,000
  - (b) ₹4,80,000
  - (c) ₹4,90,000
  - (d) ₹5,00,000



**ROUGH WORK**

# CLAT COMMUNITY

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