

**COMMON LAW ADMISSION TEST (CLAT) 2025**  
**CLAT POINT MOCK – 01 [New Pattern]**

**Time : 2 Hours**  
**Maximum Marks: 120**

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**Number of Question in this Booklet: 120**

**INSTRUCTION TO THE CANDIDATES**

1. Please read the below mentioned instructions carefully.
2. Immediately after the commencement of the test, you are required to open the question booklet and compulsorily examine it for defects, if any, as stated below.
  - (a) To have access inside the Question Booklet, tear off the paper seal on the edge of this cover page. Do not accept a booklet if it is opened or without sticker-seal.
  - (b) Tally the number of pages and number of questions in the question booklet with the information printed on the cover page. **Faulty booklets with missing pages/questions, misprint, fudging of print or duplication of pages or any other discrepancy should immediately be brought to the notice of the invigilator(s) and replaced by the same series correct question booklet within first five minutes of the commencement of the test. Afterwards, the question booklet will not be replaced.**
  - (c) Only after the verification of question booklet, enter your Roll Number, Question Booklet Number and Question Booklet Series in the space provided on OMR Answer Sheet with **Ball Point Pen** and shade the relevant circles with **HB Pencil** only.
3. There are 120 objective type multiple-choice questions carrying one mark each. Each question has four choices of answers. Select the most appropriate answer and shade the corresponding circle in the OMR Answer Sheet. If more than one circle is shaded, then the answer to that question shall be deemed as wrong. **There is negative marking for wrong answers wherein 0.25 mark will be deducted for each of the wrong answers.**
4. Specific instructions are given at the beginning of each question or a set of questions. Read them carefully before answering.
5. Possession of any kind of electronic gadget inside the examination hall is strictly prohibited. Possession and/or use of any such gadget shall disqualify the candidate from appearing in the test.
6. In case of any malpractice or attempt to resort to any malpractice, which includes talking to neighbours, copying or using unfair means etc., the Invigilator/Centre Superintendent shall seize the material, if any, and expel the candidate from the examination hall.
7. The first bell will ring 10 minutes before the commencement of the test. As soon as the first bell rings the invigilator(s) will distribute the OMR Answer Sheet and Question Booklet to the candidates. The second bell will ring at the commencement of the test. The third bell will ring at the completion of one hour of test. The fourth bell will be rung 10 minutes before the completion of the test. The fifth and final long bell will ring at the completion of the test.
8. **No candidate shall be permitted to leave the Examination Hall before the two hours of the test ends.**
9. **You have to return the OMR Answer Sheet to the invigilator at the end of the test compulsorily and must not carry it with you outside the Examination Hall.**
10. Rough Work is to be done in the question paper itself in end of this booklet or any space available. No sheets will be provided for the same.

**All the Best!**

## SECTION – I: ENGLISH LANGUAGE

**Directions for questions 1 – 5:** Read the following passage and answer the questions.

**Passage 1.**

All I could do was to offer you an opinion upon one minor point—a woman must have money and a room of her own if she is to write fiction; and that, as you will see, leaves the great problem of the true nature of woman and the true nature of fiction unsolved. I have shirked the duty of coming to a conclusion upon these two questions—women and fiction remain, so far as I am concerned, unsolved problems.

But in order to make some amends I am going to do what I can to show you how I arrived at this opinion about the room and the money. I am going to develop in your presence as fully and freely as I can the train of thought which led me to think this. Perhaps if I lay bare the ideas, the prejudices, that lie behind this statement you will find that they have some bearing upon women and upon fiction; some relevance to the big imperatives of the day.

In the first place, to have a room of her own, let alone a quiet room or a sound-proof room, was out of the question, unless her parents were exceptionally rich or very noble, even up to the beginning of the nineteenth century. Since her pin money, which depended on the goodwill of her father, was only enough to keep her clothed, she was debarred from such alleviations as came even to Keats or Tennyson or Carlyle, all poor men, from a walking tour, a little journey to France, from the separate lodging which, even if it were miserable enough, sheltered them from interruptions and enabled them to think and write in peace.

For most of history, Anonymous was a woman. The truth of this statement is startling. It is a profound commentary on the way society has managed and regulated the creativity of women. It is a reflection of the reality that for many centuries, women were not allowed the educational or social privileges necessary for the creation of a body of work under their own names.

So, when you ask me what offices women may fill, I reply—any—I repeat any that she is able to fill. And my belief is that in the future she will fill many that are now reserved for men. She will doctor, she will preach—she will write.

Furthermore, the struggle for women to claim their rightful place in the realm of fiction and literature is not solely limited to external obstacles. It also encompasses the deeply ingrained biases and stereotypes that have shaped society's perception of women's creative abilities. Throughout history, women have been dismissed as lacking the intellectual prowess or imaginative capacity necessary for significant literary contributions. These biases have perpetuated the myth that women's experiences are inherently less important or valuable, suppressing their voices and relegating them to the margins of literary discourse. It is crucial, therefore, to challenge these preconceptions and recognize that the true nature of fiction encompasses a diverse range of perspectives, including those of women. By amplifying and celebrating women's voices in literature, we can expand the boundaries of imagination and deepen our understanding of the human experience.

Moreover, the struggle for women to attain financial independence and a room of their own is far from obsolete in contemporary society. While progress has undoubtedly been made in terms of women's rights and opportunities, there remains a persistent gender pay gap that hampers their economic freedom. Women continue to face challenges in securing equal pay for equal work, which directly affects their ability to afford the time, resources, and physical space necessary for creative endeavors. Additionally, the notion of a "room of one's own" extends beyond the literal sense of a physical space—it signifies a space of autonomy, privacy, and freedom of thought. Creating an inclusive society requires ongoing efforts to dismantle the societal structures that perpetuate gender disparities, ensuring that women have equal access to education, career opportunities, and the financial means to pursue their passions and contribute to the realm of fiction and literature. Only by addressing these systemic barriers can we begin to unravel the

complexities of women's roles in society and embrace the full potential of their creative expressions.

**Source:** Extracted from the book: A Room of One's Own by Virginia Woolf.

1. What best captures the central argument put forth by the author in this passage?
  - (a) The author argues that women historically have been deprived of economic resources and personal space, which has hindered their ability to produce creative works.
  - (b) The author contends that the true nature of women and fiction are unsolvable mysteries, and the understanding of these elements remains elusive.
  - (c) The author suggests that all societal roles, including those traditionally held by men, should be open to women.
  - (d) The author primarily focuses on the historical anonymity of women's contributions to literature, arguing that this has been a significant societal issue.
2. What is the predominant tone of the author in the given passage?
  - (a) Optimistic
  - (b) Neutral
  - (c) Critical
  - (d) Nostalgic
3. What does the passage suggest about the conditions experienced by women and their capacity to engage in intellectual or creative pursuits during the period prior to the nineteenth century?
  - (a) The author implies that women were equally privileged as men, with ample leisure and resources at their disposal to engage in creative pursuits, like a walking tour or a journey to France.
  - (b) The passage suggests that women, despite facing some economic constraints, were still able to maintain a separate lodging, allowing them the peace and quiet required for intellectual creativity.
  - (c) The text suggests that the conditions of women were entirely dependent on their family's wealth or nobility, creating an environment that, even with constraints, still fostered creative and intellectual growth.
  - (d) The passage implies that women, due to their economic and social circumstances, were often denied the same opportunities for intellectual or creative pursuits that were afforded to men, even those who were poor.
4. What is the most likely interpretation of the statement, "For most of history, Anonymous was a woman."?
  - (a) The statement implies that throughout history, women have often chosen to remain anonymous due to societal constraints and expectations.
  - (b) This phrase suggests that historically, women have been largely unrecognized or uncredited for their contributions, often being relegated to the status of 'Anonymous'.
  - (c) The quote suggests that women have frequently used anonymity as a tool for creative liberation and freedom of expression throughout history.
  - (d) The statement implies that historically, the identity of a woman has been irrelevant or unimportant, therefore equating it with being anonymous.
5. According to the passage, what does the author posit as necessary for a woman to write fiction, and how does this relate to the broader, unresolved questions surrounding women and fiction?
  - (a) The author argues that the solution to the problems of women and fiction lies in women having sufficient money and their own room, thereby resolving these complex issues.

