

MOCK COMMON LAW ADMISSION TEST 2025

MOCK CLAT #01

Duration : 120 Minutes

Max. Marks : 120

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. No clarification on the question paper can be sought. Answer the questions as they are.
2. There are 120 multiple choice objective type questions.
3. There is negative marking of 0.25 for every incorrect answer. Each question carries **ONE** mark.

Total marks are 120

4. You have to indicate the correct answer by darkening one of the four responses provided, with a **BALL PEN (BLUE OR BLACK)** in the **OMR** Answer Sheet.

Example: For the question, "*Where is the TajMahal located?*", the correct answer is (b).

The candidate has to darken the corresponding circle as indicated below :

(a) Kolkata (b) Agra (c) Bhopal (d) Delhi

Right Method



Wrong Methods



5. Answering the questions by any method other than the method indicated above shall be considered incorrect and no marks will be awarded for the same.
6. More than one response to a question shall be counted as wrong.
7. Do not write anything on the OMR Answer Sheet other than the details required and, in the spaces, provided for.
8. You are not required to submit the OMR Answer Sheet and Test Paper after the test
9. The use of any unfair means by any candidate shall result in the cancellation of his/her candidature.
10. Impersonation is an offence and the candidate, apart from disqualification, may have to face criminal prosecution

SECTION A: ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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

Passage (Q.1-Q.4): India is preparing to launch a spacecraft carrying a lander to the Moon on 14 July. If the mission is successful, India will become only the fourth country ever to make a controlled lunar landing, after the United States, the former Soviet Union and China. The 6-billion-rupee (US\$73-million) mission, called Chandrayaan-3, is the second attempt by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to land a craft safely on the Moon. Chandrayaan-3 will send a lander and rover from the spaceport of Sriharikota, off India's east coast, to a site near the Moon's South Pole. After the craft lands, scientists at ISRO plan to deploy the rover to study the Moon's properties. If successful, the mission will be first in the world to land in the **purview** of the South Pole; previous Moon missions have landed at lower latitudes.

ISRO says that the lunar South Pole is of special interest because parts of it remain permanently in shadow, raising the possibility of sampling Moon ice for the first time. Moreover, the large craters near the lunar South Pole might contain clues to the composition of the early Solar System. "The south pole region has very different geology from the region around the [US] Apollo missions, so Chandrayaan-3 will provide a close-up view of an entirely new region of the Moon," says planetary geochemist Marc Norman at the Australian National University in Canberra. A successful landing could also be an important step towards future Indian Moon missions and is seen as a demonstration of India's growing geopolitical ambitions.

Chandrayaan-3 follows the successful lunar orbiter Chandrayaan-1, launched in 2008, and the partially successful Chandrayaan-2, in 2019. The second mission successfully launched a lunar orbiter with eight functioning instruments, but the lander carrying the rover crashed into the Moon during the final moments of its descent in September 2019. ISRO chairman Sreedhara Somanath said recently that the crash was due to a software error. India's third Moon mission will focus on the Moon landing. A three-stage rocket will place Chandrayaan-3 into an elliptical parking orbit of approximately 170 kilometres by 36,500 km. A two-tonne propulsion module will then bring the lander-rover complex into a circular orbit at about 100 km from the Moon's surface. The 1.75-tonne lander, named Vikram, contains a 26-kilogram, six-wheeled robotic rover called Pragyan that is designed to ramble around the Moon for the equivalent of about 14 days on Earth. ISRO engineers and scientists say they have made changes to the software and hardware of the Chandrayaan-3 mission, especially for the lander thrusters, in the wake of the problems with Chandrayaan-2. ISRO has developed improved soft-landing sequences and the lander has four thruster engines instead of five, sturdier legs and larger solar panels, and will carry more fuel. ISRO has not publicly released a report analysing the failure of Chandrayaan-2. But a retired ISRO engineer has said that the cause was insufficient 'throttling' — gradual reduction in speed — by the engines, a crucial requirement during lunar descent.

1. The main idea of the passage is that

- (a) The Moon mission is a tranquil technological goal for ISRO due to previous failed mission.
- (b) The next Moon mission by ISRO is vital for global increase in knowledge of its geographical features and changes in landing techniques.
- (c) The new mission to Moon will be a groundbreaking feat in global space history much appreciated by Academia.
- (d) The third Moon mission by ISRO is crucial as the last two failed to be successful in their goal of exploring the South Pole along with a foreign rover.

2. The tone of the second paragraph of the passage is

- (a) Vitriolic
- (b) Speculative
- (c) Belligerent
- (d) Grandiose

3. It can be inferred about ISRO's Moon missions that
- (a) They have all been successful in orbiting of the Moon.
 - (b) The first one was successful in its purpose while the second one failed in entirety.
 - (c) The third one will be the first in the world to make a landing with specific software.
 - (d) There was failure of the rover in the second one due to atmospheric reasons.
4. Which of the following is closest in meaning to the word 'purlieu' as used in the passage?
- (a) Remoteness
 - (b) Juxtaposition
 - (c) Vicinity
 - (d) Separation

Passage (Q.5-Q.8): The *Barbie* movie was meant to be for everyone. "If you love Barbie, this movie is for you," the trailer for Warner Bros.' summer blockbuster declares. "If you hate Barbie, this movie is for you." But with just weeks before the star-studded film about the titular doll was set to hit theatres, some in Southeast Asia have decided that it is not for them.

It was announced in Vietnam on Monday that the cinematic distribution of Barbie would be banned over the display of a map that includes the "nine-dash line," a dubious maritime border that China, as an Asian country, has controversially used to lay claim to virtually all the South China Sea, even though it was rejected in 2016 by an international tribunal. Authorities in the Philippines, also troubled by the promotion of the "nine-dash line," are currently deliberating whether to permit the release of the film. "The movie is fiction, and so is the nine-dash line. At the minimum, our cinemas should include an explicit proviso that the nine-dash line is a figment of China's imagination," Philippine Senator Risa Hontiveros said. The context of the alleged depiction of the nine-dash line in the new *Barbie* movie is imprecise. But it is not the first time this kind of censorship has occurred over similar concerns. Last year, the Philippines and Vietnam both banned screenings of Sony's action-adventure flick *Uncharted* because of a brief scene depicting the contentious nine-dash line. And in 2019, both the Philippines and Malaysia—another country that contests China's territorial claims to the waterway—stopped the domestic distribution of the DreamWorks animated movie *Abominable* after producers declined a request to remove a scene showing the nine-dash line. (In Vietnam, *Abominable* had already been out in cinemas for more than a week before censors pulled it and fined the film's distributor.) In 2018, a second-long clip, which featured a designer handbag with a map that showed the South China Sea's islands under China's control, was cut from *Crazy Rich Asians* screenings in Vietnam. It is not just the big screen that's under scrutiny. In 2021, officials in the Philippines ordered Netflix to take down select episodes of Australian spy drama *Pine Gap* due to scenes containing the nine-dash line, while Vietnam demanded the entire series be removed from the streamer. The recurrent instances of the same issue raise questions about Hollywood's relationship with China, which commands a 1.4-billion-person market. China has been critical to the global box office success of many contemporary films, and studios have been known to try to appease Beijing's own stringent censors in an effort to not be shut out. Recently, however, Hollywood studios, facing pushback for their **acquiescence**, have started to stand up to China. The trailer from Tom Cruise's 2022 movie *Top Gun: Maverick* initially removed Taiwanese and Japanese flags to placate China, but following a public backlash, the flags reappeared in the film.

5. Which of the following cannot be inferred from the passage?
- (a) The nine-dash line supports and creates Chinese maritime claims.
 - (b) The movie makers want to gratify China due to its humungous market and fears of ban.
 - (c) There have been requests for removal of objectionable content in streaming services.
 - (d) There has been a total ban in South East Asian countries on the movies showing nine-dash line.
6. What does the word "acquiescence" mean in context of the passage?
- (a) Resistance
 - (b) Acceptance
 - (c) Sanction
 - (d) Deference

7. Which of the following reflects an apt title for the passage?

- (a) Barbie: Not so innocent in Asia.
- (b) Movies and Shows: Asian Geography Trepidations
- (c) South East Asia and Hollywood: Always at odds.
- (d) South East Asia in Films: Geographical Irregularities

8. Which of the following depicts the central idea of the passage?

- (a) Barbie as a movie has been about an endearing doll but it is banned by south Asian countries due to faulty geographical representation.
- (b) The Hollywood movies and streaming services have been appeasing China but has to yield to other Asian countries on irregular geographical depiction.
- (c) There have been many movies which have been objected by the South Asian countries for their appeasement to China.
- (d) The Hollywood and streaming services are fully focussed on capturing Chinese market with no concern for south East Asian countries.

Passage (Q.9-Q.12): Among the biggest reasons for disproportionate emphasis on the exchanges between the sedentary civilisations is that most of the available literary sources on the subject are from China, India, Persia, and the Roman Empire, a major part of two continents. Moreover, the earliest of these sources are from the late first millennium BC when many great sedentary empires came into existence. The trans-civilisational trade and other forms of exchange had four major periods of activity: the late first millennium BC, the early centuries of the Common Era, the sixth–eighth century, and the Mongol period of the thirteenth–fourteenth century. The fact that the conventional historiography of the Silk Road usually traces its origins to the first of those periods is a clear reflection of its sedentary predilection, in as much as ‘rivalry between the steppe and the sown, between nomads and sedentary farmers, may well be one of the oldest conflicts of modern civilization’. Thus, it is a history of trade between sedentary civilisations, and Inner Asia was just an incidental presence necessitated by the fact that the ‘Silk Road’ passed through it. In reality, however, ‘One phenomenon, which unites the history of the Middle East, Europe, South and East Asia is the role of nomadic peoples from the Eurasian Steppe in the affairs of the sedentary people in the surrounding countries’.

As it is frequently the case in the modern world, the term ‘Silk Road’ or ‘Silk Roads’ is of colonial provenance. The elaborate network of ancient routes originating in the fourth millennium BC and linking various parts of the Eurasian landmass through Central Asia was re-imagined and reinvented in the late nineteenth century as a ‘Silk Road’ connecting China with the Roman Empire, thereby undermining the role of the steppe with its various nomadic and oasis cultures which had always been at the heart of this Eurasian system of trade and other exchange. Ever since, historiography has focussed on the role of sedentary civilisations in this system of exchange, with a particular emphasis on China and the West, thus undermining the role of other sedentary civilisations such as India. Contrary to the dominant narrative, the antiquity of the Eurasian trade network goes back to several millennia before the rise of either the Han Empire or Rome. Whereas this network did connect the agrarian civilisations, this happened primarily through the agency of central Asian intermediaries whose culmination is represented by the rise of the vast Mongol Empire in the thirteenth century. The idea of the ‘Silk Road(s)’ is thus anachronistic in the sense that it is a backward projection of present into the historical past, especially in view of the fact that silk was only one among several important items of exchange, such as horses, cotton, precious stones, and furs.

9. Which of the following options captures the meaning of the last sentence of the first paragraph best?

- (a) The nomadic people of the Eurasian Steppe have not played a part in the sedentary life of surrounding countries uniting regional history.

- (b) The nomadic people in the Eurasian Steppe have been visited by the people in neighbouring countries uniting geographical history.
- (c) The wandering people originating from the Eurasian Steppe have influenced the settled life of other contiguous countries uniting continental history.
- (d) The wandering people from Eurasian Steppe have played a significant role in the deskbound life of the surrounding countries uniting continental history.

