

# READING COMPERHENSION

## Passage–I

The proposed Bharatiya Nyaya (Second) Sanhita (BNS2) introduces significant changes to the Indian Penal Code (IPC), aiming to modernize and address emerging challenges in society. It retains most offenses from the IPC while incorporating new elements such as community service as a form of punishment. Notably, it removes the offense of sedition, replacing it with penalties for acts endangering the sovereignty, unity, and integrity of India. Additionally, the BNS2 introduces offenses related to terrorism and organized crime, recognizing the evolving nature of criminal activities, including cybercrime.

One of the key additions in the BNS2 is the inclusion of terrorism as an offense, defined by acts intending to threaten the unity, integrity, security, or economic security of the country, or strike terror in the people. This reflects the global concern and the need for stringent measures to combat terrorism and ensure national security.

The BNS2 also addresses organized crime, encompassing offenses like kidnapping, extortion, and cybercrime committed on behalf of a crime syndicate. This acknowledges the complexities of criminal enterprises that operate systematically and exploit advancements in technology. Moreover, the BNS2 introduces provisions to punish murder by a group of five or more persons based on certain identity markers, such as caste, language, or personal belief. This reflects a heightened awareness of the need to deter crimes driven by discrimination and prejudice.

While these changes demonstrate a commitment to strengthening the legal framework, concerns have been raised. The retention of the age of criminal responsibility at seven years and the potential overlap with existing laws raise questions about the effectiveness and coherence of the proposed reforms. The BNS2's interaction with special laws, such as the Food Safety and Security Act and the Juvenile Justice Act, adds complexity and may lead to additional compliance challenges.

Moving forward, it will be crucial to address these concerns and ensure that the new legal framework strikes a balance between safeguarding individual rights and effectively combating evolving forms of criminal activities. The evolving nature of crime requires a legal system that is not only robust but also adaptable to emerging challenges, ensuring justice and protection for all citizens.

1. What is the tone of the passage?  
(a) Biased                      (b) Informative                      (c) Commiserating                      (d) Analytical
2. What is the primary purpose of the proposed Bharatiya Nyaya (Second) Sanhita (BNS2)?  
(a) As a complete replacement for the Indian Penal Code (IPC)  
(b) As an inadequate attempt to address societal challenges  
(c) As an effort to maintain the status quo in the IPC  
(d) As introducing significant changes to modernize the IPC

3. What is mentioned in the passage as one of the evolving forms of criminal activities?  
(a) Cybercrime      (b) Terrorism      (c) Organized crime      (d) Sovereignty
4. What potential issue is raised regarding the BNS2's interaction with other laws?  
(a) Lack of complexity  
(b) Reduced compliance challenges  
(c) Enhanced coherence  
(d) Overlapping with existing laws
5. The detailed descriptions in the passage primarily serve to highlight what aspect of the proposed legal reforms?  
(a) The potential drawbacks of the reforms  
(b) The author's personal biases  
(c) The need for stricter punishment  
(d) The nuances and implications of the proposed changes

## **Passage–II**

The entrenched practice of political parties offering freebies during election campaigns is a disconcerting phenomenon. These promises, often revolving around providing free goods and services such as electricity, water, and transportation, raise alarming concerns about the state's fiscal health and the overall well-being of society.

Freebies, as defined by a Reserve Bank of India report, are public welfare measures provided free of charge. However, the distinction between freebies and welfare schemes is crucial. Welfare schemes, characterized by their long-term positive impact on beneficiaries and society, are overshadowed by the potential creation of dependency and distortions associated with freebies.

The so-called advantages of freebies, such as enhanced public outreach and engagement or potential economic growth, are overshadowed by the looming disadvantages. These include the creation of a pervasive dependency syndrome, imposing substantial fiscal burdens on the state, misallocation of resources, compromised quality of goods and services, and adverse environmental impacts.

To navigate the disheartening complexities of freebies, several recommendations are reluctantly proposed. It is essential to draw a clear, albeit bleak, line between welfare and freebies, considering their economic implications and their connection to taxpayers' money. Transparency from political parties about the financing and trade-offs of freebies, including sources of revenue and their impact on fiscal balance, seems like a distant hope. Empowering the Election Commission of India (ECI) to regulate and monitor freebies during elections, with the authority to penalize parties for violations, appears to be a challenging endeavor. Voter awareness campaigns and education programs are reluctantly suggested, hoping to inform and empower voters who may seem indifferent or resigned.