- (b) The passage suggests that a woman needs to have money and a room of her own to write fiction, but acknowledges that this doesn't address the larger, more complex questions about the nature of women and fiction.
- (c) The text asserts that the author has resolved the problems concerning women and fiction through the conclusion that women need money and a room of their own to write fiction.
- (d) According to the author, the complexities of women and fiction can be bypassed by ensuring women have money and their own room, thereby enabling them to write fiction.

**Direction for Qs (6 to 10):**

**PASSAGE – 2**

In the face of abusive circumstances, survivors often resort to lying and deception as a means of self-preservation. Such situations arise when individuals are trapped in controlling relationships where exercising independence might trigger abuse. In these contexts, the act of lying becomes a tool of survival rather than an ethical transgression.

For instance, Tanaya, a survivor of abuse, recalls instances where acting independently incited her partner's anger and intensified the abuse she was subjected to. Consequently, she had to lie about her actions and past to mitigate the risk of further abuse. Thus, deception became her means to exercise her freedom.

Such a pattern might seem akin to gaslighting, a manipulation tactic that compels its target to question their perception of reality. However, when survivors resort to similar methods, it is not with the intent to control or manipulate but to protect themselves from further harm. This distinction is crucial, as it underscores the difference between abuse and self-preservation.

However, the use of deception as a tool for survival is not without its consequences. Living a life of lies can have adverse effects on an individual's mental health, leading to anxiety, guilt, and even depression. Moreover, it can create a cognitive dissonance where individuals struggle with their identity, leading to identity crises.

In addition, habitual lying can interfere with the formation and maintenance of healthy relationships. It can lead to social isolation and loneliness, and impair one's conflict-resolution and communication skills. Furthermore, it can normalize the abusive situations they are subjected to, further complicating their perception of reality.

Nonetheless, it is crucial to understand that such a resort to lying and deception is often the last available means of self-preservation for survivors of abuse. Judging their actions through an idealistic lens without considering their circumstances only serves to isolate them further. Instead, empathy and understanding are needed to help them escape their abusive situations.

While the use of deception as a survival strategy in abusive circumstances may provide temporary relief from harm, it is important to acknowledge the potential long-term psychological consequences. Constantly living in a state of fear and having to maintain a façade can take a significant toll on a survivor's mental well-being. The weight of carrying secrets and the constant need to guard their true selves can lead to heightened stress levels, chronic anxiety, and a distorted sense of self. The emotional burden of constantly navigating a web of lies can erode one's sense of trust, both in others and in oneself, making it challenging to establish healthy relationships based on honesty and authenticity.

Furthermore, the use of deception as a coping mechanism may inadvertently perpetuate the cycle of abuse. In some cases, survivors may find themselves resorting to manipulative tactics they have learned from their abusers in order to protect themselves. This blurred line between self-protection and engaging in harmful behaviors can create internal conflicts and reinforce unhealthy patterns of interaction. It becomes essential, then, to provide survivors with access to

resources and support systems that can help them break free from the cycle of abuse, heal from their traumatic experiences, and develop healthy coping mechanisms that do not rely on deceit.

**Source:** Extracted with edits from: For Survivors of Abuse, Lying Is Freedom. At What Cost? <https://theswaddle.com/for-survivors-of-abuse-lying-is-freedom-at-what-cost/>

6. In the given passage, how is the act of lying positioned in the context of abusive relationships?
  - (a) Lying is depicted as a moral failing of the abused individual.
  - (b) Lying is seen as a tool of manipulation by the abused individual.
  - (c) Lying is presented as a method of retaliation by the abused individual.
  - (d) Lying is portrayed as a survival strategy by the abused individual.
7. In the context of the given passage, what is the most appropriate meaning of the word 'akin'?
  - (a) Contrary to
  - (b) Similar to
  - (c) Independent of
  - (d) Superior to
8. What is the primary negative consequence of utilizing deception as a survival mechanism?
  - (a) It can cause individuals to lose their moral compass.
  - (b) It can exacerbate mental health issues and contribute to identity crises.
  - (c) It can induce an indifference to truth and reality.
  - (d) It can lead to social ostracization and isolation.
9. What is the primary tone conveyed by the author in the provided passage?
  - (a) Condemning and critical
  - (b) Sympathetic and explanatory
  - (c) Detached and disinterested
  - (d) Optimistic and encouraging
10. What is the primary argument that the author is attempting to articulate regarding the use of deception by survivors of abuse?
  - (a) The use of deception by survivors is an ethical transgression that should be condemned.
  - (b) Deception is a necessary tool for survival, which though fraught with negative consequences, should be understood in the context of self-preservation.
  - (c) The act of lying and deception is an indication of the survivor's manipulative nature.
  - (d) Deception is beneficial as it allows survivors to maintain a semblance of independence in abusive circumstances.

**Direction for Qs (11 to 15):**

### PASSAGE – 3

July 9th 1942: "Here's a description of the building... A wooden staircase leads from the downstairs hallway to the third floor. At the top of the stairs is a landing, with doors on either side. The door on the left takes you up to the spice storage area, attic and loft in the front part of the house. A typically Dutch, very steep, ankle-twisting flight of stairs also runs from the front part of the house to another door opening onto the street. The door to the right of the landing leads to the Secret Annex at the back of the house. No one would ever suspect there were so many rooms behind that plain grey door. There's just one small step in front of the door, and then you're inside. Straight ahead of you is a steep flight of stairs. To the left is a narrow hallway opening onto a room that serves as the Frank family's living room and bedroom. Next door is a smaller room, the bedroom and study of the two young ladies of the family. To the right of the stairs is a

windowless washroom with a sink. The door in the corner leads to the toilet and another one to Margot's and my room... Now I've introduced you to the whole of our lovely Annex!"

August 21st 1942: "Now our Secret Annex has truly become secret. Because so many houses are being searched for hidden bicycles, Mryou Kugler thought it would be better to have a bookcase built in front of the entrance to our hiding place. It swings out on its hinges and opens like a door. Mr Voskuijl did the carpentry work. (Mr Voskuijl has been told that the seven of us are in hiding, and he's been most helpful.) Now whenever we want to go downstairs we have to duck and then jump. After the first three days, we were all walking around with bumps on our foreheads from banging our heads against the low doorway. Then Peter cushioned it by nailing a towel stuffed with wood shavings to the door frame. Let's see if it helps!"

October 9th 1942: "Today I have nothing but dismal and depressing news to report. Our many Jewish friends and acquaintances are being taken away in droves. The Gestapo is treating them very roughly and transporting them in cattle cars to Westerbork, the big camp in Drenthe to which they're sending all the Jews. Miep told us about someone who'd managed to escape from there. It must be terrible in Westerbork. The people get almost nothing to eat, much less to drink, as water is available only one hour a day, and there's only one toilet and sink for several thousand people. Men and women sleep in the same room, and women and children often have their heads shaved. Escape is almost impossible; many people look Jewish, and they're branded by their shorn heads. If it's that bad in Holland, what must it be like in those faraway and uncivilised places where the Germans are sending them? We assume that most of them are being murdered. The English radio says they're being gassed. Perhaps that's the quickest way to die. I feel terrible. Miep's accounts of these horrors are so heartrending... Fine specimens of humanity, those Germans, and to think I'm actually one of them! No, that's not true, Hitler took away our nationality long ago. And besides, there are no greater enemies on earth than the Germans and Jews."

December 12th, 1942: "As the months pass, the weight of the confinement in our Secret Annex becomes increasingly burdensome. The walls that once offered a sense of protection now feel oppressive and suffocating. Our movements are restricted, our voices muffled, and our world confined to the confines of this hidden space. The monotony of our existence is interrupted only by the occasional sound of footsteps in the building, a reminder of the outside world we are cut off from. We long for fresh air, for the warmth of sunlight on our faces, and for the freedom to walk the streets without fear. Every day, the constant threat of discovery hangs over us like a dark cloud, casting a shadow on our spirits. Yet, in the midst of it all, we find solace in each other's company, holding on to hope and cherishing the moments of laughter and shared stories that help us endure."

April 30th, 1943: "The passage of time feels both excruciatingly slow and alarmingly fast as we continue to live in this secret refuge. We measure our days by the dimming and brightening of the sunlight that seeps through the windows, our only connection to the outside world. The sounds of the war rumble in the distance, a constant reminder of the chaos and devastation beyond our hidden sanctuary. We try to keep ourselves occupied, finding solace in books, writing, and intellectual pursuits. But there are moments when despair settles in, when the weight of the atrocities committed against our fellow Jews and the injustice of our confinement threaten to overwhelm us. We cling to the hope that one day, the world will be free from this madness, and that we will emerge from the shadows, standing as witnesses to the resilience of the human spirit. Until then, we find strength in our shared dreams of a brighter future, holding on to the belief that justice and compassion will prevail over hatred and cruelty."