10. Which of the following reflects the main concern conveyed by the author?

- (a) The Silk Road is the most ancient of the routes which depicts most ancient trade route between China and Europe.
- (b) The Silk Road is the only major link for sedentary civilisations in Asia and Europe for trade purpose.
- (c) The Silk Road needs to be recreated because it supplied the best silk from China to Europe prior to any other civilization and to the exclusion of other goods.
- (d) The Silk Road was preceded by central Asian movement of people and trade between Asia and Europe with multiplicity of goods.

11. Which of the following categories best describes this piece of writing?

- (a) Non-fiction Archaeology Essay.
- (b) Historical Fiction
- (c) Academic Paper
- (d) Gothic Literature.

12. Which of the following words from the passage mean “out-dated”?

- (a) Provenance
- (b) Predilection
- (c) Anachronistic
- (d) Sedentary

Passage (Q.13-Q.16): Kind people, gather round and listen. The jongleur is here! I am the jongleur. I leap and pirouette, and make you laugh. I make fun of those in power, and I show you how puffed up and conceited are the bigshots who go around making wars in which we are the only ones who get slaughtered. I reveal them for what they are. I pull out the plug, and ... pssss ... they deflate. Gather round, for now is the time and place that I begin to clown and teach you. I tumble, I sing and I joke! Look how my tongue whirls, almost like a knife. Remember that. But I have not always been ... Well, I would like to tell you how it was that I came to be.

I was not born a jongleur; I didn't suddenly turn up as I am now, with a sudden gust from the skies and, hopla, there I was: 'Good day ... Hello.' No! I am the result of a miracle! A miracle which was carried out on me. Do you believe me? This is how it came about! I was born a peasant.

A peasant? Yes, a real countryman. I was happy, I was sad, I had no land. No! I worked as all of us work in these valleys wherever I could. **And one day I came by a mountain, a mountain all of rock. It was nobody's. I found that out. I asked people. 'No! Nobody wants this mountain!'**

Well, I went up to its peak and I scratched with my nails and I saw that there was a little bit of earth there, and I saw that there was a little trickle of water coming down. So I began to scratch further. I went down to the river bank, and I wore my fingers to the bone bringing earth up onto this mountain. And my children and my wife were there. My wife is sweet, sweet and fair, with two round breasts, and a gentle way of walking that reminds you of a heifer as she moves. Oh, she is beautiful! I love her, and it gives me such pleasure to speak of her.

Anyway, I carried earth up in my own hands, and the grass grew so fast! Pfff ... ! It grew of its own accord. You've no idea how beautiful it was! It was like gold dust! I would stick in my hoe, and pfff ... a tree sprang forth. That earth was a miracle! A marvel! There were poplars, oaks and other trees everywhere. I sowed them when the moon was right; I knew what had to be done, and there, sweet, fine, handsome crops grew. There was chicory, thistles, beans, turnips, there was everything. For me, for us! Oh, how happy I was! We used to dance, and then it would rain for days on end, and then the sun would blaze, and I would come, and go, and the moons were always right, and there was never too much wind, or too much mist. It was beautiful, beautiful! It was our

land. This set of terraces was really beautiful. Every day I built another one. It was like the tower of Babel, beautiful, with all these terraces.

13. Which of the following best reflects the title of the passage?

- (a) A Life story of a peasant
- (b) A peasant's family
- (c) A Joker born a peasant
- (d) The stage life of a Fun artist

14. Which of the following is not supported by the passage?

- (a) There are many crops which were grown on terraces on the mountain by the author in his life as a peasant.
- (b) The author inflates the ego of powerful people by his performances who take decisions to impose wars on people leading to their demise.
- (c) The author is stated to be born in the family of professional jongleurs with much training in his early life.
- (d) The jongleur has a wife who is stated to be resembling a cow in her way of walking by his description.

15. Which of the following reflects the tone of the passage?

- (a) Apathetic
- (b) Belligerent
- (c) Commiserating
- (d) Humanistic

16. What can be appropriately inferred from the bold text in the passage

- (a) A mountain is utilized by the author, due to its unclaimed nature, for growing crops.
- (b) There was nobody who was present to claim the mountain but it belonged to the powerful people on the author's inquiry.
- (c) The mountain was unclaimed by the powerful people and the author came upon it to be utilized by him.
- (d) The author came upon a mountain unclaimed by anybody on his inquiry from the people who confirmed it.

Passage (Q.17-Q.20): The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is an action-oriented, member-driven, collaborative platform for increased deployment of efficient solar energy technologies as a means for bringing energy access, ensuring energy security, and driving energy transition in its member countries for reducing global warming resulting from gases (post-combustion of carbon based fuels). The ISA strives to develop and deploy cost-effective and transformational energy solutions powered by the sun to help member countries develop lowcarbon growth trajectories, with particular focus on delivering impact in countries categorized as Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and the Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Being a global platform, ISA's partnerships with multilateral development banks (MDBs), development financial institutions (DFIs), private and public sector organizations, civil society and other international institutions is key to purveying the change it seeks to see in the world going ahead.

The ISA is guided by its 'Towards 1000' strategy which aims to mobilise USD 1,000 billion of investments in solar energy solutions by 2030, while delivering energy access to 1,000 million people using clean energy solutions without gases and resulting in installation of 1,000 GW of solar energy capacity. This would help mitigate global solar emissions to the tune of 1,000 million tonnes of Carbon dioxide (CO₂) every year. For meeting these goals, the ISA takes a programmatic approach. Currently, the ISA has 9 comprehensive programmes, each focusing on a **discrete** application that could help scale deployment of solar energy solutions. Activities under the programmes focuses on 4 priority areas – Analytics & Advocacy, Capacity Building, Programmatic Support, and readiness and enabling activities, that help create a favourable environment for solar energy investments to take root in the country. The ISA was conceived as a joint effort by India and France to mobilize efforts against climate change through deployment of solar energy solutions in tropical countries. It was conceptualized on the sidelines of the 21st Conference of Parties

(COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Paris in 2015. With the amendment of its Framework Agreement in 2020 for eclectic reach, all member states of the United Nations are now eligible to join the ISA. At present, 114 countries are signatories to the ISA Framework Agreement, of which 92 countries have submitted the necessary instruments of ratification to become full members of the ISA.

17. According to the author, how is the ISA imperative in reducing global warming?

- (a) By efficiently utilizing the sun for its energy for human use.
- (b) By reducing the emission of carbon based gases from petroleum fuels.
- (c) By reducing the use of energy sources which burn to emit gases.
- (d) By decreasing the use of fuels which had been put in inefficient solar technology.

18. Which of the following is an assumption from the passage?

- (a) The ISA has been an alliance between Indian and France for clean energy.
- (b) The alliance must have succeeded which prompted ISA to extend membership to other countries.
- (c) The energy received from the Sun can be stored and used during non-Sun hours.
- (d) There is availability of clean energy solutions throughout the member countries.

19. Which of the following best describes the style of the passage?

- (a) Informative and explanatory.
- (b) Descriptive and argumentative.
- (c) Narrative and explanatory.
- (d) Expository and argumentative.

20. What is the central idea of the passage?

- (a) The goal of ISA is to make United Nations members energy efficient and beat climate warming.
- (b) Global Warming results from combustion of carbon based fuels.
- (c) ISA is established for clean energy transition and reduction of global warming.
- (d) The main purpose of ISA is to use solar energy for a cleaner future in tropical countries.

Passage (Q.21-Q.24): There have been innumerable television debates following the train accident involving the 12841 Shalimar-Chennai Coromandel Express, the 12864 Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal Bengaluru-Howrah Superfast Express and a goods train at Bahanaga Bazar station in Balasore district, Odisha, on the evening of June 2. But the key question that many panellists have failed to address convincingly, barring the familiar **platitudes**, is about how the Indian Railways can work to ensure that such catastrophes are never repeated.

First, a recap of what happened. Broadly, the interlocking of signals and routes through a series of relays and logic gates, ensures that a train is guided by signals to a route amid a maze of railway tracks in a manner that would never cause it to encounter another train, ahead or in the rear. In this case, this interlocking was overridden by manual intervention. We also have two causes: in the first, it was most likely done by a signal maintainer who has access to the equipment hut or relay room, who may have been **cutting corners** to expedite his maintenance work so that the running train is not affected. Or, in the second instance, as the Indian Railways seems to believe, it is the handiwork of 'a saboteur' with criminal intention to cause an accident.

In this specific case, the general public finds it quite bewildering that a callous and cavalier signal maintainer, or for that matter 'a criminal', can meddle with the system and cause havoc of this magnitude. Stronger safeguards against such misadventures, whether by the custodian himself or otherwise, may be difficult to build but it is something that must be pursued with great resolve. The provision of a double lock system even for remote huts in railway stations will certainly cause great inconvenience to implement, increasing the chances of train delays but is it a great price to pay given the Odisha train accident? This is an age of mobile phones and IT applications and it should

be possible to think of a system of multiple digital authorisations to access such equipment without the physical movement of staff other than the maintainers. There is another issue — the larger question of the Indian Railways' safety record and the way forward. Let us look at accident data. Till a decade ago, fatalities caused by railway accidents used to be in the range of 500-plus people every year; but in the last four years or so, the number is now less than 50. Although the Odisha accident has left its imprint on safety statistics, it is important to accept that the general reduction in the accident rate is a result of some positive actions such as the elimination of unmanned level crossings as well as improved track renewal and maintenance.

21. What does the word “platitude” as used in the passage mean?

- (a) Old chestnut. (b) Bromide . (c) Banality. (d) Flat in shape.

22. Which of the following best sums up the author's main point in the passage above?

- (a) Accidents in railways are a general consequence of travel and must be managed by technological interventions.
(b) Railways is in need of much employment of persons to keep crossing manned and make digital authorization mandatory for dealing with coach access.
(c) There must be effective social and digital measures to make sure that Odisha-like train accidents are effectively compensated.
(d) There must be effective legal and technological measures to ensure that Odisha-like train accidents are never repeated.

23. From the first paragraph of the passage, one can conclude that

- (a) There have been innumerable television debates around the accident in Odisha but they have failed to address the effective measures for tracking the injured passengers.
(b) There have been numerous television debates after the accident of the trains in Odisha but they have failed to address the issue of effective measures that can be taken to ensure non-repetition of criminal intent of a saboteur.
(c) There have been numerous television debates on the train accident in Odisha but they have failed to address the issue of measures to be taken to ensure non-repetition of such accidents.
(d) Numerous television debates have happened in the aftermath of the Odisha train accident but none of them have tackled the issue of non-repetition of a natural catastrophe leading to the accident.

24. In the context of the above passage, which of the following would be the most appropriate meaning of the term

“cutting corners”?

- (a) To cut down corners of a cloth
(b) To take a direct route avoiding corners and saving time
(c) To leave details with less time leading to an unsatisfactory result
(d) To cut down money and time by excluding actions leading to better results.

SECTION -B : CURRENT AFFAIRS, INCLUDING GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Directions (Q.25-Q.54): Read the information carefully and answer the questions

Passage (Q.25-Q.29): THE BONN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

The Bonn climate change conference that finished last week was built up as an opportunity for course correction. But just like the more famous year-ending climate conferences, Bonn underperformed. Developed and developing countries bickered on issues old and new, and could

not even agree on the agenda of one of the meetings till the penultimate day. Mandated by the 2015 Paris Agreement, GST is an exercise aimed at assessing the progress in the fight against climate change, and deciding ways and means to enhance global action to bridge the adequacy gap. The Paris Agreement says GST must be conducted every five years, starting in 2023. The actual meeting in GST would come in at COP28, the year-ending climate conference, this time being held in Dubai. The technical discussions just produced a short 'framework' on the elements to be included in the stocktake exercise. Even this saw repeated squabbling between the developed and developing countries, mainly over provisions related to finance and 'historical responsibility' of the rich countries.