Judicial intervention, as suggested by the Supreme Court, seems like a necessary but gloomy step. Setting up an expert committee comprising members from institutions like NITI Aayog, the

Finance Commission, and the RBI to analyze the impact of freebies on the economy and democracy may provide insights into an already bleak scenario.

A shift toward inclusive development is advocated, as a more sustainable alternative to freebies. Addressing the root causes of poverty, inequality, and exclusion is seen as a challenging but necessary step. The emphasis on empowering individuals through education and skills rather than fostering dependency may seem like an uphill battle in a landscape dominated by short-term populist promises. This approach aligns with the proverbial wisdom "Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime."

6. What does the author suggest as a likely way forward in dealing with the issue of freebies during elections?
  - (a) Increase the frequency of freebies
  - (b) to implement the code of conduct
  - (c) Setting up an expert committee
  - (d) empower the Election Commission
7. What is the author's stance on the advantages of freebies, as presented in the passage?
  - (a) Optimistic
  - (b) Pessimistic
  - (c) Ambivalent
  - (d) Neutral
8. In the passage, the author implies that welfare schemes differ from freebies primarily in their:
  - (a) Short-term impact
  - (b) Long-term benefits
  - (c) Dependency creation
  - (d) Fiscal burden
9. Which of the following is NOT within the scope of the passage?
  - (a) comparing welfare schemes and freebies
  - (b) analyzing the impact of freebies on the human psyche
  - (c) discussing the role of government machinery in regulating freebies
  - (d) analyzing the impact of freebies on foreign direct investment
10. The author characterizes the role of freebies as
  - (a) dependency syndrome
  - (b) the psychological warfare
  - (c) bilateral hurdle for countries
  - (d) a fine replacement of welfare schemes

### **Passage—III**

The concept of separation of powers is a fundamental cornerstone in the architecture of democratic governance, aimed at preventing the concentration of power in any one branch of government. The idea, popularized by political philosophers like Montesquieu, seeks to create a

system where the executive, legislative, and judicial branches operate independently but interdependently.

Moreover, the United States serves as a quintessential example of the separation of powers. The framers of the U.S. Constitution meticulously designed a system where each branch has distinct powers and responsibilities. The executive branch, led by the President, is checked by the legislative branch (Congress) through the power of impeachment and the ability to override vetoes. Similarly, the judiciary, headed by the Supreme Court, can declare legislative and executive actions unconstitutional. This intricate system ensures that no single branch dominates the others, fostering a balance of power.

In contrast to the U.S., the United Kingdom follows a fusion of powers, where the executive (Prime Minister and Cabinet) is drawn from the legislative branch (Parliament). Despite this fusion, informal checks and balances exist. The House of Commons, the lower house, holds significant power and can bring down the government through votes of no confidence. The judiciary, while lacking the power of constitutional review, can influence policies through judicial review. The UK's system highlights that even in a fusion model, checks and balances are essential for a functioning democracy.

Similarly, India, with its parliamentary system, incorporates the separation of powers, but challenges persist. The executive, led by the Prime Minister, is drawn from the majority party in the legislature. While formal checks and balances exist, such as the President's power to withhold assent and the judiciary's authority of judicial review, the dominance of the executive in the legislative branch sometimes blurs the lines of separation. Additionally, issues like political interference in the judiciary raise concerns about the efficacy of checks and balances.

Likewise, South Africa's post-apartheid constitution exemplifies a strong commitment to the separation of powers. The Constitutional Court, with the authority of constitutional review, acts as a guardian against abuses of power. The President is subject to impeachment, and the judiciary has the power to strike down unconstitutional laws. This model showcases how a well-structured judiciary can play a pivotal role in upholding checks and balances.

In conclusion, the separation of powers is a linchpin in maintaining a healthy democracy through checks and balances. The examples of the United States, the United Kingdom, India, and South Africa illustrate diverse models of implementation. While the U.S. demonstrates a clear-cut separation, the UK showcases a fusion model with informal checks. India faces challenges in maintaining a strict separation, and South Africa emphasizes the role of a robust judiciary. Analyzing these models reveals that the effectiveness of checks and balances lies not just in constitutional provisions but also in the commitment and vigilance of each branch to uphold democratic principles. As countries continue to navigate the complexities of governance, the enduring relevance of the separation of powers remains a testament to its pivotal role in safeguarding democratic values.