Source: Extracts from 'The diary of a Young Girl' by Anne Frank.



11. Based on the excerpts from the diary entries dated July 9th, August 21st, and October 9th, 1942, infer and critically analyze the evolving conditions, emotions, and adaptations experienced by the inhabitants of the Secret Annex.
  - (a) The inhabitants were content and comfortable throughout the period, demonstrating resourcefulness in adapting to the evolving circumstances, and remained detached from the external horrors.
  - (b) The inhabitants' conditions progressively worsened, reflecting escalating distress and despair due to the growing awareness of external horrors and increasingly difficult living conditions.
  - (c) The conditions inside the Secret Annex remained static throughout the period, with the inhabitants feeling a consistent level of anxiety but maintaining a level of detachment from the external horrors.
  - (d) The inhabitants initially experienced comfort and security in the Secret Annex, but their situation drastically changed due to internal disagreements and conflicts, ultimately leading to their despair.
12. Considering the diary entries from July 9th, August 21st, and October 9th, 1942, evaluate the author's shifting tone over the course of these entries, and select the option that best captures the changes in tone and the author's evolving attitude.
  - (a) Consistently positive
  - (b) Neutral to Positive
  - (c) Neutral to Negative
  - (d) Consistently Negative
13. Based on the excerpts from the diary entries dated October 9th, critically evaluate the author's perspective on the plight of the Jews during this historical period, and the moral and emotional implications of their observations.
  - (a) The author demonstrates indifference towards the horrors faced by the Jews, showing a detached and unemotional perspective on the issue.
  - (b) The author portrays the horrific conditions with empathy and distress, but believes that the Jews and Germans are equally to blame for the situation.
  - (c) The author is deeply pained and disturbed by the horrific conditions faced by the Jews, and clearly differentiates between the victims and the perpetrators.
  - (d) The author perceives the horrific conditions as a justifiable consequence of the conflict between the Germans and the Jews.
14. What is the main reason for constructing a bookcase in front of the entrance to the Secret Annex, as conveyed in the given passage?
  - (a) To have additional storage for books and personal belongings.
  - (b) To keep the living area tidy and organized.
  - (c) To enhance the aesthetic appeal of the entrance.
  - (d) To conceal the entrance and increase the security of the Secret Annex.
15. What is the most likely reason that women and children in the described situation have their heads shaved?
  - (a) To improve hygiene and prevent the spread of lice.
  - (b) As a form of punishment or humiliation.
  - (c) To help in identifying them as Jewish.
  - (d) As a part of a religious or cultural ritual.

**Direction for Qs (16 to 20):**

**PASSAGE – 4**

India has surpassed China to become the world's most populous nation and the demographic skew leans towards a young workforce, a factor that holds economic significance. A demographic

dividend is realized when an expanding workforce produces more with existing capital and technologies. This has led to the belief that India could harness this advantage in a manner similar to China, which experienced rapid economic growth based on manufacturing exports.

India shares several initial growth-favouring attributes with China, such as a large population and workforce, low-wage labour market, strategic location, and potential for large-scale production. With China's workforce declining and wages increasing, it is believed that India could exploit similar gains through a 'China Plus One' strategy, aimed at boosting manufacturing-driven exports.

India's position is further enhanced by geopolitical shifts prompted by the global pandemic and Russia's conflict with Ukraine, which favour India in significant economic aspects. There is a change in the global location dynamics of multinational corporations, with companies like Apple partially shifting out of China to India. This raises hopes of similar shifts in other products.

However, realizing growth similar to China's may not be straightforward. China's export-led success was rooted in wide-ranging economic reforms initiated in the 1970s, aimed at increasing productivity and improving resource allocation. These included semi-privatization of communal farming, fostering of private enterprise, progressive trade liberalization, easing of rules and regulations, fiscal reforms, and the opening of financial markets.

India's case, however, has seen a delay or absence of such fundamental economic reforms. Two sectors — agriculture and public finances — continue to make India's macroeconomic framework vulnerable. These also restrict policy space that would otherwise be freer to support growth.

While there are factors favouring India and the potential to harness the demographic dividend, these deficits cannot be overlooked. Nevertheless, unexpected changes in the international arena and other elements may help overcome these deficits, potentially leading to sustained growth. Time will determine the pace of reaping the population bonus.

Despite the potential for India to capitalize on its demographic advantage and emulate China's manufacturing-driven growth, it is important to recognize that several challenges lie ahead. India's journey towards sustained economic growth requires a comprehensive approach that addresses not only the immediate needs of the labor market but also the structural reforms necessary for long-term development. Efforts to enhance infrastructure, streamline regulatory processes, and improve the ease of doing business are essential to attract investment and foster a conducive environment for industrial expansion.

Furthermore, India's path to economic prosperity should not solely rely on replicating China's export-led model. The global economic landscape is evolving, and future growth strategies must adapt accordingly. Embracing innovation, investing in technology-driven sectors, and nurturing a skilled workforce capable of driving knowledge-based industries can position India as a hub for digital transformation and high-value services. By fostering a supportive ecosystem that encourages entrepreneurship, research and development, and collaboration between academia and industry, India can unlock its potential as a global leader in emerging sectors, thus diversifying its economic base and mitigating over-reliance on traditional manufacturing.

While the road ahead may present formidable challenges, India's demographic dividend remains a significant asset. It is crucial for policymakers and stakeholders to adopt a multi-faceted approach that combines targeted reforms, investment in human capital, and the cultivation of an enabling business environment. By leveraging the strengths of its young and dynamic workforce, coupled with comprehensive and forward-thinking policy measures, India can navigate the complexities of the global economy and chart a sustainable growth trajectory that not only benefits its citizens but also contributes to global economic prosperity.



Source: Extracted with edits and revisions from: Boon or bane?,  
<https://www.telegraphindia.com/opinion/boon-or-bane-india-and-the-demographic-dividend/cid/1937108>

16. What factors contribute to the belief that India could potentially leverage its demographic dividend for economic gains similar to China's past economic growth, according to the passage?
- (a) The primary factors include India's status as the world's most populous nation, a young workforce, and an increase in capital and technologies.
  - (b) The main factors include India's large population and workforce, low-wage labor market, strategic location, potential for large-scale production, and a 'China Plus One' strategy.
  - (c) The crucial elements are India's growing elderly population, the decline of China's workforce, and the 'China Plus One' strategy.
  - (d) The key factors are India's large population, declining workforce, and the increasing wages in China.
17. Which among the following is the author most likely to agree with?
- (a) India's large population and young workforce are sufficient for it to replicate China's rapid economic growth based on manufacturing exports.
  - (b) The 'China Plus One' strategy is the sole determinant in India achieving significant economic gains similar to China's past growth.
  - (c) While India shares several growth-favouring attributes with China and has potential advantages, the absence or delay of fundamental economic reforms, especially in agriculture and public finances, poses significant challenges.
  - (d) The geopolitical shifts and change in location dynamics of multinational corporations guarantee India's economic growth similar to China's past growth.
18. Based on the given passage, what factors are presented as contributing to India's potential for economic growth?"
- (a) India's workforce is declining and wages are increasing, making it an attractive location for multinational corporations.
  - (b) Geopolitical shifts and changes in global location dynamics of multinational corporations, along with India's large population and workforce, low-wage labour market, and strategic location, are enhancing India's potential for economic growth.
  - (c) Only the global pandemic and Russia's conflict with Ukraine are creating significant economic opportunities for India.
  - (d) Apple's shift from China to India is the sole driving force behind India's economic growth.
19. What is the central obstacle identified in the passage to India's realization of economic growth similar to China's?"
- (a) India's population is not large enough to support a growth model similar to China's.
  - (b) The Indian government is not interested in pursuing wide-ranging economic reforms similar to China's.
  - (c) India lacks the fundamental economic reforms that were instrumental in China's export-led success, particularly in the sectors of agriculture and public finances.
  - (d) India's strategic location and low-wage labour market are detriments to economic growth.
20. Which among the following options captures the central idea of the passage?
- (a) The passage primarily discusses the global pandemic and Russia's conflict with Ukraine, and their impact on India's economic prospects.
  - (b) The passage mainly focuses on the 'China Plus One' strategy, emphasizing its potential benefits for India's economic growth.