25. What was one of the main expectations from the Bonn climate change conference?

- (a) Signing a new global treaty
- (b) Scaling up climate action to meet temperature targets
- (c) Discussing biodiversity loss exclusively
- (d) Abolishing the Paris Agreement

26. Which activity related to climate change is set to be conducted every five years, starting in 2023?

- (a) Mitigation Work Programme
- (b) Global Stocktake
- (c) Bonn Climate Meet
- (d) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Meeting

27. Which statement correctly reflects Australia's stance at the Bonn conference regarding the historical responsibility of developed countries?

- (a) Australia fully accepts the historical responsibility of developed countries.
- (b) Australia argues that historical emissions happened when there were no alternatives to fossil fuels.
- (c) Australia insists on the immediate payment of an unambiguous debt by developed countries.
- (d) Australia proposes comprehensive action for climate change.

28. What is the main focus of the Summit for a New Global Financial Pact held in Paris?

- (a) Implementing the Mitigation Work Programme
- (b) Redirecting global financial flows and raising new money to fight climate change
- (c) Increasing emissions from non-Annex I countries
- (d) Eliminating greenhouse gas emissions from Annex I countries

29. At which COP was the Kyoto Protocol adopted, focusing on binding emission reduction targets for developed countries?

- (a) COP 1
- (b) COP 3
- (c) COP 5
- (d) COP 7

Passage (Q.30-Q.34): FIXED-DOSE COMBINATION DRUGS

The government of India has banned [1] fixed dose combination (FDC) drugs, citing that there is "no therapeutic justification" for these medicines. A fixed dose combination (FDC) is the combination of two or more drugs in certain fixed dosage combinations. If it were combined for the first time, it would fall under the definition of a new drug. "There were many medicines that were being sold as mixed dose combinations which were not conducive or helpful for public health," said sources in the union health ministry. The Parliamentary Standing Committee of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in its 59th report on the functioning of CDSCO (Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation) had observed that some of the State Licensing Authorities had issued manufacturing licenses for a very large number of FDCs without prior clearance from

CDSCO. This has resulted in the availability of many FDCs in the market which were not tested for efficacy and safety and which would put patients at risk. CDSCO requested all state/UT drug controllers to ask the concerned manufacturers in their state/UT to prove the safety and efficacy of such FDCs before the CDSCO within a period of 18 months, failing which such FDCs will be considered for being prohibited for manufacture and marketing in the country.

30. Which of the following has been replaced by [1] in the above passage?

- (a) 10 (b) 12 (c) 14 (d) 16

31. Which of these drugs is not among the 14 fixed-dose combination drugs banned by the government of India in June 2023?

- (a) Nimesulide + Paracetamol dispersible tablets
(b) Amoxicillin + Bromhexine
(c) Paracetamol + Ibuprofen
(d) Chlorpheniramine Maleate + Codeine Syrup

32. Which of these statements are incorrect about the process of banning 14 fixed-dose combination drugs in India?

- A) The ban was announced by the Union Health Ministry in a notification.
B) The ban was based on the recommendations of an expert committee headed by Prof. Mandar Kokate.
C) The ban was challenged by the manufacturers of the drugs in the Supreme Court of India.
D) The ban was effective immediately and prohibited the manufacture, sale, and distribution of the drugs in India.

- (a) Only A, B and C (b) Only C
(c) Only B and C (d) Only B, C and D

33. Which of the following is not a valid reason for banning FDCs by the Indian government in 2023?

- (a) Lack of therapeutic justification
(b) Potential risk of antimicrobial resistance
(c) Infringement of intellectual property rights
(d) Adverse drug reactions and interactions

34. Which significant historical development paved the way for the emergence and widespread use of Fixed-Dose

Combination (FDC) drugs?

- (a) Discovery of Penicillin
(b) Introduction of the FDA (Food and Drug Administration)
(c) Advent of High-Throughput Screening
(d) Global HIV/AIDS Pandemic

Passage (Q.35-Q.39): GLOBAL SLAVERY INDEX 2023

The Global Slavery Index (GSI) provides national estimates of modern slavery for 160 countries. It is presented by Walk Free, a human rights organisation, and is based on data provided by the Global Estimates of Modern Slavery, which, in turn, is produced by the International Labour Organisation (ILO), Walk Free, and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). This is the fifth edition of the GSI and it is based on the 2022 estimates. The previous four editions were published in 2013, 2014, 2016, and 2018. In its report, Walk Free reported that 49.6 million people are living in modern slavery, out of which, India is home to 11 million. The organisation, Walk Free, says that "modern slavery is hidden in plain sight and is deeply intertwined with life in every corner of the world". An estimated 50 million people were living in modern slavery on any given

day in 2021, an increase of 10 million people since 2016, according to Walk Free. Among these 50 million (of which 12 million are children), 28 million suffer from forced labour and 22 million from forced marriages. According to the index, “modern slavery” refers to situations of exploitation that a person cannot refuse because of threats, violence, coercion, deception, or abuses of power.

35. Which sector of the economy is most associated with modern slavery in India according to the Global Slavery Index 2023?

- (a) Textile industry
- (b) Construction industry
- (c) Agriculture industry
- (d) Mining industry

36. Which SDG target aims to end modern slavery by 2030 according to the Global Slavery Index 2023?

- (a) Target 5.2
- (b) Target 8.7
- (c) Target 16.2
- (d) Target 10.7

37. Which of the following statements are correct about the Global Slavery Index 2023?

- A) India has the highest number of people living in modern slavery among the G20 nations.
 - B) India has the highest prevalence of modern slavery among the G20 nations.
 - C) India has the highest vulnerability to modern slavery among the G20 nations.
 - D) India has the highest government response to modern slavery among the G20 nations.
- (a) Only A and C
 - (b) Only C and D
 - (c) Only A, B and D
 - (d) Only B, C and D

38. Which of the following is true about the relationship between modern slavery and COVID-19 according to the Global Slavery Index 2023?

- (a) COVID-19 has reduced the risk of modern slavery by increasing awareness and solidarity among people.
- (b) COVID-19 has increased the risk of modern slavery by disrupting the global economy and social protection systems.
- (c) COVID-19 has no impact on the risk of modern slavery as it is a health issue and not a human rights issue.
- (d) COVID-19 has decreased the risk of modern slavery by creating more opportunities for remote work and education.

39. Which factor was identified as a key driver of modern slavery in the construction industry according to the Global Slavery Index?

- (a) Lack of technological advancement
- (b) Insufficient demand for labor
- (c) Ineffective international policies
- (d) Complex and fragmented supply chains

Passage (Q.40-Q.44): WATER DISPUTE BETWEEN TELANGANA AND ANDHRA PRADESH

Four out of the seven sacred rivers in India have water dispute tribunals in their names, some dating back to 1969. This millennium itself has seen the constitution of four water dispute tribunals. The number of States involved in inter-State River issues is at least 15, more than half of the country's States. In a union of States, where cooperative federalism is the adhesive that binds States together, this situation means only one thing: Successive weak, indecisive Union governments with continuing bad water policies have nurtured water wars that are increasingly getting bitter. Political dynamics have for long kept these water wars simmering, with the situation turning worse of late. Though the Bharatiya Janata Party-led government at the Centre has been strongly pitching for ‘double engine’ governance, on the pretext that issues would be solved amicably if BJP ruled both in the State and at the Centre, ground reality shows it to be a flawed claim. The ongoing stand-off

between Karnataka and Goa over the River Mahadayi (also known as Mhadei) is a classic example of how double-engine governance is just empty rhetoric. To begin with, many States like Tamil Nadu-Karnataka, Telangana-Andhra Pradesh, Telangana-Maharashtra, and Karnataka-Goa are embroiled in disputes over water.

40. What is the overarching goal of "double engine governance"?

- (a) Promoting unilateral decision-making by the central government
- (b) Achieving complete autonomy for state governments
- (c) Enhancing economic growth and development through collaborative efforts
- (d) Creating a competitive environment between state and central governments

41. When was the first Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal established?

- (a) 1954
- (b) 1969
- (c) 1973
- (d) 1985

42. Which of the following statements are incorrect regarding the Krishna River water dispute between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh?

- A) The Brijesh Kumar Tribunal was established to resolve the Krishna River water issue.
 - B) Telangana government demands a 50% share in the 811 tmcft assured waters of the river.
 - C) The Krishna River Management Board allocated water in a 50:50 ratio for the 2022-23 water year.
 - D) The Union government has promptly approved all irrigation projects requested by Telangana.
- (a) Only A and D
 - (b) Only C and D
 - (c) Only B and C
 - (d) Only A, B and C

43. What were the factors contributing to the increased cost of irrigation projects in Telangana?

- (a) Rise in labor costs
- (b) Increase in materials' prices
- (c) Delay in project approvals
- (d) Technological advancements

44. Which of these countries is not involved in a transboundary water conflict over the Mekong River?

- (a) China
- (b) Vietnam
- (c) Thailand
- (d) Brunei

Passage (Q.45-Q.49): JALLIKATTU, KAMBALA CAN GO ON IN TAMIL NADU AND KARNATAKA:

SC

The Supreme Court on Thursday upheld the Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Maharashtra laws allowing the bulltaming sport 'Jallikattu', bull race of Kambala and bullock cart races respectively holding that the amendment to the law by the Tamil Nadu took care of the safety aspects in the conduct of Jallikattu and minimises the pain to bulls. The judgment by a five-judge constitution bench headed by Justice K M Joseph mainly addressed the five questions referred to it by a two-judge bench on February 2, 2018 and the contentions raised by the petitioner challenging the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Act, 2017. Similarly, Karnataka and Maharashtra too had amended the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, to pave the way for the restoration of Kambala and bullock cart races. Having answered the five questions referred to the constitution bench on, by an earlier two-judge bench on February 2, 2018, the five-judge constitution bench while upholding the Tamil Nadu law, said that the same extends to the amended law of Karnataka and Maharashtra. The constitution bench also comprising Justice Ajay Rastogi, Justice Aniruddha Bose, Justice Hrishikesh Roy and Justice C.T. Ravikumar said that the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Act, 2017 by Tamil Nadu substantially minimises pain and suffering to bulls that form part of the bull taming sport of Jallikattu.

45. Which of these terms means 'bull embracing' in Tamil?

- (a) Jallikattu
- (b) Sallikkattu
- (c) Manju virattu
- (d) Eru thazhuvuthal

46. Which of these Supreme Court judges headed the bench that lifted the ban on Jallikattu in 2014?

(a) K.S. Radhakrishnan
(c) Dipak Misra

(b) A.K. Sikri
(d) R.M. Lodha

47. Which of these statements are incorrect regarding the Supreme Court's verdict on Jallikattu, Kambala and bullock-cart racing?

A) The Supreme Court upheld the amendments made by Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Karnataka to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1965.

B) The Supreme Court held that these amendments were a "colourable piece of legislation".

C) The Supreme Court said that Jallikattu has a strong cultural component and deserves protection under Article 29 of the Constitution.

D) The Supreme Court directed that authorities must ensure strict compliance with the laws to protect animals from physical and mental trauma.

(a) Only A and D

(b) Only A, C and D

(c) Only A and B

(d) Only A, B and C

48. What is the primary significance of Kambala, a traditional buffalo racing event celebrated in Karnataka?

(a) Commemorating a historical battle victory

(b) Promoting buffalo breeding

(c) Celebrating agricultural culture and expressing gratitude

(d) Honoring ancient religious deities

49. During British colonial rule in India, how did the British administration view and impact the practice of Jallikattu?

(a) They promoted and supported the practice.