11. What does the term "separation of powers" refer to in the passage?
- (a) The concentration of power in the executive branch
  - (b) The interdependence of executive, legislative, and judicial branches

- (c) The fusion of powers in a parliamentary system
  - (d) The dominance of the judiciary in governance
12. According to the passage, what challenges does India face in maintaining separation of powers?
- (a) Lack of a well-structured judiciary
  - (b) Strict separation without flexibility
  - (c) The dominance of the executive in the legislative branch
  - (d) Absence of formal checks and balances
13. What does the author's mention of "political interference in the judiciary" intend to highlight?
- (a) The challenges faced by India in maintaining separation of powers
  - (b) The effectiveness of checks and balances in India
  - (c) The flaws in South Africa's post-apartheid constitution
  - (d) The absence of checks and balances in the United States
14. The passage's overall tone towards the concept of separation of powers is:
- (a) Critical
  - (b) Ambiguous
  - (c) Indifferent
  - (d) Supportive
15. From which country's governance system does the passage draw examples to illustrate the concept of separation of powers?
- (a) India
  - (b) United Kingdom
  - (c) United States
  - (d) South Africa

## **Passage – IV**

Demonetization, the deliberate act of invalidating a currency unit as legal tender, has been employed by various countries throughout history, often for reasons such as combating corruption, curbing black money, reducing tax evasion, and promoting the adoption of digital transactions. One of the earliest recorded instances dates back to the Tang Dynasty in 7th century China when the government replaced old currency to address inflation.

In the contemporary era, India's 2016 demonetization remains one of the most noteworthy examples. The government invalidated INR 500 and INR 1,000 banknotes with the primary objectives of curbing black money, counterfeit currency, and corruption. The move was accompanied by the introduction of new INR 500 and INR 2,000 banknotes.

Proponents of demonetization argue that it can effectively control black money and corruption by invalidating high-denomination currency notes commonly used in illicit transactions. Additionally, the policy aims to encourage the shift towards a digital economy, increasing traceability and tax compliance. Demonetization is believed to contribute to the formalization of the economy by bringing previously informal transactions into the formal sector.

However, there are notable criticisms of demonetization. Detractors point out that it can lead to immediate disruptions in daily life, especially for those heavily reliant on cash transactions, causing inconvenience and economic hardships. The sudden withdrawal of a significant portion of currency in circulation can result in a temporary economic slowdown as consumption and business transactions decline. Cash shortages may ensue, affecting individuals and businesses

dependent on cash transactions. Critics also argue that demonetization may have a limited impact on black money, as individuals find ways to convert their illicit wealth into other forms. Additionally, the process incurs significant logistical and administrative costs, including printing new currency, recalibrating ATMs, and managing the transition.

In conclusion, while demonetization has been a policy tool utilized by various countries, its success and impact depend on the specific context, execution, and underlying economic conditions. It is a multifaceted approach with both advantages and disadvantages, sparking debates about its effectiveness in achieving its intended goals.

16. What is the tone of the passage?
  - (a) Neutral and objective
  - (b) Advocative
  - (c) Biased
  - (d) Opinionated
17. What is meant by "temporary economic slowdown" in the passage?
  - (a) A sustained decline in economic activity.
  - (b) An enduring halt to all economic transactions.
  - (c) A brief reduction in economic activity.
  - (d) An unpredictable stagnation in the economy.
18. According to the passage, how can demonetization contribute to the formalization of the economy?
  - (a) By formalizing more cash transactions
  - (b) By promoting reliance on informal sectors
  - (c) By formalizing digital transactions
  - (d) By formalizing previously informal transactions.
19. What does the term "proponents" mean in the passage?
  - (a) Critics of demonetization
  - (b) Individuals against formalization of the economy
  - (c) Those advocating for demonetization
  - (d) Supporters of increased tax evasion
20. What could be the most suitable title for this passage?
  - (a) Demonetization: A Multifaceted Tool with Complexities
  - (b) India's 2016 Demonetization and Its Effects
  - (c) Historical Instances of Currency Invalidation
  - (d) The Tang Dynasty's Economic Policies

## **Passage—V**

The world stands at a crossroads. We face daunting challenges: climate change, resource depletion, and persistent inequality. Yet, amidst these shadows, a powerful torch emerges – Artificial Intelligence (AI). AI, once confined to science fiction, now offers a path towards a brighter, more sustainable future.