(c) The passage concentrates on comparing India's and China's economic strategies, concluding that India should adopt the same approach as China.

(d) The passage primarily explores the potential for India's economic growth, given its demographic dividend and other factors, while also identifying significant obstacles, particularly in the absence or delay of wide-ranging economic reforms.

**Direction for Qs (21 to 25):**

#### **PASSAGE – 5**

Business, a cornerstone of economic progression, wields an undeniable influence over political mechanisms. However, wealth accumulation does not inevitably precipitate political triumph, as clearly demonstrated by the narrative arc of the protagonist in the classic film, *Citizen Kane*. Such instances underscore the complexities of the business-politics interplay, a relationship that is particularly germane to the rapidly modernizing Indian context.

A comprehensive exploration of the East India Company's trajectory over several centuries elucidates the nuanced dynamics of this relationship. The Company's journey, marked by unprecedented commercial success followed by an abrupt decline, can be partitioned into three distinct phases.

Initially, the Company was singularly committed to trade and wealth generation. Despite grappling with fierce competition, environmental adaptation, and health concerns, it thrived, primarily by diversifying its portfolio to include products like tea and linen. This period, characterized by traditional business approaches and a deliberate distancing from political affairs, resulted in substantial profits.

However, the Company deviated from this conventional business model, deciding to procure territories and construct factories and forts across India, a move that extended beyond the realm of commerce and sparked the interest of the British Parliament and the Crown. This strategic shift, although enormously profitable in the short term, ultimately paved the way for the Company's downfall and the subsequent British colonial control over India.

Two fundamental insights can be gleaned from the East India Company's narrative. Firstly, political involvement, though potentially beneficial for business in the initial stages, can ultimately jeopardize commercial interests. Keynesians, who famously believe that "In the long run, we are all dead," often endorse immediate business expansion through political means, neglecting the long-term implications of these actions. This myopic focus on immediate results undermines the importance of business as a foundation for future societal prosperity.

Secondly, businesses must delineate their domains and avoid the political arena to ensure long-term survival. Overstepping these boundaries risks not only the distortion of political processes through an influx of commercial funding but also the self-destruction of the business entity itself. The East India Company's tale offers a compelling lesson: businesses, while navigating external dynamics like supply-demand, new product introductions, evolving consumer preferences, and revenue generation, must also maintain a strong internal focus. Straying into the political sphere, despite short-term gains, may culminate in long-term perils, potentially imperilling the longevity and integrity of the business.

The intricate relationship between business and politics continues to shape the contemporary landscape, and India provides a captivating canvas to explore this interplay. As the country undergoes rapid economic transformation, there is an increasing overlap between corporate interests and political influence. The rise of powerful business conglomerates, lobbying efforts, and campaign financing has led to concerns about the erosion of democratic processes and the concentration of power in the hands of a few. Balancing the imperative for economic growth with safeguarding the integrity of democratic institutions becomes a delicate task, highlighting the need for transparent regulations, ethical business practices, and robust checks and balances to mitigate the potential risks associated with excessive corporate influence in politics.

Moreover, the impact of globalization and the integration of economies has further complicated the business-politics relationship. Multinational corporations, with their vast resources and global reach, wield significant influence not only within the realms of commerce but also in shaping public policy, trade agreements, and international relations. The blurring of boundaries between business interests and political decision-making raises critical questions about accountability, representation, and the democratic process. It becomes imperative for governments to strike a delicate balance between promoting economic growth, attracting foreign investment, and ensuring that the interests of citizens and broader societal well-being are protected.

Source: Extracted with edits and revisions from: Stay apolitical

<https://www.telegraphindia.com/opinion/stay-apolitical-business-lessons-from-the-east-india-company/cid/1936847>

21. Based on the author's perspective, which of the following propositions best captures the nuanced relationship between business and politics?
  - (a) Political involvement is a natural progression for successful businesses and often results in sustained commercial growth.
  - (b) Businesses should prioritize immediate profit generation, even if it involves delving into politics, as future implications are often uncertain and unpredictable.
  - (c) The decline of the East India Company was an isolated incident and should not be used as a cautionary tale against business involvement in politics.
  - (d) The complex dynamics of business and politics suggest that despite potential short-term gains, businesses should maintain a judicious distance from political arenas to ensure long-term survival.
22. Which of the following words from the provided text is most accurately synonymous with "elucidates"?
  - (a) Grappling
  - (b) Delineate
  - (c) Precipitate
  - (d) Underscore
23. How does the author's interpretation of the East India Company's history critique the Keynesian approach to business expansion?
  - (a) Keynesian philosophy inherently undermines future societal prosperity.
  - (b) The Keynesian approach, with its myopic focus on immediate results, disregards the potential long-term consequences of political involvement in business.
  - (c) Keynesians' endorsement of business expansion through political means was the primary cause of the East India Company's downfall.
  - (d) The author suggests that Keynesian beliefs were directly responsible for the East India Company's political involvement.
24. In the context of the East India Company's early approach to trade and wealth generation, which of the following best exemplifies the strategic underpinnings that fostered its initial prosperity?
  - (a) The Company's commercial success was primarily a result of exploiting political influence.
  - (b) The Company's initial success was predicated on its aggressive territorial expansion and conquest.
  - (c) The Company's singular commitment to wealth generation meant focusing on one primary commodity for trade.
  - (d) The Company's early prosperity was inextricably linked to a diversified trade portfolio and a calculated distance from political entanglements.

25. Based on the author's assertions, which of the following statements best encapsulates the risks associated with businesses encroaching upon the political arena?
- (a) Businesses have the potential to thrive if they engage in political processes due to the availability of commercial funding.
  - (b) Political involvement does not have any substantial impact on the long-term survival of businesses.
  - (c) A business's foray into politics can distort political processes and may even lead to its self-destruction.
  - (d) The delineation of domains is an arbitrary concept that has no concrete implications for a business's longevity.

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**SECTION – II: CURRENT AFFAIRS INCLUDING  
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE**

**PASSAGE – 1**

Tshering had also significantly said that the talks with China over demarcating the other sections of its boundary were at an advanced stage and could be finished soon.

Just two years ago, Bhutan and China signed a 'three-step roadmap' for expediting talks to demarcate their land boundary. Now, Bhutan's prime minister stated that they were close to demarcation. "After one or two more meetings, we will probably be able to draw a line," he said. Asked during the briefing if the demarcation of Bhutan's boundary with China came up, Kwatra demurred, stating that the question should be posed to the two concerned countries.

"We would work to shape long-term sustainable arrangements for the export of agricultural commodities from Bhutan. Also work to develop long-term bilateral arrangements for a short supply of critical commodities to Bhutan, which would include petroleum, fertilizers, and coal," he stated.

Extracted with edits and revision from: During Bhutan King's Visit, India Reaffirms Earlier Stance on Trijunction Boundary Points

<https://thewire.in/diplomacy/bhutan-king-india-trijunction-boundary-points>

26. Which of the following individuals is currently the King of Bhutan?  
(a) Jigme Dorji Wangchuck (b) Jigme Singye Wangchuck  
(c) Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck (d) Jigme Palden Dorji
27. What is the per-capita income that Bhutan aims to achieve in the next ten years?  
(a) USD 10,000 (b) USD 12,000 (c) USD 15,000 (d) USD 20,000
28. What was the primary focus of the meeting between the Bhutanese King and the Indian Prime Minister?  
(a) Regional security issues  
(b) Climate change initiatives  
(c) Bhutanese transformation initiatives and reforms process  
(d) India's political relations with other nations
29. What is the name of the hydro-electric project for which the Indian government agreed to increase the power tariffs as per Bhutan's demand?  
(a) Tala hydro-electric project  
(b) Punatsangchhu-I hydro-electric project  
(c) Punatsangchhu-II hydro-electric project  
(d) Chhukha hydro-electric project
30. What is India examining the possibility of setting up along the India-Bhutan border at Jaigaon?  
(a) A military base (b) A free trade zone  
(c) An integrated check post (d) A cultural centre
31. Which city in Bhutan is being developed into a hub for attracting international investment through the proposed rail link project?  
(a) Thimphu (b) Paro (c) Gelephu (D) Phuentsholing
32. When was the Indo-Bhutan Treaty of Peace and Friendship signed?  
(a) 1947 (b) 1948 (c) 1949 (d) 1950

## PASSAGE – 2

MNRE has announced that it has extended the deadline for the solar inverter makers to get valid International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) certificates and test reports from accredited test laboratories of their solar inverters. -----Apparently, the new deadline is June 30, 2023.