(b) They imposed a ban due to safety concerns.

(c) They integrated Jallikattu into colonial festivities.

(d) They remained indifferent to the practice.

Passage (Q.50-Q.54): WTO: OUTLAWING INDIA'S TECH TARIFFS

The dispute panel of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Monday ruled that India has violated global trade agreements by imposing duties on certain communications and information technology products, and called for India to rectify the situation. The dispute arose because, back in 2019, the European Union took India to the WTO alleging that it had imposed duties on these products in excess of what had been agreed to at an international level. Taiwan and Japan also soon joined the case against India. The judgment by the WTO's panel is 146 pages long and contains significant amounts of technical jargon, but the crux of the matter seems to be a disagreement over what items are included in an international agreement signed in 1996 and to which India became party in 1997. "The European Union challenges the duties applied by India to imports of certain information communication technology (ICT) products, on the ground that such duties are in excess of the relevant tariff bindings set forth in India's WTO Schedule," the WTO's order said. At the centre of the dispute are communications and information technology items that include, among others, telephone, television and recording accessories. To start with, it's important to note that the duties member countries of the WTO impose are linked to a common system of classifying items across countries, called the Harmonized System (HS) developed by the World Customs Organization (WCO).

50. Which article of the GATT did India violate by imposing higher tariffs on certain ICT products?

(a) Article I

(b) Article II

(c) Article III

(d) Article IV

51. Which alternative appellate mechanism did the EU create under the WTO after the Appellate Body ceased to exist?
 (a) MPIA (b) MIAA (c) MIPA (d) MICA
52. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the implications of the WTO panel rulings for India?
 A) India will have to comply with the panel rulings and reduce its tariff rates on ICT products to make them compatible with its Goods Schedule.
 B) India can appeal against the panel rulings, but only if it joins the [x], an alternative appellate mechanism created by the EU and other countries.
 C) India can appeal against the panel rulings, but there is no functioning Appellate Body in the WTO due to the US blocking the appointment of its members.
 D) India will not be required to comply with the panel rulings till its appeal is heard, and the EU cannot impose trade sanctions on India when an appeal is pending.
 (a) Only A, B and C (b) Only C and D
 (c) Only A and C (d) Only B, C and D
53. Which principle of the World Trade Organization (WTO) emphasizes the concept of "Most-Favored-Nation" (MFN) treatment in international trade relations?
 (a) Principle of Non-Discrimination (b) Principle of Reciprocity
 (c) Principle of National Treatment (d) Principle of Market Access
54. Which round of trade negotiations led to the establishment of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and aimed to further liberalize global trade by addressing various trade barriers and creating a more comprehensive and rules-based international trading system?
 (a) Doha Round (b) Tokyo Round
 (c) Uruguay Round (d) Seattle Round.

SECTION – C: LEGAL REASONING

Directions (Q.52-Q.84): Read the comprehension carefully and answer the questions.

Passage (Q.55-Q.59): The Supreme Court **dismissed** petitions challenging the Delhi High Court judgment which upheld the Agnipath scheme for recruitment to the armed forces. Some of the petitioners included candidates who were shortlisted in the earlier recruitment process to Army and Air Force. Advocate Prashant Bhushan who appeared for some of these candidates told the apex court that their names appeared in a provisional list for recruitment to Air Force but the recruitment process was cancelled when Agnipath scheme was notified. He argued that the government must be directed to complete the old process citing the doctrine of promissory estoppel. Bhushan argued that there was written exam, physical test, medical exam conducted under the old recruitment process after which a provisional selection list was published with the ranks. "Thereafter for more than one year, every three months they kept saying that appointment letters were going to be issued, however they were postponed due to Covid-19, in the meantime they did recruitment rallies for the same posts claiming it was for fast-track recruitments to address the demographic imbalance to recruit tribal people, etc". He added that these candidates had got jobs in BSF and other paramilitary organizations, but had refused as they were told that Air Force recruitment letters will be issued. "They didn't say that the issue of letters was being postponed due to Agnipath," he said, adding there was the issue of promissory estoppel.

A claim of doctrine of promissory estoppel essentially prevents a "promisor" from backing out of an agreement on the grounds that there is no "consideration." The doctrine is invoked in court by a

plaintiff (the party moving court in a civil action) against the defendant to ensure execution of a contract or seek compensation for failure to perform the contract. In a 1981 decision in *Chhaganlal Keshavalal Mehta v. Patel Narandas Haribhai*, the SC lists out a checklist for when the doctrine can be applied:

First, there must be a clear and unambiguous promise. Second, the plaintiff must have acted relying reasonably on that promise. Third, the plaintiff must have suffered a loss. Bhushan's argument invoking the doctrine essentially means that the government's actions of putting up a shortlist would be a "promise" made by it. The other party here — the candidates acted based on that promise — they refused other jobs in CRPF, BSF etc and now must be compensated for their loss.

55. According to the *Chhaganlal Keshavalal Mehta v. Patel Narandas Haribhai* decision, what are the conditions that need to be satisfied for the doctrine of promissory estoppel to be applied?

- (a) There must be a clear and unambiguous promise, and the plaintiff must have acted relying unreasonably on that promise.
- (b) There must be a clear and unambiguous promise, and the plaintiff must have acted relying reasonably on that promise and suffered a loss.
- (c) There must be a clear and unambiguous promise, and the plaintiff must have suffered a loss due to the promise.
- (d) There must be a clear and unambiguous promise, and the plaintiff must have acted relying unreasonably on that promise and suffered a loss.

56. Q and Z had agreed to a deal in which Q offered to provide oil to Z at a reduced price every month if Z made an advance payment. Q dealt in five types of oil and was the state's largest wholesaler of oil. Z once offered to buy 25 litres of oil from Q. Q agreed to the same, and as a result, Z struck a deal with a foreign client to ship the same oil to him. However, three days before the delivery of the oil, Q denied making the delivery. Determine whether the principle of promissory estoppel can be applied to the present scenario.

- (a) Considering Z altered his position as a result of Q's promise to deliver the oil, the concept of promissory estoppel can be applied in this situation.
- (b) The concept of promissory estoppel cannot be used since the necessary conditions have not been met.
- (c) In the above scenario, the concept of promissory estoppel can be applied if it can be demonstrated that Z suffered a significant financial loss as a result of Q's incapacity to fulfil his obligations.
- (d) Since Z voluntarily entered into a contract with Q, the principle of promissory estoppel cannot be used in this circumstance.

57. W and Y agreed to a contract in which W would supply curtains to Y in bulk for him to sell in single pieces. W supplied the products on credit to Y because they used to trade in this manner frequently. Y had already promised his regular customer that if he paid in advance, he would give him 50 curtains at 10% discount. After twenty days of dealing with the customer, Y offered to buy 50 curtains from W, but he refused owing to a labour shortage. Y brought a claim against W based on promissory estoppel. Determine whether his complaint in this situation can be upheld.

(a) In this situation, Y's complaint cannot be upheld because he would have purchased the goods from W on credit.

(b) Given that Y had already engaged into a contract with his customer, his complaint can be upheld.

(c) Y's complaint cannot be upheld because he established the contract with his customer before deciding to buy the curtains from W.

(d) Y's complaint will be upheld, and promissory estoppel will be imposed because he suffered a significant loss.

58. R and T had agreed to a deal in which R would supply wheat and rice to T at a subsidized rate and T would supply him with maize and gram at a subsidized rate as well. As a result, T guaranteed his customers a discount on the grains. R, on the other hand, failed to deliver the items on time, but T delivered one week before the deadline. Customers also chose to buy more maize instead of wheat and more grams instead of rice, and all of the grains were sold, resulting in a 20,000 profit for T. He did, however, initiate a complaint against R based on promissory estoppel. Determine the principle's applicability.

(a) Since T sustained no damage as a result of R's delay, the principle of promissory estoppel cannot be applied in this situation.

(b) Considering T voluntarily entered into a contract with R, the principle of promissory estoppel cannot be used in this circumstance.

(c) Given that T had already promised customers subsidized grains, the principle of promissory estoppel can be applied in this situation.

(d) The principle of promissory estoppel can be applied in the given circumstance because the prerequisites have been met.

59. M and N, who were brothers, shared ownership of the grocery store that their father had bequeathed to them in his will. They used to run the store together and split the profits and losses. After a few months, they began to argue and experience trust concerns. M offered N 20 crore rupees in exchange for his moving out of the city and taking the money. N also reserved an apartment in another state and paid the required down payment. M refused to give the money when N requested it. Analyze if the promissory estoppel concept applies and whether N is entitled to any legal redress.

(a) There is no legal recourse because N should not have purchased the flat before receiving the money from M.

(b) N has no legal recourse because he voluntarily got into such an agreement with his brother.

(c) N can use promissory estoppel since he acted on the promise and giving up his stake of the shop would result in a substantial loss.

(d) N can use promissory estoppel because he has already moved to another city with his family based on M's commitment.

Passage (Q.60-Q.64): The Supreme Court held there is no reason to impose additional restrictions on the right to free speech of Ministers, and the government is not vicariously liable for disparaging remarks made by them, even if the comments are traceable to state affairs or meant to protect the government. The essentials of vicarious liability are: (a) there must be a certain type of relation between the parties. (b) The wrongful act must be committed by the employee. (c) The wrongful act must happen during the course of employment.

“A statement by a Minister, even if traceable to any affairs of the state or for protecting the government cannot be attributed vicariously to the government by invoking the principle of collective responsibility,” Justice V. Ramasubramanian held in the main judgment of the Constitution Bench. “It is not possible to extend this concept of collective responsibility to any and every statement orally made by a Minister outside the House of the People/Legislative Assembly. The Prime Minister or the Chief Minister does not have disciplinary control over the members of the Council of Ministers in a country like ours, where there is a multi-party system and where coalition Governments are often formed, it is not possible at all times for a Prime Minister/Chief Minister to take the whip whenever a statement is made by someone in the Council of Ministers,” Justice Ramasubramanian observed. In a separate opinion, Justice Nagarathna differed with the leading judgment on the point, saying a Minister’s statement, if traceable to any affairs of the State or for protecting the government, can be attributed vicariously to the government by invoking the principle of collective responsibility, “so long as such statement represented the view of the government too”. “If such a statement is not consistent with the view of the government, then it is attributable to the Minister personally,” Justice Nagarathna drew the distinction.

60. In the context of the Supreme Court's ruling on the right to free speech of Ministers and the principle of vicarious liability, what are the essentials of vicarious liability that need to be satisfied for the government to be held liable for disparaging remarks made by Ministers?

(a) The wrongful act must be committed by another person, there must be a certain type of relation between the parties, and the wrongful act must happen during the course of employment.

(b) There is a relation between the minister & the government, wrongful act must be committed by minister, the wrongful act must happen during the course of employment, and the statement by the Minister must be consistent with the view of the government.

(c) There must be a certain type of relation between the parties, the wrongful act must happen during the course of employment, and the statement by the Minister must represent the view of the government.

(d) The wrongful act must happen during the course of employment, the statement by the Minister must be consistent with the view of the government, and the wrongful act must be committed by another person.

61. G had recently begun working for PCW Limited as an HR employee. For three years, he was meant to work as the company's employee. He signed a contract for work with the company for the specified time. He had an appointment with his client in another city. He had to take the bus there. He got into a furious dispute with a woman on the bus whose child puked on G's freshly bought clothes. He also didn't bring any extra clothing because the trip was only for one day. He pushed the woman holding the infant out of rage, and both of them were injured by the bus window. They complained against the company about G's behavior. Ascertain if vicarious liability will apply to his actions.

(a) Since G wasn't on the premises of the office, his activities are not subject to vicarious liability.