Imagine buildings that breathe with the rhythm of the sun, adjusting their temperature and lighting for optimal efficiency. This is the promise of AI-powered energy grids, predicting usage patterns and reducing waste. Picture farms brimming with life, robots gently weeding fields and drones scouting for disease, all guided by AI's watchful eye. This is the future of sustainable agriculture, maximizing yields while minimizing environmental impact.

Renewable energy, long held back by the shackles of unpredictability, finds its wings through AI. Imagine wind turbines whispering secrets of wind patterns to AI algorithms, optimizing their blades to dance with the currents. Solar panels, imbued with AI's foresight, tilt to capture the sun's fleeting kiss with exquisite precision. This is the dawn of a clean energy era, powered by AI's intelligence.

Cities, once sprawling testaments to chaos, transform into dynamic ecosystems under AI's watchful gaze. Traffic flows like a well-choreographed ballet, guided by AI algorithms that predict and optimize routes, reducing congestion and emissions. Waste, the bane of urban existence, is no longer a burden but a resource. AI-powered robots tirelessly sort and separate, turning garbage into fuel and fertilizer, closing the loop in a sustainable cycle.

Beyond its tangible benefits, AI fosters a shift in consciousness. As we witness its power to predict and optimize, we are nudged towards a more mindful approach to resource utilization. Data, once a cold statistic, becomes a mirror reflecting our impact on the planet, urging us to choose wisely.

However, this path bathed in AI's brilliance is not without its thorns. We must acknowledge the potential of AI to exacerbate existing inequalities and environmental burdens. Its algorithms, like a blank canvas, can reflect the biases woven into our societies. E-waste, the dark side of technological progress, looms large, demanding responsible production and recycling practices.

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But these challenges are not insurmountable. Responsible development, guided by ethical principles and a commitment to sustainability, can steer AI towards a positive future. Openness and collaboration, embracing diverse perspectives in the design and deployment of AI, will ensure its benefits reach all corners of the globe.

In conclusion, AI is not a magic wand, but a powerful tool waiting to be shaped by human hands. Let us wield it with wisdom and compassion, for the sake of both present and future generations. Let AI be the light that illuminates the path towards a sustainable future, a future where technology and nature exist in harmony, where prosperity thrives alongside environmental well-being, and where every living being can bask in the warmth of a shared, sustainable world.

Remember, the key to unlocking AI's true potential lies not in the technology itself, but in the hearts and minds of those who guide its development and use. Let us choose optimism, let us

choose responsibility, and let us choose to shape AI into a force for good, a shining beacon leading the way towards a brighter, more sustainable future for all.

21. The main argument of the passage is that:
  - (a) AI is a magic solution to all of humanity's problems.
  - (b) AI has the potential to contribute significantly to a sustainable future.
  - (c) AI is too dangerous and should not be developed further.
  - (d) Only renewable energy can save the planet, AI is irrelevant.
22. The main purpose of the passage is to:
  - (a) offer a balanced perspective on the potential benefits and risks of AI.
  - (b) provide a technical explanation of AI technology.
  - (c) convince readers that AI is the solution to all environmental problems.
  - (d) argue against the development of AI due to its ethical concerns.
23. One most suitable example of figurative language used in the passage is:
  - (a) buildings that breathe with the rhythm of the sun
  - (b) AI-powered energy grids, predicting usage patterns
  - (c) Maximizing yields while minimizing environmental impact.
  - (d) data, once a cold statistic, becomes a mirror
24. The writing style of the passage can be described as:
  - (a) purely technical and scientific.
  - (b) objective and unemotional.
  - (c) persuasive and optimistic.
  - (d) critical and pessimistic.
25. What is the key message or call to action in the conclusion of the passage?
  - (a) AI is a magic wand that will solve all problems
  - (b) Openness and collaboration are essential for responsible AI development
  - (c) AI should not be used due to potential environmental burdens
  - (d) Technology and nature cannot coexist harmoniously

## **Passage–VI**

My gaze is drawn not to the edifices of steel and glass, but to the grand tapestry woven by the universe's creations. From the whispering lichen clinging to ancient rock to the leviathan whales echoing through the ocean depths, a symphony of life plays out, each note intertwined in a web of intricate connections.