Initially, the ministry had extended the self-certification of solar photovoltaic inverters under the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) from June 30, 2022, to December 31, 2022. The government had issued 'Solar Photovoltaics, Systems, Devices and Components Goods (Requirements for Compulsory Registration) Order, 2017' for six products included in the schedule on September 5, 2017. However, the deadline has been extended several times.

In its announcement, the ministry has cleared that considering the issues relating to testing, and the level of preparation of test labs, the industry had sought more time for compliance, and therefore it has extended the deadline again.

Extracted with edits and revision from: MNRE Issues Extension of Deadline for Self-Certification of Solar Inverters

<https://www.energetica-india.net/articles/mnre-issues-extension-of-deadline-for-self-certification-of-solar-inverters>

33. What hazardous materials can be found in PV waste?
  - (a) Cadmium, cobalt, nickel, platinum
  - (b) Copper, silver, tin, zinc
  - (c) Lead, mercury, arsenic, chromium
  - (d) Cadmium, copper, lead, antimony, selenium
34. What is the dominant technology used in India's solar PV installations?
  - (a) Thin-film technology
  - (b) Cadmium telluride technology
  - (c) Crystalline silicon technology
  - (d) None of the above
35. What is India's rank in the world for solar PV deployment?
  - (a) First
  - (b) Second
  - (c) Third
  - (d) Fourth
36. According to a 2016 report by the International Renewable Energy Agency, how much PV waste could India generate by 2050?
  - (a) 50,000 Tonnes
  - (b) 3,25,000 Tonnes
  - (c) Four million Tonnes
  - (d) Ten million Tonnes
37. What is the full form of MNRE?
  - (a) Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy
  - (b) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
  - (c) Ministry of Nuclear and Renewable Energy
  - (d) Ministry of National and Renewable Energy
38. Which of the following is an initiative taken by India to manage waste?
  - (a) Ratification of the Basel Convention
  - (b) Implementation of the Stockholm Convention
  - (c) Draft EPR Notification
  - (d) Ratification of the Montreal Protocol
39. Which of the following is a not-for-profit compliance and waste management program for solar PV technology in Europe?
  - (a) Solar Power Europe
  - (b) Solar Energy Industries Association



(c) PV Cycle

(d) International Renewable Energy Agency

**PASSAGE - 3**

The Indo-Pacific region is facing myriad challenges, majorly due to a shifting balance of power and increasing uncertainty about what the future world order looks like. This has led to various nations stepping up their security strategies and defence cooperation. One such nation is Japan. Veering away from its pacifist constitution, Japan recently unveiled its National Security Strategy (NSS) which calls for boosting defence spending in the face of growing threats from regional rivals. Japan declared in its NSS, which was announced alongside the Security Strategy, that it wants to promote training and exercises, as well as defence equipment and technology collaboration with India. In this context, it is critical to examine where the two countries fit in each other's strategic vision.

Extracted with edits and revision from: Strengthening India-Japan Defence Cooperation: A Look Beyond Quad

<https://www.news18.com/news/opinion/strengthening-india-japan-defence-cooperation-a-look-beyond-quad-6860149.html>

40. Who co-chaired the 7th India-Japan Defence Policy Dialogue?
  - (a) Prime Minister of India and Prime Minister of Japan
  - (b) Defence Secretary of India and the Vice Minister of Defense for International Affairs of Japan
  - (c) Foreign Secretary of India and Foreign Minister of Japan
  - (d) Home Minister of India and Defense Minister of Japan
41. What initiative of India was extended to Japanese defence industries?
  - (a) Digital India initiative
  - (b) Skill India initiative
  - (c) Make in India initiative
  - (d) Swachh Bharat Abhiyan initiative
42. Which of the following exercises is a bilateral naval exercise between India and Japan?
  - (a) JIMEX
  - (b) Malabar
  - (c) Varuna
  - (d) Garuda Exercise
43. What is the year of establishment of India-Japan Act East Forum?
  - (a) 2015
  - (b) 2016
  - (c) 2017
  - (d) 2018
44. What is the most successful example of Japanese cooperation through the utilization of ODA in India?
  - (a) Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor
  - (b) Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor
  - (c) Ahmedabad-Mumbai High-Speed Rail
  - (d) Delhi Metro
45. What was the total bilateral trade between Japan and India during FY 2021-22?
  - (a) US\$ 18.9 billion
  - (b) US\$ 20.57 billion
  - (c) US\$ 22.3 billion
  - (d) US\$ 24.1 billion
46. What was the name of the inaugural fighter exercise conducted between the Indian Air Force and Japanese Air Self Defence Force in January 2023 in Japan?
  - (a) Veer Guardian
  - (b) SHINYUU Maitri
  - (c) Dharma Guardian
  - (d) JIMEX

**PASSAGE 4**

"We're taking advantage of the fact that there's this massive biodiversity on this planet to actually understand ourselves and make new discoveries that are relevant to treating human diseases," said Elinor Karlsson, director of the Vertebrate Genomics Group at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard and co-leader of the international consortium of researchers.

"The human genome was sequenced more than 20 years ago and, despite that, it's still really hard to understand what the functional elements are," added consortium co-leader Kerstin Lindblad-Toh, a comparative genomics professor at Uppsala University in Sweden.

The findings, detailed in 11 studies published in the journal Science, involved placentals, by far the world's most common mammalian assemblage, known for giving birth to well-developed babies, and not egg-laying monotremes or pouched marsupials.

Extracted with edits and revision from: Ambitious genome project shows how humans fit with other mammals.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/technology/science/genome-project-humans-mammals-8580677/>

47. What is the aim of the Genome India Project (GIP)?
  - (a) To sequence 10,000 genomes by the end of 2023
  - (b) To study the genetic diversity of Indian population
  - (c) To develop new gene-editing techniques
  - (d) To create a database of genetic disorders in India
48. Which of the following country have programmes to sequence at least 100,000 genomes?
  - (a) United Kingdom
  - (b) UAE
  - (c) Canada
  - (d) Germany
49. The Genome India Project (GIV) is inspired by which international effort?
  - (a) International HapMap Project
  - (b) International Cancer Genome Consortium
  - (c) Human Microbiome Genome Project
  - (d) Human Genome Project
50. Where is the Centre for Brain Research leading the GIV project?
  - (a) Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore
  - (b) Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi
  - (c) Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai
  - (d) All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi

#### PASSAGE – 5

"LIGO-India will increase the precision with which we can localize the gravitational-wave events by an order of magnitude," says Adhikari. "This will greatly enhance our ability to answer fundamental questions about the universe, including how black holes form and the expansion rate of our universe, as well as to more rigorously test Einstein's general theory of relativity."

"I am very pleased to learn of the Indian Cabinet's approval of construction funding for a gravitational-wave observatory there," says NSF director Sethuraman Panchanathan. "Partnering with like-minded nations like India who share our values and aspirations will not only make possible fantastic discoveries but, more importantly, energize talent and unleash innovation everywhere. This will give a big boost to researchers around the world who will combine observations from optical and radio telescopes with the information from the gravitational-wave network to make new discoveries about the universe."

Extracted with edits and revision from: India Approves Construction Of its own Ligo

<https://www.caltech.edu/about/news/india-approves-construction-of-its-own-ligo>

51. What is the full form of LIGO?

- (a) Laser Interchangeable Gravitational-Wave Observatory
  - (b) Luminous Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory
  - (c) Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory
  - (d) Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Oscillator
52. What is the length of each vacuum chamber in the Indian LIGO project?  
 (a) 1 km (b) 2 km (c) 4 km (d) 6 km
53. Which observatories will LIGO-India join as part of a global network of gravitational-wave observatories?  
 (a) Virgo in Japan and KAGRA in Italy.  
 (b) LISA in Germany and GEO600 in the United Kingdom.  
 (c) Virgo in Italy and KAGRA in Japan.  
 (d) TAMA300 in Japan and LCGT in China.
54. In which district of Maharashtra will LIGO be located?  
 (a) Nagpur (b) Thane (c) Hingoli (d) Nashik
55. Who first postulated gravitational waves and in which theory?  
 (a) Stephen Hawking in the Theory of Everything.  
 (b) Albert Einstein in the General Theory of Relativity.  
 (c) Isaac Newton in the Laws of Motion.  
 (d) James Clerk Maxwell in the Theory of Electromagnetism.