(b) Since his actions were not authorized by his employer, G will be held completely responsible for them.

(c) G's actions will also hold the company accountable because at the time of the incident, he was on his way to the office.

(d) The company will be held accountable for all of G's actions.

62. V performed gardening duties at W's home. He was required to arrive each day at 10 a.m. and leave the premises by 1 p.m., having given the plants a good watering. He was hit by a motorcycle one day at 2 p.m. while walking home from work, ripping his pants and leaving a scar on his right leg. He immediately grabbed some nearby stones and began tossing them at the biker. The biker experienced serious back injuries. He sued W for vicariously liable when he learned that V was employed as a gardener at W's residence. Using the passage as an outline, determine the suit's legality.

- (a) Given that V was an employee of W, who is now accountable for all of V's actions, the lawsuit will be upheld as legitimate.
- (b) V was on his way back home from work when the incident happened; hence the lawsuit cannot be upheld.
- (c) Since V was not given permission by W to throw stones at anyone, the lawsuit cannot be upheld.
- (d) Since the conditions for vicarious liability have been met in the specific circumstance, the lawsuit will be deemed legitimate.

63. In the Shanti Niketan residence, T held a position as an electrician. Between the hours of nine in the morning and five at night, he worked there. He used to fix cables and connections for additional money after his shift as a freelance electrician. Similarly, K called him one day after his shift at 6 p.m. to fix his geyser as he was heading home. T quickly fixed it because he had to go to a wedding that same evening. K experienced a shock the following morning when he used the geyser. Due to the fact that T was working for the society administration, he held them accountable for this. Share your opinions on the society administration's liability.

- (a) Given that the incident occurred while they employed him, the society administration will be held accountable.
- (b) T's salary was paid by the society administration, so they will be held accountable.
- (c) Since T quickly replaced the cables, the society's administration is not responsible.
- (d) Since the vicarious liability requirements have not been met, the society administration shall not be held accountable.

64. A member of the Council of Ministers was F. The Chief Minister after a detailed discussion with the ministers proposed the Council of Ministers to make a specific argument on the reservation status of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes at one of the Parliamentary sessions. F said something negative about them. The scheduled tribe people took offense at the conversation when it was broadcast on television and held the government of that state accountable for it. The vicarious liability concept cannot be applied in this situation, the government said, because F made the comment in his personal capacity. Considering Justice Nagarathna's stance, provide your thoughts on the government's position.

- (a) Due to the fact that F made the comment in his personal capacity, the Government's claims will be upheld.
- (b) Since F was advised by the Chief Minister to speak in this way, the Government's claims cannot be upheld.
- (c) Since the Government cannot be held accountable for all of the Ministers' comments, its claims must be upheld.

(d) To determine the Government's responsibility in the mentioned situation, there is not enough information in the passage.

Passage (Q.65-Q.69): The right to change one's name or surname is a part of the right to life under Article 21, the High Courts of Allahabad and Delhi recently said.

Observing that the authorities had arbitrarily rejected the application for a change of name, the Allahabad HC in its ruling said that the action of the authorities violated the fundamental rights of the petitioner guaranteed under Article 19(1)(a), Article 21, and Article 14 of the Constitution.

The Delhi HC in its ruling noted that the father had decided to change his surname "in order to overcome the social stigma and the disadvantage faced" by his sons and that CBSE's denial to carry out the requisite change in the certificates was "totally unjustified".

In both the Delhi and Allahabad High Court cases, a common thread of Article 21 was found running.

The court also said that "There is no denying the fact that the Right to Life includes within its ambit, the Right to Live with Dignity," which includes "not to be tied down by any casteism" faced by a person due to the caste to which he or she belongs.

Although the right to change or keep one's name is a fundamental right "by virtue of Article 19(1)(a) and Article 21", it is not an absolute right and is subject to various reasonable restrictions. However, the restrictions imposed by law on fundamental rights have to be fair, just, and reasonable.

The procedure for the deprivation of such rights must be fair, just, and reasonable. The court also highlighted the principle of proportionality as an "essential facet of the guarantee against arbitrary state action," since it ensures that the nature and quality of the right's encroachment are not disproportionate to the law's purpose.

65. Riya, a talented and hardworking student, applied for admission to a prestigious university. However, the university denied her admission solely based on her physical disability, claiming that it would adversely affect the institution's reputation. Riya strongly believes that this decision violates her Right to Life with Dignity. She believes that her merit and her dedication should be the only consideration in deciding her admission and it is arbitrary and discriminatory to make her handicap a factor. Which of the following statements is most accurate regarding Riya's situation?

- (a) The university's decision is justified as physical disability may hinder academic performance.
- (b) Riya's Right to Life with Dignity has been violated, and she can challenge the university's decision.
- (c) Riya's Right to Life with Dignity is irrelevant in this case as it only pertains to basic needs.
- (d) Riya's Right to Life with Dignity has not been violated since the university is not practicing discrimination.

66. Rahul, a law-abiding citizen, was accused of committing a serious offense. During the trial, he was provided with a fair and impartial hearing, where he had the opportunity to present his case and defend himself. Just like any other accused, in order to prove his innocence Rahul had to go through a criminal trial. As an undertrial, Rahul also spent some time in prison. The trial lasted for over two years and during this time, Rahul was always anxious and stressed. The court, after carefully examining the evidence and hearing arguments from both sides, found Rahul to not be

guilty and acquitted him. Rahul believes that the difficult trial procedure severely curtailed his ability to live and enjoy his life peacefully. In this scenario, which of the following statements is most accurate regarding the application of the Right to Life with Dignity?

- (a) Rahul's Right to Live with Dignity has been violated because he was subject to a long and difficult trial
- (b) Rahul's Right to Live with Dignity has not been violated because he was ultimately acquitted by the court
- (c) Rahul's Right to Live with Dignity has not been violated because he was given a just and fair opportunity to defend himself
- (d) Rahul's Right to Live with Dignity has been violated because the trial procedure was unreasonable and difficult

67. Deepa, a law-abiding citizen, was arrested by the police on suspicion of theft. One day, when she was walking back home from college, a police van came out of nowhere and arrested her by putting handcuffs around her wrists. However, the police did not inform Deepa of the reason for her arrest, denied her access to legal counsel, and subjected her to physical and psychological abuse during interrogation. Deepa was subsequently convicted and sentenced to imprisonment based on the evidence obtained through these unfair practices. In this scenario, which of the following statements is most accurate regarding the application of the Right to Life with Dignity?

- (a) Deepa's Right to Life with Dignity has been violated because there was an unfair procedure adopted in her conviction
- (b) Deepa's Right to Life with Dignity has been violated but it is not unfair because there was a valid and just procedure adopted in her conviction
- (c) Deepa's Right to Life with Dignity has not been violated because there was a valid and just procedure adopted in her conviction
- (d) Deepa's Right to Life with Dignity has not been violated at all

68. Rajesh, a resident of a slum, received a notice from the local authorities informing him that his slum settlement would be demolished to make way for a new commercial complex to create residential and business spaces. The notice provided a very short timeframe for the eviction and offered inadequate compensation for relocation. In fact, overnight the slum residents were asked to pack their belongings, without any promise or hope of new shelter. Rajesh, along with the other affected residents, protested against the unreasonable eviction, arguing that it would deprive them of their right to life and livelihood. However, despite their protests, the local authorities forcefully evicted the residents and demolished the slum. In this scenario, which of the following statements is most accurate?

- (a) The eviction and demolition were necessary for the development of the commercial complex, and the residents' right to life was not significantly affected.
- (b) The local authorities' actions were proportionate to the encroachment on the residents' right to life, and the procedure followed was fair and just.
- (c) The actions taken by the local authorities to encroach upon the residents' right to life were disproportionate in nature.

(d) The residents' right to life was not affected by the eviction and demolition as they were provided with compensation for relocation.

69. The government of a state passed a law prohibiting the use of plastic bags to address environmental concerns and promote sustainable practices. In accordance with the law, the government conducted surprise raids on various shops and establishments, confiscating all plastic bags found on the premises. During one such raid, a small stationary shop was targeted, and all its plastic bags were seized. The shop owner, Mr. Kumar, argued that the actions of the state were disproportionate to the aim of the law and violated his right to carry out his business. On this basis, choose the correct statement on the basis of application of the principle of proportionality of the state's actions.

(a) The state's actions were proportionate to the aim of the law, and Mr. Kumar's right to carry out his business was not significantly affected.

(b) The state's actions were disproportionate to the aim of the law, and Mr. Kumar's right to carry out his business was unjustifiably infringed.

(c) The state's actions were necessary to enforce the law, and Mr. Kumar's right to carry out his business was secondary to the environmental concerns.

(d) The state's actions were not proportionate as the law explicitly prohibits the use of plastic bags, regardless of the impact on Mr. Kumar's business.

Passage (Q.70-Q.74): Section 87 lays down, Act not intended and not known to be likely to cause death or grievous hurt, done by consent.—Nothing which is not intended to cause death, or grievous hurt, and which is not known by the doer to be likely to cause death or grievous hurt, is an offence by reason of any harm which it may cause, or be intended by the doer to cause, to any person, above eighteen years of age, who has given consent, whether express or implied, to suffer that harm; or by reason of any harm which it may be known by the doer to be likely to cause to any such person who has consented to take the risk of that harm.

Section 88 states for any action which is been performed with good faith for a person's benefit with his consent (expresses or implied) and which is not likely to cause death or grievous hurt then such performance of the act will not be construed as an offence, if the act causes or is likely to cause harm to person.

Section 89 lays down that any act performed by a person and which is likely to harm or which can cause harm to a child who is under the age of 12 years or is an insane person, done with the consent (express or implied) of the guardian or with good faith or for the benefit of the child or for insane person, then it won't be constituted as offence.

Section 92 lays down that any act performed which is done without the consent provided then the performance of that specific act is of good faith or for the benefit of the person and the person for whom such act is beingdone is either unable to understand or is incapable to give consent or it is not possible to take the consent from the guardian of such person in question.

Section 93 states that no communication made in good faith is an offence by reason of any harm to the person to whom it is made, if it is made for the benefit of that person.

70. In a small college town, a party is held at a local fraternity house. Leena, a 21-year-old college student, attends the party with her friends. At the party, Leena meets Rahul, also a 21-year-old student from a different college, and they start talking and flirting. As the night progresses, Rahul

becomes increasingly flirtatious and suggests going upstairs to the terrace. Leena agrees to go with him. He then pulls her forcibly to a private room. Rahul appears to be actively participating in the activities. Leena is reluctant but he puts some pill in her mouth and she loses consciousness. The following morning, Leena wakes up feeling unsure about the events of the previous night and the actions of Rahul have caused her several injuries which led her to undergo hospitalization for twenty days. She files an action regarding sexual assault and grievous hurt against Rahul. Will she succeed?

- (a) No, because there was consent of Leena obtained for the grievous hurt.
- (b) Yes, because there was forceful sexual act committed with intention.
- (c) No, because requirements of Section 87 are met.
- (d) Yes, because there was no consent present.

71. Two longtime friends, Mukesh and Suresh, have a history of engaging in playful physical confrontations. They often engage in mock wrestling matches and light sparring, and it has always been consensual and good-natured. They have never seriously harmed each other in the past. One evening, after a casual gathering at a local bar, Mukesh and Suresh, both in their late 20s, head back to Suresh's house. They continue their friendly banter, and their playful mood escalates into a boxing match in the living room. Both are laughing and enjoying the activity, believing it to be harmless fun, as it always had been in the past. However, during the "boxing match," Suresh throws a punch that unexpectedly connects with Mukesh's face, causing him to fall backward and hit his head on the corner of a coffee table. The impact results in a severe head injury, leaving Mukesh unconscious and bleeding. He is hospitalized for twenty five days. Will Suresh be able to claim the defence of consent in an action for grievous hurt?