Plants, the verdant maestros of photosynthesis, conduct the first movement. Sunlight absorbed by verdant leaves fuels the biosphere, providing the energy foundation for countless creatures. Fungi, nature's decomposers, join the chorus, breaking down the fallen to nourish the new, orchestrating the perpetual cycle of life and death. Animals, the agile dancers in this grand ballet, take on diverse roles. Herbivores graze on green carpets, carnivores stalk and pounce, while pollinators flit between blossoms, spreading the elixir of life. Each species, a unique instrument, contributes its melody to the symphony.

The connections between these players are as breathtaking as they are complex. Predators and prey engage in a macabre waltz, shaping each other's evolution. Dung beetles, nature's janitors, clear the stage for new growth. Migrating birds carry seeds across continents, sowing the symphony further afield. From the microscopic dance of symbiosis within a coral reef to the vast migrations of wildebeest across the Serengeti, every interaction adds a layer of harmony to the composition.

The symphony extends beyond the terrestrial realm. In the sunlit shallows, coral reefs teem with kaleidoscopic life, forming intricate underwater cities that rival any human metropolis. The abyssal depths, shrouded in perpetual darkness, harbor bizarre creatures adapted to a world of crushing pressure and eternal night. Even the seemingly barren deserts pulse with hidden life, from the tenacious tardigrades clinging to life in dry cracks to the subterranean networks of fungi weaving through the sand.

We, humans, with our penchant for artifice, are but a discordant note in this natural harmony. Our insatiable hunger for resources disrupts the rhythm, pushing species to the brink and altering the very stage upon which the performance unfolds. Yet, within us lies the potential to become co-composers, harmonizing with the existing melodies rather than silencing them. By understanding and respecting the intricate web of life, we can ensure that the symphony of the uncreated continues to play for generations to come.

As a naturalist, I stand in awe of this grand, unchoreographed ballet. The sheer diversity of life forms, the intricate web of connections, and the enduring resilience of nature in the face of change – these are the elements that inspire me, fuel my wanderlust, and guide my efforts to protect this precious symphony. For in the end, it is not just the beauty of the performance that matters, but the continuation of the music itself, a melody born not of human hands, but of the universe's grand design.

26. The metaphor of a "symphony" is used to represent:
  - (a) The harmonious balance of different ecosystems.
  - (b) The complex interactions between plants and animals.
  - (c) The continuous cycle of life and death in nature.
  - (d) All of the above.
27. The phrase "intertwined melodies" refers to:
  - (a) The interconnectedness of different species within an ecosystem.
  - (b) The way predators and prey influence each other's evolution.
  - (c) The complex relationships between different parts of a plant.
  - (d) The harmonious sounds produced by various animals in nature.
28. The author's statement, "We are but a discordant note in this natural symphony," suggests:
  - (a) Humans are separate from the natural world.
  - (b) Human activities often disrupt the balance of nature.
  - (c) Humans have the potential to harm the environment through their actions.
  - (d) All of the above.
29. What is the primary focus of the final paragraph in the passage?
  - (a) The author's admiration for human achievements in preserving nature.

- (b) The intricate connections and diversity of life that inspire the author as a naturalist.
  - (c) The disruptive impact of human activities on the natural symphony.
  - (d) The author's criticism of the unchoreographed nature of the natural ballet.
30. The tone of the essay can be described as:
- (a) Objective and scientific
  - (b) Humorous and lighthearted
  - (c) Passionate and persuasive
  - (d) Formal and academic

## ANSWER KEY

1	B	16	A
2	D	17	C
3	A	18	D
4	D	19	C
5	D	20	A
6	D	21	B
7	B	22	A
8	B	23	A
9	D	24	C
10	A	25	B
11	B	26	D
12	C	27	A
13	A	28	D
14	D	29	B

15	C	30	C
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