### SECTION – III: LEGAL REASONING

#### PASSAGE 1

Nuisance is a well-established principle in Tort Law, addressing the right to the undisturbed enjoyment of one's property and environment. Nuisance law provides a mechanism to curtail activities that unreasonably interfere with the rights of others. It is categorically divided into public and private nuisance.

Public nuisance refers to acts affecting the community or neighbourhood at large, such as blocking public ways, causing environmental pollution, or loud music. The focus here is on interference with rights enjoyed by the public. The prosecution of public nuisance typically falls to a public body, such as local councils or, in more serious cases, the Attorney General.

Private nuisance, on the other hand, concerns interferences with the use or enjoyment of land. This could include excessive noise, smoke, smells, or encroachment onto a neighbour's property. The claimant must have an interest in the land affected to bring a claim for private nuisance.

A crucial aspect of nuisance law is reasonableness. The courts balance the defendant's right to use their property against the plaintiff's right to enjoy theirs. Factors such as the locality, the duration of the interference, and the sensitivity of the plaintiff may be considered.

Defenses available in nuisance claims include prescription, where a nuisance has been ongoing for more than twenty years, statutory authority, where a statute permits the act causing the nuisance, and contributory negligence, where the plaintiff has, in part, caused the nuisance.

Remedies for nuisance typically involve damages or injunctions. Damages compensate the plaintiff for the harm suffered, while injunctions restrain the defendant from continuing the nuisance.

In addition to the traditional understanding of nuisance law, contemporary legal frameworks have expanded the scope of nuisance to address emerging challenges in a rapidly evolving society. Issues such as digital nuisance and online harassment have gained prominence with the proliferation of technology and social media platforms. The intrusion upon one's digital privacy, cyberbullying, and the dissemination of harmful content online can significantly impact an individual's well-being and tranquility. Courts are grappling with the complexities of applying traditional nuisance principles to these modern forms of interference, necessitating the development of innovative legal approaches and precedents to protect individuals from digital harm.

Furthermore, environmental concerns have also become a central focus of nuisance law in recent years. With growing awareness of climate change and ecological degradation, the concept of environmental nuisance has gained recognition. Activities that cause significant harm to ecosystems, such as pollution of water bodies, emissions of harmful substances, or destruction of natural habitats, can be subject to legal action as they infringe upon the rights of individuals and communities to enjoy a clean and healthy environment. Environmental nuisance cases highlight the intersection of Tort Law and environmental protection, emphasizing the role of legal remedies in safeguarding both the rights of individuals and the sustainability of the natural world.

As society continues to evolve and new challenges arise, the principles of nuisance law remain a crucial tool for addressing infringements on individual rights and well-being. The courts play a pivotal role in striking a delicate balance between the interests of different parties, considering the reasonableness of actions, and ensuring the fair allocation of rights and responsibilities. By adapting to the changing landscape of societal concerns and expanding the application of nuisance law to encompass emerging issues, legal systems can evolve and provide effective remedies to protect the rights and quality of life of individuals and communities.

56. Over two decades ago, the Harmony Music Festival was established in a remote part of the county. This annual event attracts thousands of attendees and is renowned for its loud music, vibrant lights, and festive atmosphere. Four years ago, a residential complex was built in the vicinity. The residents have repeatedly complained about the noise and lights from the festival. In response, this year, the residents, led by Mr. and Mrs. Jacobs, have sued the organizers of the Harmony Music Festival for private nuisance.
- (a) Yes, Mr. and Mrs. Jacobs can succeed in their claim for private nuisance because the noise and lights from the festival interfere with the residents' enjoyment of their property.
  - (b) No, Mr. and Mrs. Jacobs cannot succeed in their claim for private nuisance because the Harmony Music Festival can assert the defense of prescription as the nuisance has been ongoing for over twenty years.
  - (c) Yes, Mr. and Mrs. Jacobs can succeed in their claim for private nuisance as the defense of prescription does not apply to residents who moved into the area after the nuisance commenced.
  - (d) No, Mr. and Mrs. Jacobs cannot succeed in their claim for private nuisance because the residents knew about the annual festival when they moved into the complex and thus, contributory negligence applies.
57. For the past year, the Brights, a family living in a suburban neighborhood, have been experiencing discomfort due to the frequent loud parties hosted by their next-door neighbors, the Grays. The Brights have spoken to the Grays about the disturbance several times, but the Grays continue to host loud parties. In response, the Brights have decided to sue the Grays for private nuisance.

- (a) Yes, the Brights can succeed in their claim for private nuisance and be awarded damages because the loud parties interfere with their enjoyment of their property.
- (b) Yes, the Brights can succeed in their claim for private nuisance and obtain an injunction to stop the Grays from hosting loud parties.
- (c) No, the Brights cannot succeed in their claim for private nuisance because the Grays have the right to host parties at their property.
- (d) No, the Brights cannot succeed in their claim for private nuisance because they have not suffered any physical damage to their property.
58. In the industrial district of Jaipur, the "Sona Metalworks" factory has been operating for over 40 years. Recently, a residential building was constructed adjacent to the factory. Since moving in, the residents have been complaining about noise from the factory operations, especially at night. They have filed a lawsuit against "Sona Metalworks" claiming private nuisance. The factory, in its defense, states that it operates within the legal noise levels permitted for an industrial area and has been doing so for decades.
- (a) Yes, the residents can succeed in their claim of private nuisance because they have a right to peaceful enjoyment of their property.
- (b) No, the residents cannot succeed in their claim of private nuisance because "Sona Metalworks" has a right to operate their factory.
- (c) Yes, the residents can succeed in their claim of private nuisance if they can prove that the noise is excessive and unreasonable.
- (d) No, the residents cannot succeed in their claim of private nuisance because they moved into a locality known for industrial noise.
59. Ravi is a homeowner in a quiet residential neighbourhood of Delhi. His neighbour, Sameer, owns a large German Shepherd that barks loudly and frequently. Sameer also frequently hosts parties that continue late into the night with loud music. These activities have been going on for over a year, and despite Ravi's repeated complaints, Sameer hasn't made any efforts to curb the noise. Ravi decides to take legal action against Sameer for private nuisance.
- (a) Yes, Ravi can succeed in his claim of private nuisance, because he has an interest in the land and Sameer's activities are interfering with his enjoyment of the land.
- (b) No, Ravi cannot succeed in his claim of private nuisance because Sameer has a right to use his property as he sees fit.
- (c) Yes, Ravi can succeed in his claim of private nuisance, because Sameer's dog's barking and the loud music from the parties are unreasonable interferences.
- (d) No, Ravi cannot succeed in his claim of private nuisance, because he should have expected some noise living in a residential area.
60. A textile mill owned by Deepak in the city of Mumbai has been discharging untreated industrial waste into a nearby river for over a year. The river is a significant water source for several communities downstream. Residents in these communities have been complaining about the pollution, which has led to the death of local aquatic life and made the river water unfit for use. The local council, upon receiving these complaints, contemplates taking legal action against Deepak for public nuisance.
- (a) Yes, the local council can succeed in a claim of public nuisance against Deepak, because his mill's actions are affecting the rights enjoyed by the public.
- (b) No, the local council cannot succeed in a claim of public nuisance against Deepak, because it's Deepak's right to run his mill as he wishes.
- (c) Yes, the local council can succeed in a claim of public nuisance against Deepak, because the industrial waste from his mill is causing environmental pollution that affects multiple communities.



(d) No, the local council cannot succeed in a claim of public nuisance against Deepak, because the residents should expect some level of pollution living near an industrial area.

### PASSAGE 2

The Special Marriage Act, 1954 (SMA), is a unique piece of legislation in India that provides a framework for inter-religion and inter-caste marriages, thereby promoting the secular ethos of the country. It provides a mechanism for solemnizing marriages without religious rituals or ceremonies, and without conversion of one party to the religion of the other.

The scope of SMA is not just limited to marriages but also covers divorce, maintenance, and succession. It allows any two Indian citizens, irrespective of their religion, to marry under its provisions. The Act also permits marriage between an Indian citizen and a foreign national.

The applicability of the SMA is extensive, covering all Indian citizens residing in India and abroad. To marry under the SMA, both parties must meet certain criteria, including being of sound mind, not having a living spouse, and being of the age of majority (21 for males and 18 for females).