- (a) Yes, because there was consent of Mukesh obtained.
- (b) No, because the consent was not with knowledge of causing death.
- (c) Yes, because Section 87 provides for defence of consent in crimes not intended to cause death or grievous hurt.
- (d) No, because the consent was not with intent to cause grievous hurt.

72. A medical emergency unfolds involving a thirteen-year-old child named Misha. Misha suffers from a severe and rare heart condition that has worsened over time. Her condition necessitates immediate surgical intervention to save her life. Misha's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Verma, are deeply concerned about their daughter's health and wellbeing. They have sought medical advice from various specialists and have been informed that Misha urgently needs a complex heart surgery to correct the life-threatening condition. The medical team explains the seriousness of the situation to Misha's parents, outlining the risks and potential benefits of the surgery. They stress that without the operation, Misha's condition will deteriorate rapidly, leading to significant harm or even death. However, the surgery itself is not without risks, and there is no guarantee of a complete recovery. Given the gravity of the situation, Misha's parents are not willing to give the consent to the surgery. Moreover, Misha too was not able to give her consent. Medical team recognizing that it is the best chance for misha to survive and lead a healthy life.the medical team performs the operation on misha. Misha does not survive. The parents take criminal action against the medical team. However, the medical team claims it to be an act done in good faith. Is this defence valid?

- (a) It is valid because the requirements of section 92 are met.

- (b) It is not valid because the criterion of child is met.
- (c) It is valid because the consent of the guardian was taken.
- (d) It is not valid because the criterion of age is not met.

73. Mitesh, a surgeon, in good faith, communicates to a patient his opinion that he cannot live after perusing a medical report. The patient dies in consequence of the shock. Can Mitesh be held liable?

- (a) Yes, because the patient did not consent to the communication.
- (b) No, because the communication was made without any malicious intention.
- (c) Yes, because the doctor had a duty of care towards the patient.
- (d) No, because communication in good faith is not an offence.

74. Himesh, a surgeon, knowing that a particular operation is likely to cause the death of Lomesh, who suffers under the painful complaint, but not meaning to cause Lomesh's death, and wanting, in good faith, Lomesh's benefit, performs that operation on Lomesh, with Lomesh's consent. Will Himesh be liable if Lomesh does not survive?

- (a) Yes, because Himesh intentionally murdered Lomesh.
- (b) No, because Himesh was intoxicated while performing the operation.
- (c) Yes, because Himesh caused culpable homicide not amounting to murder.
- (d) No, because Himesh did not intend to cause the death of Lomesh.

Passage (Q.75-Q.79): India is a diverse country, home to many languages, cultures, customs and religions. To protect an individual's right to practice his/her own religion, personal laws were enacted like Hindu Marriage Act 1955, the Indian Christian Marriage Act 1872, Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937 and the Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act 1936 for solemnization of Marriage and other related matters. Though these acts allow a person to get married by his own customs but how would an inter-religion be solemnized and how do these marriages be registered and recognized before government. Therefore, Special Marriage Act 1954 was enacted to provide a special form of marriage in these cases and for the registration of such and certain other marriages and for divorce. Divorce under the Special Marriage Act, 1954, a piece of legislation in India, is a legal procedure that allows couples to formally end their marriage. The Act applies to all Indian citizens irrespective of their religion and allows for marriage and divorce between individuals from different religions. The 'ingredients' or grounds for divorce under the Act include:

- Adultery: The petitioner can seek divorce if the spouse has had voluntary sexual intercourse with another person after the solemnization of the marriage.
- Desertion: If the spouse has deserted the petitioner for a continuous period of at least two years immediately preceding the presentation of the petition, divorce can be sought.
- Cruelty: If the spouse has treated the petitioner with such cruelty as to cause a reasonable apprehension in the petitioner's mind that it would be harmful or injurious for the petitioner to live with the spouse, it provides grounds for divorce.
- Insanity: If the spouse has been incurably of unsound mind, or has been suffering continuously or intermittently from a mental disorder of such a kind and to such an extent that the petitioner cannot reasonably be expected to live with the spouse.
- Renunciation: If the spouse has renounced the world by entering any religious order.

· Not heard of being alive: If the spouse has not been heard of as being alive for a period of seven years or more by those persons who would naturally have heard of the spouse had they been alive.

However, there are certain exceptions or conditions. For instance, a divorce petition cannot be presented within the first year of marriage except in cases of extreme cruelty, rape, sodomy, or bestiality. Further, if the parties have not been living together for at least one year before the filing of the petition, the court may not entertain the petition.

Moreover, under Section 28 of the Act, if a divorce is granted and no appeal against the decree has been presented by either party to the marriage within the appeal period, the decree becomes final.

75. In 2024, Rahul, an IT professional, discovered that his wife, Zoya, had an extramarital affair while he was away on a work assignment. He obtained evidence of her voluntary sexual intercourse with another person after they got married under the Special Marriage Act. Rahul decided to file for divorce on the grounds of adultery. Zoya, however, contends that Rahul's continuous absence and emotional neglect forced her into the affair. Is Rahul likely to succeed in his divorce petition?

(a) Yes, because Zoya's voluntary sexual intercourse with another person after the solemnization of the marriage

constitutes adultery, which is a ground for divorce under the Special Marriage Act.

(b) No, because Rahul's continuous absence and emotional neglect drove Zoya to have an affair.

(c) Yes, because Rahul has concrete evidence of Zoya's extramarital affair.

(d) No, because Zoya's emotional needs were not met in their marriage.

76. In 2024, Robert discovered his wife, Sunita, was abusive and exhibited extreme cruelty just three months after their marriage under the Special Marriage Act. Distressed and traumatized, Robert decided to file for divorce. However, Sunita argued that as per the Special Marriage Act, a divorce petition cannot be presented within the first year of marriage. Is Robert likely to succeed in his divorce petition?

(a) Yes, because the extreme cruelty exhibited by Sunita is an exception to the rule that a divorce petition cannot be presented within the first year of marriage under the Special Marriage Act.

(b) No, because the Special Marriage Act states that a divorce petition cannot be presented within the first year of marriage.

(c) Yes, because Robert has suffered emotional trauma due to Sunita's extreme cruelty.

(d) No, because the exception of extreme cruelty must be accompanied by physical evidence to validate Robert's claim.

77. In 2024, Arjun and Preeti were married under the Special Marriage Act in Maharashtra, India. After six years of marriage, Preeti decided to move to another city for work, and she has not returned home or contacted Arjun for the past two and a half years. Arjun made multiple attempts to contact her but to no avail. Feeling abandoned and distressed, Arjun is considering filing for divorce. Can Arjun legally file for divorce under the terms of desertion?

(a) Yes, Arjun can file for divorce because Preeti has deserted him for a continuous period of over two years.

(b) No, Arjun cannot file for divorce because Preeti might have a valid reason for not returning home or contacting him.

(c) Yes, Arjun can file for divorce because Preeti moved to another city for work, effectively leaving him.

(d) No, Arjun cannot file for divorce because it is not proven that Preeti intended to desert him.

78. In 2026, Charles was granted a divorce from his wife, Linda, under the Special Marriage Act. However, Linda did not agree with the court's decision and wished to appeal. After 40 days from the divorce decree, Linda consulted her lawyer to file an appeal, only to find out that the appeal window period had lapsed, and the decree had become final. Considering the fact that stipulated time for filing the appeal was 3 days, Does Linda have any chance of overturning the divorce decree?

(a) Yes, because Linda has the right to file an appeal even after the prescribed period has elapsed.

(b) No, because according to Section 28 of the Special Marriage Act, if no appeal has been made within the stipulated period, the decree becomes final.

(c) Yes, because Linda was not aware of the prescribed appeal period.

(d) Yes, because Linda's lack of knowledge does not affect the provisions of Section 28 of the Special Marriage Act.

79. Amit and Priya were married under the Special Marriage Act in 2015. After a few months of marriage, Priya's behavior changed drastically. She started making baseless accusations against Amit, alleging infidelity and fraud, in front of their friends and family. This caused immense mental distress to Amit. Despite seeking help from professionals and intervention from both families, her behavior remained unchanged. After five years of enduring Priya's behavior, Amit is considering filing for divorce on the grounds of mental cruelty. Can Amit legally file for divorce under the grounds of mental cruelty?

(a) Yes, Amit can file for divorce because the mental distress caused by Priya's allegations makes it ground for mental cruelty..

(b) No, Amit cannot file for divorce because it is not mental cruelty as mental cruelty is subjective and can vary from person to person.

(c) Yes, Amit can file for divorce because he has sought help from professionals and intervention from families, proving the gravity of the situation.

(d) No, Amit cannot file for divorce because he has not provided any physical evidence of Priya's behavior.

Passage (Q.80-Q.84): A three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court clarified that a person who “is or continues to be” even a “mere member” of a banned organization is liable to be found criminally liable under the draconian Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) for acting against the sovereignty and integrity of India. An organization is declared unlawful and banned only after the Centre is satisfied that it is indulging in unlawful activities against the sovereignty and integrity of India. The declaration of an organization or association as unlawful is publicly notified by the Centre under Section 3 of the UAPA. This naturally leads to the conclusion that every member of the organization would know about the ban, the court reasoned. But a person choosing to continue as a member despite knowing about the ban is acting against the sovereignty of the nation, the court noted. It shows a conscious decision to remain a member despite the association being declared unlawful, Justice Shah observed. Such a person cannot later claim that the law has a chilling effect on his fundamental right of association by imposing criminal liability on him, Justice Shah

explained. The judgment referred to Section 10(a) (i) of the UAPA which deals with membership of an unlawful association. The provision says that “where an association is declared unlawful by a notification issued under Section 3 which has become effective under sub-section (3) of that section,—(a) a person, who—(i) is and continues to be a member of such association shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, and shall also be liable to fine”. The court clarified that persons who had left the organization and were not members at the time it was declared unlawful, cannot be held liable under Section 10(a) (i) of the UAPA. The court said Section 10(a) (i) was fully consonant with the objective of the UAPA to effectively prevent terrorism and unlawful activities. “To punish a person who is a member of such an unlawful association is in furtherance of the objective of effective prevention of unlawful incidents,” Justice Shah observed. The court referred to Article 19(4), which mandated that the citizens’ right to form unions or associations was subject to the power of the state to make laws to impose “reasonable restrictions” in the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India or public order or morality.

80. T worked with the MQ organization from 2010 until 2018. He had to leave the organization due to personal issues and ill health. However, in 2019, the organization was declared unlawful. The organization's members were given six weeks to disband the organization and cease all activities. Some of them followed the ban, while others were unconcerned. Finally, in 2020, all of its members who remained associated with the organization were held accountable under Section 10(a) of the legislation, along with T. Read the passage closely and decide whether the Court's action was appropriate in the given case.

(a) The court failed in its decision because it did not allow the members enough time to disband their organization.

(b) The court made the right decision because, according to Section 10 (i), anyone who continues to be a member after knowing about the ban is violating the nation's sovereignty and must be held accountable.

(c) The court did not issue a correct judgement because it was not authorized to impose liability on T due to his prior disassociation from the organization.

(d) The court made the right decision because members who are still associated with a banned organization must be held accountable.

81. The organization was founded in 2015 and was currently in existence. However, it was found illegal in 2020 and was subsequently banned. The notice of the ban was made public by the government. 13 of the organization's 20 members quit after learning about the prohibition. However, the organization's head forced W to remain a member because he was the oldest member and should not leave the organization in such difficult times. As a result, two months after the ban was declared, all of the remaining members, together with W, were charged under Section 10 (i) of the Act. Determine whether W has any recourse.