The Act lays down certain essential conditions for a marriage to be valid under it. Firstly, neither party should have a spouse living at the time of marriage. Secondly, the parties should be capable of giving valid consent to the marriage. Thirdly, the parties should not fall within the degrees of prohibited relationship unless custom or usage governing each of them permits such a marriage. In recent years, the SMA has been at the center of legal discussions in India concerning the recognition of same-sex marriages. Presently, the SMA does not recognize same-sex marriages, and a plea seeking recognition of such marriages under the SMA is pending before the Supreme Court of India.

The petitioners argue that the non-recognition of same-sex marriages is a violation of their fundamental rights, including the right to equality, non-discrimination, and the right to life with dignity. They further contend that the SMA, being a secular legislation, should be interpreted in a manner that is inclusive of all gender identities and sexual orientations.

The decision of the Supreme Court on this matter will be crucial in shaping the future of marriage laws in India. If recognized, it would mark a significant step forward in acknowledging the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals in India.

The Special Marriage Act, 1954, stands as a testament to India's commitment to promoting social harmony and the principles of equality and non-discrimination. Its provisions play a pivotal role in challenging societal barriers rooted in caste, religion, and gender, allowing individuals the freedom to choose their life partners based on their own preferences and convictions. By providing a legal framework for inter-religion and inter-caste marriages, the Act contributes to fostering a more inclusive and pluralistic society, breaking down the walls of prejudice and promoting the ideals of unity and diversity.

In addition to its significance in enabling inter-religion and inter-caste marriages, the SMA has played a crucial role in addressing issues of gender equality and women's empowerment. The Act recognizes the importance of consent in marriage and ensures that both parties have the capacity to give valid consent. By upholding the principle of consent, the SMA underscores the agency and autonomy of individuals in deciding their life partners, challenging traditional notions of marriage as a transaction or familial obligation. This provision empowers individuals, particularly women, to make informed choices, safeguarding their rights and dignity within the institution of marriage.

While the SMA has made significant strides in promoting secularism, equality, and individual freedoms, there are ongoing discussions about the need to further expand its scope to recognize same-sex marriages. The call for the inclusion of LGBTQ+ rights within the ambit of the Act reflects the evolving societal understanding of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities.



By recognizing same-sex marriages, the Act would embrace the principles of equality, non-discrimination, and respect for human rights, offering LGBTQ+ individuals the same legal protections and benefits as heterosexual couples. The ongoing legal deliberations surrounding this issue highlight the importance of adapting legislation to reflect the evolving social fabric and ensuring that all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation, have equal rights and opportunities within the institution of marriage.

[Source with edits and revisions made : <https://www.npr.org/2023/05/09/1174752874/india-same-sex-marriage-case-supreme-court#:~:text=India's%20government%20remains%20opposed%20to%20same%2Dsex%20marriage&text=The%20Supreme%20Court%20has%20already,since%20India's%20independence%20in%201947>]

61. Radha and Joseph, both Indian citizens, got married under the Special Marriage Act, 1954 (SMA), respecting their religious beliefs. After 10 years of marriage, the relationship became tumultuous, and they decided to part ways. However, after obtaining a divorce under the SMA, Radha found herself in financial difficulty and decided to seek maintenance from Joseph. However, Joseph refused to pay maintenance, arguing that the SMA does not mandate him to do so. In this scenario, can Radha successfully claim maintenance under the SMA?
  - (a) Yes, because the SMA also covers aspects of divorce and maintenance.
  - (b) No, because the SMA only covers the solemnization of inter-religion marriages.
  - (c) Yes, because maintenance is a universal right irrespective of the marriage law under which a couple got married.
  - (d) No, because Joseph has the right to refuse maintenance under the SMA.
62. Rahul, an Indian citizen working in the UK, decides to marry Emily, a British citizen living in the UK. They decide to marry under the Special Marriage Act, 1954 (SMA). Rahul is 26, single, and of sound mind. Emily is 18, single, and of sound mind as well. However, she does not hold Indian citizenship. Based on this, can Rahul and Emily legally marry under the SMA?
  - (a) Yes, because Rahul and Emily meet all the conditions laid down under the SMA.
  - (b) No, because Emily is a foreign national, and the SMA only applies to Indian citizens.
  - (c) Yes, because the SMA applies to all Indian citizens, irrespective of their location.
  - (d) No, because Emily is a British citizen residing in the UK, and the SMA does not apply to foreign nationals living abroad.
63. Vikram, a 24-year-old man, and Sunita, a 20-year-old woman, are first cousins residing in Karnataka, India. Their community customarily allows marriages between first cousins. However, their parents are estranged due to a longstanding property dispute. Both are single, of sound mind, and wish to marry under the Special Marriage Act, 1954 (SMA) without the blessings of their families. Sunita, in particular, is living independently and is estranged from her parents. On the other hand, Vikram's parents have threatened to disown him if he proceeds with the marriage. Given these circumstances, can Vikram and Sunita legally marry under the SMA?
  - (a) Yes, because Vikram and Sunita meet all the conditions laid down under the SMA.
  - (b) No, because Vikram and Sunita fall within the degrees of prohibited relationship as per the SMA.
  - (c) Yes, because the SMA allows such a marriage if custom or usage governing each of them permits such a marriage, regardless of family disputes.
  - (d) No, because the SMA requires parental consent for marriages within degrees of prohibited relationship.

64. Akshay and Rohit, two Indian citizens of the same sex, have been living together as a couple for many years. They wish to have their union recognized legally. They decide to apply for a marriage certificate under the Special Marriage Act (SMA), 1954. Upon submitting their application to the Marriage Officer, it is rejected on the grounds that the SMA does not recognize same-sex marriages. Distraught, they decide to approach the court to challenge the rejection of their application. Can they potentially succeed in their claim?
- (a) Yes, because the refusal to recognize their marriage is an infringement of their fundamental rights.
- (b) Yes, because the SMA, while it does not recognize same-sex marriages, should be interpreted liberally to include them.
- (c) No, because same-sex marriages are not socially accepted in India, and the SMA is intended to mirror social norms.
- (d) No, because the SMA currently does not recognize same-sex marriages, and the Marriage Officer is correct in rejecting their application.
65. In a landmark judgment, the Supreme Court of India has ruled in favor of the recognition of same-sex marriages under the Special Marriage Act (SMA), 1954. The Court accepted the contentions of the petitioners that the non-recognition of same-sex marriages is a violation of their fundamental rights, including the right to equality, non-discrimination, and the right to life with dignity. Following this, Anand and Praveen, a same-sex couple, decided to formalize their long-standing relationship and applied for a marriage certificate under the SMA. However, their parents are strongly opposed to the marriage due to their personal beliefs. The parents decide to legally challenge the Supreme Court's judgment and their sons' application for marriage. In light of the recent Supreme Court judgment, could they potentially succeed in their challenge?
- (a) Yes, because as parents, they have the right to make decisions about their children's lives.
- (b) No, because the Supreme Court has already recognized same-sex marriages under the SMA.
- (c) Yes, because the Supreme Court's judgment can be challenged by any person who disagrees with it.
- (d) No, because their challenge is based on personal beliefs and does not negate the legal validity of the judgment or the application.

### PASSAGE 3

The Prevention of Sexual Harassment (PoSH) Act, enacted in India in 2013, was a significant legislative step towards addressing the issue of sexual harassment in the workplace. The legislation was inspired by the landmark Vishaka Guidelines issued by the Supreme Court of India in 1997, which outlined procedural guidelines for addressing sexual harassment at work until a legislative solution was implemented.

The PoSH Act applies to all workplaces in India, whether in the public or private sector. It covers all women, irrespective of their age or employment status, and protects them against sexual harassment at their place of work. This includes all women working, whether directly or through an agent, including contract workers, probationers, trainees, and apprentices.

The Act defines "sexual harassment" comprehensively to include any unwelcome act or behaviour (whether directly or by implication), such as physical contact and advances, demand or request for sexual favours, making sexually coloured remarks, showing pornography, or any other unwelcome physical, verbal, or non-verbal conduct of a sexual nature.

The PoSH Act mandates that every workplace with ten or more employees constitute an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) for addressing complaints of sexual harassment. This Committee is an essential element of the Act, and it empowers women by providing them with a platform to voice their complaints and ensuring their concerns are addressed promptly and effectively.

The Act also prescribes the procedure for inquiring into complaints and determining suitable penalties. It necessitates a swift investigation, with a written report to be completed within 90 days. Failure to comply with the provisions of the PoSH Act can result in a fine of up to INR 50,000. However, the Act also provides safeguards against false or malicious charges. If the ICC concludes that the allegations were made with malicious intent, it may recommend action against the complainant. This provision aims to maintain a balanced approach, ensuring justice for all parties involved.