(a) W has no remedy at his recourse because he remained a member of the organization even after it was pronounced illegal.

(b) W can claim that he was threatened by the organization's head and was forced to remain a member.

(c) W has little recourse because he was given enough time to leave the organization.

(d) W has a remedy if he can demonstrate that he did not continue in the organization willingly.

82. Based on the given passage, which of the following statements accurately reflects the Supreme Court's interpretation of Section 10(a) (i) of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) regarding the liability of individuals associated with a banned organization?

- (a) Individuals who were former members of a banned organization at the time when it was declared unlawful can be held liable under the UAPA.
- (b) Individuals who are still members of a banned organization, despite knowing about the ban, can be held criminally liable under the UAPA.
- (c) The UAPA does not impose any criminal liability on individuals associated with a banned organization.
- (d) The Supreme Court has declared Section 10(a) (i) of the UAPA unconstitutional and void.

83. V was eager to start an organization that would take action against sexual harassment against women. As a result, she founded an organization with 20 female members. However, the government was opposed to the group since it would unnecessarily cause turmoil and hence proclaimed such an organization illegal under UAPA. V, on the other hand, believed in the potential of her organization and hence kept it functioning. As a result, all of the organization's members were held accountable under Section 10 (i) of the Act. Determine whether the decision to hold them accountable was sound.

- (a) V and her organization were appropriately held accountable since they continued to operate long after it was declared illegal.
- (b) V and her organization were held unreasonably accountable despite the fact that they did not jeopardize the country's integrity or sovereignty.
- (c) V and her organization should not have been held accountable because they were not given enough time to cease the operation.
- (d) V and her organization should be held accountable as a deterrent to other such organizations.

84. K was the leader of the organization that the government deemed illegal in 2018. Its prohibition was announced in the official Gazette. 90% of its members dropped out after receiving the warning. However, K and a few other members kept their membership. When the government learned about the organization's operations seven months after it was proclaimed illegal, it was agreed to charge K and the remaining members. K claimed that he was not officially informed of the ban and hence was unaware of it, and thus should not be held guilty under the Act. Determine the legitimacy of K's defence.

- (a) K's defence would be rejected since he should have ceased operations of the organization within six months of receiving the official notice.
- (b) K's defence would be accepted because he received no official notice of the ban despite being the organization's leader.
- (c) K's defence would be rejected because an official public notice had already been issued, which he should have been aware of, just like the other members who resigned.
- (d) K's defence will be held accountable if he can demonstrate that he was truly unaware of the ban.

SECTION D: LOGICAL REASONING

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

Direction (Q.85 – Q.90): By urging strong action against anti-India elements, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has emphatically stated his position to his British counterpart, Rishi Sunak. This was the first interaction between the two heads of government after the vandalism of the Indian High Commission in London. The teleconversation underlines two points. First, our government is extremely concerned about the attempted resurgence of Khalistani militancy. It is a well-known fact that the nefarious attempt to revive the militancy is meticulously planned by the forces inimical to our national interest; these include a microscopic minority of Sikhs who want the wounds of the 1980s and early 1990s to fester and Pakistan's deep state. It may be recalled that Khalistanis have much wider support in the UK and Canada as opposed to little support they receive in India. Therefore, it is imperative for New Delhi to convince London and Ottawa that these elements are not handled with kid gloves, especially when they indulge in violent activities. Like the vandalism of the Indian High Commission in London. And the bombing of Air India Flight 182, named after Emperor Kanishka, on June 23, 1985, in which all 329 people aboard were killed. They included 268 Canadian citizens, 27 British citizens, and 24 Indian citizens. Sunak reportedly conveyed to Modi that the UK considers the attack on the Indian High Commission "totally unacceptable." He also assured Modi of the security of the Indian Mission and its personnel. This brings to the second point: security of the Indian High Commission—indeed even of our national interest—was not very high on the agenda of the British Government. Otherwise, Sunak would not have stated the obvious: it is the responsibility of every nation to ensure security of embassies and high commissions of other nations.

It looks like India's decision to go slow on the talks on a free trade agreement (FTA) with the UK did wake up the authorities in London. It was a mature reaction from the Ministry of External Affairs (though all reactions from the Indian side were not, certainly not the decision by the local authorities in New Delhi to build a public toilet near the British High Commissioner's residence. The UK government opposed this on security grounds). The two Prime Ministers also reviewed the progress on several bilateral issues as part of the India-UK Roadmap 2030, particularly in trade and economic sectors. They were satisfied with the ongoing exchanges between officials and growing cooperation. Hopefully, these will gather momentum. On the Indian side, the Government should ensure that there are no flare-ups in sentimentalism, phony demands like apology for Jallianwala Bagh massacre, return of Kohinoor diamond, and reparations for the colonial look. The past is dead; let it remain buried. India and the UK must look at the future and at the possibilities of bilateral cooperation that it holds for both nations.

85. What is the main conclusion of the passage regarding India and the UK's interaction?

- (a) The primary focus of the interaction was to demand an apology for historical events such as the Jallianwala Bagh massacre and the return of the Kohinoor diamond.
- (b) The interaction was solely about trade negotiations between the two countries and had no connection to the security of the Indian High Commission in London.
- (c) Both countries should work together in tackling anti-India elements, particularly Khalistani militancy, and focus on enhancing bilateral cooperation for mutual benefit in the future.
- (d) The interaction highlighted that the UK government is already taking appropriate measures to handle the resurgence of Khalistani militancy, requiring no further action from India.

86. Which piece of external evidence would strengthen the author's argument regarding the importance of India and the UK working together to tackle anti-India elements?

- (a) A report showing that historical disputes, like the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, have no impact on current bilateral relations between India and the UK.
- (b) A study indicating that increased trade between India and the UK has led to a significant reduction in anti-India sentiments in the UK.
- (c) An analysis revealing that Khalistani militancy has been gaining traction in the UK and Canada, posing a direct threat to India's national interests.
- (d) A survey demonstrating that the majority of UK citizens are unaware of the existence of Khalistani militancy and its potential impact on India.

87. Based on the passage, how should India and the UK approach their bilateral relationship to effectively address

the issue of anti-India elements?

- (a) India should demand an apology for historical events and the return of the Kohinoor diamond to establish a stronger relationship with the UK.
- (b) Both countries should focus solely on trade and economic cooperation, disregarding any security concerns related to the Indian High Commission in London.
- (c) India and the UK should prioritize addressing historical grievances and cultural differences over contemporary security and economic issues.
- (d) Both countries should work collaboratively to address the threat of Khalistani militancy and enhance bilateral cooperation in trade and economic sectors.

88. Based on the passage, what can be inferred about the Indian government's stance on anti-India elements in the UK and Canada?

- (a) The Indian government considers anti-India elements in the UK and Canada as insignificant and unrelated to national security.
- (b) The Indian government is more concerned about historical disputes and cultural differences than anti-India elements abroad.
- (c) The Indian government wants foreign governments to take strong action against anti-India elements, especially when they engage in violent activities.
- (d) The Indian government believes that economic cooperation with the UK and Canada should be prioritized over addressing anti-India elements.

89. Which of the following would the author of the passage most likely disagree with?

- (a) India should prioritize focusing on bilateral cooperation in trade and economic sectors with the UK.
- (b) Addressing historical grievances is a necessary prerequisite for India and the UK to effectively collaborate on contemporary issues.
- (c) Strong action against anti-India elements by foreign governments is vital to ensure national security for India.
- (d) Ensuring the security of the Indian High Commission in London is an important responsibility for the British government.

90. Which of the following could potentially weaken the author's argument in the passage?

- (a) India's national interests can be harmed by Khalistani militancy only when it has huge support from local people.
- (b) India and the UK have a long history of successful collaboration on trade and economic issues.
- (c) The issue of attempts to revive Khalistani Militancy crops up right before every general election since 1990.
- (d) Addressing historical grievances is crucial for India and the UK to maintain a strong relationship.

Direction (Q.91 – Q.96): The pace of price rise faced by Indian consumers eased below the central bank's upper tolerance threshold of 6% in March. The 5.66% retail inflation level recorded in March was last seen in December 2021. That was followed by a sustained spell of high inflation that escalated after the Russia-Ukraine conflict that began in February 2022, and peaked at an eight-year high of 7.8% in April. Including last November and December, March marks only the third occasion in 15 months when inflation was within the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) mandated tolerance range of 2% to 6%. The RBI, which had to send an explanation to the government on why the target was missed for three successive quarters — for the first time since the inflation targeting framework was introduced — hit a pause on interest rates this month after a streak of hikes. It now expects inflation to average 5.2% in 2023-24 (lower than the 5.3% it projected in February). As it stands, the average inflation between January and March has turned out to be 6.21%, far higher than the RBI's February projection of 5.9%. For the full year gone by, inflation averaged 6.66% vis-à-vis the 6.5% the RBI expected.

The central bank and the government may now be sanguine about headline inflation staying below 6%, but that is in no small measure due to the statistical effects of higher numbers from the previous year's base. In the April to June quarter, the RBI expects inflation to average 5.1%, up from 5% predicted two months ago — the same quarter had clocked a mean inflation of 7.28% in 2022. While the pace of price rise may slow down, prices are still rising at a fairly significant clip, on top of price hikes effected in the past year. There is no medium-term reversal likely in amounts people shell out for most goods and services, barring seasonally triggered changes in items such as vegetables. In fact, excluding vegetables whose prices have been falling year-on-year since November 2022, the inflation faced by consumers in March was still 6.6%. Imported inflation fell to its lowest level since November 2019 at 2.8%, which means domestic factors are still spurring prices around 6%. Fresh global shocks from oil prices and other unknowns may cause imported inflation to spike again. With cereal, spices and milk prices on the boil and worries about crop losses due to recent unseasonal precipitation (as well as fears of El Niño effects this year), food prices may continue to pinch households. There is no room to let the guard down on inflation, even if propping up growth is the priority. Squeezed consumption is hardly going to inspire investment.

91. Based on the passage, which of the following inferences can be most accurately drawn about the potential future of inflation in India?

- (a) The Reserve Bank of India will be more likely to implement a series of interest rate hikes in the coming months to combat the high inflation.
- (b) The current trend of inflation suggests that India will soon experience a substantial decrease in the cost of goods and services across the board.

(c) There is a high probability that the pace of price rise will continue at a significant rate, with potential risks from global shocks and domestic factors.

(d) The Indian government is unconcerned about the inflation rate and will not prioritize addressing the issue in the near future.

92. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the author's argument that there is no room to let the guard down on inflation in India?

(a) The Indian government announces comprehensive policy measures to curb inflation, including subsidies and price controls.

(b) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reveals a new forecast of a significant decrease in inflation over the next few months.

(c) A survey shows that the majority of Indian consumers are not significantly affected by the current inflation rate.

(d) The global economy experiences a sudden and unexpected downturn, resulting in lower demand for goods and services.

93. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the author's argument that there is no room to let the guard down on inflation in India?

(a) The Indian government announces a significant increment in public spending and tax cuts to help people endure inflation.

(b) A new report reveals that the inflationary pressures in India are mainly driven by short-term, seasonal factors.

(c) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announces that their inflation projections for the coming year remain unchanged.

(d) A global shortage of key commodities exacerbates inflationary pressures and further impacts India's economy.

94. Which of the following is the author most likely to disagree with?

(a) Inflationary pressures in India are primarily driven by seasonal factors and short-term fluctuations.

(b) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) should remain vigilant in monitoring inflation rates.

(c) Imported inflation plays a significant role in India's overall inflation.

(d) Sustained high inflation has a negative impact on consumer spending and investment.

95. Which of the following can be concluded from the information present in the passage?

(a) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has consistently underestimated inflation rates in the past year.

(b) The India's retail inflation has been steadily declining since December 2021.

(c) India's inflation rates are solely influenced by domestic factors and not impacted by global events.

(d) The statistical effects of higher numbers from the previous year's base play a significant role in the current inflation figures.

96. Which among the following best represents a flaw, if any, in the author's arguments?

- (a) The author assumes that the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) projections are always accurate.
- (b) The author fails to account for the potential positive impact of government policies on inflation.
- (c) The author relies too heavily on the statistical effects of higher numbers from the previous year's base.
- (d) The author does not acknowledge the impact of seasonal fluctuations on the inflation rate.

Direction (Q.97 – Q.102): The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast a normal southwest monsoon, with aggregate rainfall for the country at 96 per cent of the historical long-period average over June-September. The prognosis — rainfall within 96-104 per cent of the average is considered “normal” — assumes El Niño occurring only towards the second half of the season. But the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s latest alert predicts the phenomenon to develop by May-July. That would be in the first half itself. The IMD is basically counting on El Niño’s impact being neutralised by “positive” Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) conditions developing during the season. To the extent a positive IOD — warmer temperatures in the Arabian Sea waters relative to that in the eastern Indian Ocean — cancels a weak El Niño, as it happened in 2006, the monsoon could well turn out “normal”.

However, these are early days. A clearer picture, including of El Niño and IOD, would emerge by end-May, when the IMD will also issue its second-stage forecast. It’s advisable for both the Centre and state governments to assume a sub-normal monsoon this time. The statistical probability of that is itself high, given the four consecutive years of good monsoons and overall rainfall from 2019 to 2022. The time between now and the start of the season should be used for contingency planning that factors in different scenarios — from the monsoon’s delayed onset to its failure in the second half. Thankfully, global food and fertiliser prices aren’t on fire, unlike a year ago. Government wheat stocks, at 8.35 million tonnes (mt) on April 1, are at a six-year-low and a tad above the minimum required 7.46 mt for this date. But with rice stocks at 43.38 mt, more than thrice the normative level, the situation is manageable.

The government must, to start with, keep a close watch on wheat procurement. If that is low, indicative of significant crop damage from the recent unseasonal rains, it should lose no time in allowing imports. While building adequate public stocks of rice, wheat or pulses is prudent from a supply-side management standpoint, the same purpose is achieved by keeping duties low for the private trade to also import. A regime of low import duties with no export bans or restrictions is preferable for all time; that general rule should apply no less in times of shortages, whether current or anticipated. Sophisticated weather models, proactive trade policy and improved irrigation, transport and other infrastructure should make it easier to deal with monsoon failures.

97. Based on the passage, which of the following is the most advisable course of action for the Indian government in the light of the uncertainties surrounding the monsoon forecast?

- (a) Increase the import duties on essential food items to encourage domestic production and ensure food security.
- (b) Completely rely on the IMD's prediction of a normal monsoon and make no contingency plans for a subnormal monsoon.

(c) Proactively monitor wheat procurement, consider allowing imports if necessary, and maintain low import duties with no export bans or restrictions.

(d) Focus solely on enhancing the irrigation infrastructure to mitigate the impact of a potential sub-normal monsoon.

98. In the given passage, what role does the sentence "To the extent a positive IOD — warmer temperatures in the Arabian Sea waters relative to that in the eastern Indian Ocean — cancels a weak El Niño, as it happened in 2006, the monsoon could well turn out 'normal'" play in its context?

(a) It provides a counterargument to the IMD's prediction of a normal monsoon by stating that a positive IOD could lead to a sub-normal monsoon.

(b) It supports the IMD's prediction of a normal monsoon by explaining the potential neutralizing effect of a positive IOD on a weak El Niño.

(c) It introduces the concept of the Indian Ocean Dipole and its importance in determining the monsoon's overall outcome without relating it to the IMD's prediction.

(d) It argues that the IMD's reliance on a positive IOD to neutralize El Niño is misplaced and that a normal monsoon is highly unlikely.

99. Which of the following would strengthen the author's argument for the Indian government to prepare for a subnormal monsoon despite the IMD's prediction of a normal monsoon?

(a) A recent increase in global food and fertiliser prices, making imports more expensive and difficult to secure.

(b) A statement from the IMD emphasizing that they are confident in their prediction of a normal monsoon and there is no need for contingency planning.

(c) A historical analysis showing that the IMD's predictions have been consistently accurate, with very few instances of incorrect forecasts.

(d) A report suggesting that the impact of a sub-normal monsoon would be minimal and easily managed by the existing infrastructure.

100. Based on the passage, what can be inferred about the relationship between the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) and El Niño in the context of the Indian monsoon?

(a) A positive IOD always cancels out the effects of El Niño, ensuring a normal monsoon.

(b) A positive IOD can potentially neutralize a weak El Niño, contributing to a normal monsoon, but the outcome is not guaranteed.

(c) The IOD and El Niño always act in tandem, either reinforcing or diminishing each other's effects on the monsoon.

(d) The IOD has no significant impact on the Indian monsoon, and the outcome is solely determined by El Niño.

101. Which of the following would weaken the author's argument for the Indian government to prepare for a subnormal monsoon despite the IMD's prediction of a normal monsoon?

(a) A statement from the Indian government emphasizing their confidence in the IMD's prediction and the lack of need for contingency planning.

(b) A sustained monthly reduction in global food and fertiliser prices, making imports cheaper and more easily available.

(c) A historical analysis showing that the IMD's predictions have been consistently inaccurate, leading to a higher chance of a sub-normal monsoon.

(d) A report suggesting that the impact of a sub-normal monsoon would be catastrophic and beyond the scope of the existing infrastructure.

102. Which of the following has been used by the author to strengthen their argument for contingency planning in anticipation of a sub-normal monsoon?

(a) The IMD's prediction of a normal monsoon based on a neutral El Niño impact due to positive IOD conditions.

(b) The potential for different monsoon scenarios, such as delayed onset or failure in the second half of the season.

(c) The historical accuracy of the IMD's monsoon predictions.

(d) The Indian government's confidence in the IMD's prediction.

Direction (Q.103 – Q.108): U.S. federal authorities have arrested Jack Teixeira, 21, a member of the Air National Guard, in the case of classified information of the Pentagon that was leaked on social media in recent months, which analysts say has exposed sensitive data regarding the war efforts in Ukraine, potentially undermining Kyiv's plans to push back the Russian invasion. The top-secret files that were first leaked on social media websites Discord and 4chan in March this year also caused a flutter for the Joe Biden administration when it revealed confidential and unflattering information about U.S. allies, including South Korea, Israel, and other nations of West Asia and Africa, and assessments of China's developing cyber-attack capabilities. Potentially most damaging, though, were the leaker's posts, which, reports said, genuinely contained classified information of the U.S. military, on Ukraine's air defences being compromised owing to a shortage of missiles in February. Also possibly undermining the tactical plans and the element of surprise for Ukrainian forces were files that spoke of the embattled country's long-planned spring counter offensive to beat back Russian forces starting on April 30 with 12 Ukrainian brigades. While no explicit propagandistic post of the leaker has been revealed yet, it is obvious that the dots join to paint a clear picture of Mr. Teixeira's intention to discredit the war effort of Ukraine and its western allies and show up the Biden administration in a bad light amongst its global partners.

One thing is clear: Mr. Teixeira is no whistle-blower and, certainly, comparisons to Chelsea Manning or Edward Snowden would be misplaced. The latest leak of U.S. federal government information lacks the moral clarity and ethical underpinning of the WikiLeaks files and the NSA global surveillance exposé that Ms. Manning and Mr. Snowden respectively shared with the world in a bid to highlight the excesses of the U.S. government and spur conversations on human rights, foreign policy and privacy in the digital age. Whistle-blowing in the latter contexts led to introspection, policy dialogue and reforms to bring about greater transparency in U.S. government actions, within limits. The 2023 Pentagon leaks have, contrarily, achieved nothing of this sort but fuelled insecurity between the U.S. and other global powers, and potentially hobbled the war strategies of the Ukrainian armed forces in their bid to fight off Russian troops attacking their country. Mr. Teixeira has, appropriately, been charged for the leaks under the U.S. Espionage Act. The critical next step for the Biden White House is now to examine how and why he got top security

clearance to handle classified information, and take steps to further secure and limit the distribution of sensitive information whose release could seriously undermine U.S. national security interests.

103. Based on the passage, what can be inferred about the primary consequences of Jack Teixeira's leaks of classified information?

- (a) The leaks have led to significant policy dialogue and government transparency reforms, similar to the outcomes of Chelsea Manning and Edward Snowden's actions.
- (b) The leaks have primarily resulted in increased global cooperation and trust, as countries became more aware of each other's capabilities and intentions.
- (c) The leaks served to discredit the war effort of Ukraine and its western allies, potentially undermining the tactical plans and national security interests of the U.S. and its partners.
- (d) The leaks have led to a drastic increase in cyber-attacks against the U.S. and its allies, as the exposed information revealed weaknesses in their security systems.

104. Which of the following is the author of the passage most likely to agree with?

- (a) Jack Teixeira's actions, like those of Chelsea Manning and Edward Snowden, were fundamentally driven by ethical considerations and a desire for government transparency.
- (b) The leaked information primarily served to foster global collaboration by revealing areas of mutual interest among nations involved in the conflict.
- (c) Jack Teixeira's leaks have jeopardized the effectiveness of Ukraine's war efforts, undermined trust among global powers, and exposed vulnerabilities in the U.S. national security system.
- (d) The revelation of classified information concerning the U.S. military and its allies has led to a significant reduction in military conflicts and tensions worldwide.

105. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the author's arguments?

- (a) The leaked information actually helped Ukraine and its allies to devise new strategies, leading to more effective war efforts.
- (b) Jack Teixeira had a personal grievance against a specific individual within the military, and the leak was not intended to have broader implications.
- (c) The classified information leaked was outdated and did not reveal any current vulnerabilities in the U.S. or its allies' military strategies.
- (d) The leaked information was widely dismissed as fake in an attempt to salvage the situation.

106. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the author's arguments?

- (a) The leaked information was confirmed to have directly led to the failure of a critical Ukrainian military operation against Russian forces.
- (b) The leaked information was found to have been exaggerated, causing only minor disruptions in military strategies and international relations.
- (c) The leaked information sparked a global debate on the ethics of government surveillance and transparency, overshadowing the impact on the war efforts.

(d) The leaked information prompted an internal investigation within the U.S. military, but no significant

changes to security protocols were made.

107. Based on the author's arguments, which of the following must necessarily be true?

(a) The U.S. government has already implemented significant security reforms in response to the Pentagon leaks.

(b) The leaks have had a substantial and detrimental impact on international trust and Ukraine's war efforts.

(c) Jack Teixeira's motivations for leaking the classified information are clear and fully understood.

(d) The leaked information revealed only negative aspects of the U.S. government's foreign policy decisions.

108. Which of the following can be concluded from the information present in the passage?

(a) The author believes that Jack Teixeira's actions were morally and ethically not justified, similar to those of Chelsea Manning and Edward Snowden.

(b) The U.S. government's handling of classified information is flawless, and the leak was an isolated incident with no systemic issues.

(c) The author implies that the consequences of the Pentagon leaks are distinct from those of WikiLeaks and the NSA surveillance exposé.

(d) The leaked information is entirely fabricated, and there is no reason to believe any classified data was actually compromised.