The PoSH Act underlines India's commitment to providing safe and respectful workplaces for all its workers, free from sexual harassment. It promotes the principles of gender equality and dignity at work. Yet, challenges persist in its implementation, largely owing to lack of awareness and ingrained social norms. Therefore, ongoing efforts to spread awareness about the Act and its provisions remain crucial to its effective enforcement.

The implementation of the Prevention of Sexual Harassment (PoSH) Act in India has brought to the forefront the urgent need for cultural change and a paradigm shift in societal attitudes towards sexual harassment. While the legislation provides a legal framework for addressing workplace harassment, it is essential to recognize that eradicating sexual harassment requires a multi-faceted approach that goes beyond legal compliance. Comprehensive training programs, awareness campaigns, and sensitization initiatives are crucial to foster a culture of respect, consent, and gender equality in workplaces across the country. By promoting a holistic understanding of gender dynamics and fostering an inclusive and supportive work environment, organizations can actively contribute to the prevention of sexual harassment and create a more equitable and safe space for all employees.

Additionally, the PoSH Act serves as a powerful tool in empowering victims of sexual harassment to come forward and seek justice. By establishing a formal mechanism for complaint redressal through Internal Complaints Committees (ICCs), the Act provides a channel for survivors to voice their experiences without fear of reprisal. However, it is imperative to ensure that ICCs are adequately trained, impartial, and sensitive to the needs of survivors. Ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Act, along with periodic review and refinement of the legislation, are vital to address any gaps or emerging challenges. By continuously evolving and strengthening the framework for addressing sexual harassment, India can move closer to achieving workplaces that are free from discrimination, harassment, and the violation of basic human rights.

[Source with edits and revisions from: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/expained-the-indian-law-on-sexual-harassment-in-the-workplace/article66854968.ece#:~:text=The%20Supreme%20Court%20has%20flagged,2023%2003%3A01%20pm%20IST> ]

66. Roshni is a 20-year-old intern working for a private firm, XYZ Pvt Ltd, in Bangalore, India. During her internship, she faced multiple instances of unwelcome sexually coloured remarks from one of the full-time employees, Prakash. Disturbed by the situation, Roshni decided to file a complaint under the PoSH Act. However, the management of XYZ Pvt Ltd. argued that as Roshni is not a full-time employee, she cannot avail the protection under the PoSH Act. Can Roshni lodge a complaint under the PoSH Act?
- (a) No, because the PoSH Act only covers instances of physical harassment, not verbal remarks.
  - (b) No, because Roshni is not a full-time employee, and hence the provisions of PoSH Act do not apply to her.
  - (c) Yes, because Roshni is a woman, and any woman, regardless of her age, can file a complaint under the PoSH Act.

(d) Yes, because the PoSH Act applies to all workplaces in India and covers all women, irrespective of their employment status, including interns.

67. Anita, an employee of a software company, filed a complaint under the PoSH Act, claiming that her colleague Arjun was sending her emails filled with sexual innuendos and unsolicited romantic advances. Arjun, in his defense, argued that his actions don't fall under sexual harassment because they were made online and not physically at the workplace. Anita was distressed and sought clarity about the jurisdiction of the PoSH Act. Can Arjun's actions be considered sexual harassment under the PoSH Act?
- (a) Yes, because the PoSH Act defines sexual harassment to include any unwelcome verbal conduct of a sexual nature, which can include online communication such as emails.
- (b) No, because the PoSH Act only applies to physical instances of harassment that take place in person at the workplace.
- (c) Yes, because the PoSH Act defines sexual harassment to include any unwelcome act or behavior, whether directly or by implication, covering both physical and non-physical instances of harassment.
- (d) No, because the PoSH Act does not cover online communication and is only applicable to acts that occur physically within the workplace premises.
68. XYZ Corporation, a private firm with eight full-time employees and four contract-based employees, has never established an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) under the PoSH Act. Priya, a full-time employee at the firm, faces sexual harassment by a coworker and wants to file a complaint. She questions the absence of an ICC at the workplace. The management argues that since the company has less than ten full-time employees, it is not mandated by law to form an ICC. Is the management's contention accurate?
- (a) Yes, because the PoSH Act mandates only workplaces with ten or more full-time employees to establish an ICC.
- (b) No, because the PoSH Act mandates the formation of an ICC in all workplaces, regardless of the number of employees.
- (c) Yes, because contract-based employees are not considered when counting the number of employees for the purposes of establishing an ICC.
- (d) No, because the PoSH Act mandates the formation of an ICC in any workplace with ten or more employees, regardless of whether they are full-time or contract-based.
69. XYZ Corp., a reputable organization, experienced a complex case of sexual harassment involving multiple employees. The Internal Complaints Committee (ICC), established under the PoSH Act, undertook an extensive investigation, resulting in the final report being delivered on the 120th day after the complaint was lodged. Jaya, one of the victims involved in the case, insists that the company should be penalized as per the PoSH Act because the report was not completed within the specified 90 days. Can XYZ Corp. be penalized under the provisions of the PoSH Act in this context?
- (a) No, because the PoSH Act allows for flexibility in the investigation period in the case of complex circumstances involving multiple parties.
- (b) Yes, because the PoSH Act prescribes a strict limit of 90 days for the completion of the investigation, irrespective of the complexity of the case.
- (c) No, because the delay was due to the complexity of the case and the involvement of multiple parties, which is a reasonable ground for the delay under the PoSH Act.
- (d) Yes, because the delay in delivering the final report affects the spirit of swift justice intended by the PoSH Act.

70. Facts: Asha, an employee at TechMagic Pvt. Ltd., a firm having more than 10 employees, files a complaint against her supervisor, Rajiv, alleging that he made unwelcome sexually coloured remarks about her. The Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) at TechMagic initiates an investigation, but the other employees and CCTV footage do not support Asha's claims. Further investigation reveals that Asha and Rajiv had disagreements over work-related matters, and the ICC concludes that Asha made the allegations with malicious intent to tarnish Rajiv's reputation. Based on these findings, can the ICC recommend action against Asha for false allegations as per the provisions of the PoSH Act?
- (a) No, because the PoSH Act only addresses penalties for the accused, not for the complainant making false allegations.
- (b) Yes, but only if Rajiv files a separate complaint against Asha for false accusations.
- (c) Yes, because the PoSH Act includes provisions for recommending action against a complainant if the allegations are determined to be malicious.
- (d) No, because the PoSH Act does not allow the ICC to decide the intent behind a complainant's accusations.

#### PASSAGE 4

The Indian legal system is a balanced embodiment of the federal structure, intricately dividing powers between the Union and the State. The Constitution of India, the highest legal authority, meticulously outlines this division in its seventh schedule, which lists subjects pertaining to Union List, State List, and Concurrent List.

The Union List includes subjects of national importance such as defense, atomic energy, and foreign affairs, and laws pertaining to these areas can only be enacted by the Parliament. A fitting illustration is the Atomic Energy Act, 1962, which regulates the research and production of atomic energy, a subject that needs central control for reasons of national security.

On the other hand, the State List includes subjects of local or regional importance like police, public health, and agriculture. State legislatures have exclusive powers to enact laws on these subjects. The Tamil Nadu Prohibition Act, 1937, is a classic example where the state enacted a law to enforce prohibition, reflecting local cultural and social preferences.

The Concurrent List includes subjects of common interest to both the Union and the State, such as bankruptcy and insolvency, marriage and divorce, bankruptcy and insolvency, etc. Here, both can make laws, but in case of a conflict, the law made by the Parliament prevails. An example is the Indian Penal Code, 1860, which is applicable across all states but allows for certain state-specific amendments.

The division of power in the Indian legal system is a delicate balance ensuring a decentralization of power while maintaining national unity. In some cases, if a subject is not enumerated in any of the three lists, it falls within the residuary powers of the Union, provided in Article 248 of the Constitution. This provides flexibility to the system, allowing it to tackle new issues arising with time.

This division also incorporates checks and balances. The Union can legislate on State subjects under certain conditions, like during a national emergency (Article 352), or if two or more states request it to do so (Article 252).

The division of powers between the Union and the State in the Indian legal system serves as a mechanism for effective governance and accountability. It allows for tailored laws and policies that address the specific needs and concerns of different regions while maintaining a cohesive framework at the national level. This decentralized approach recognizes the diverse cultural, social, and economic realities across the country and provides an avenue for local representation and decision-making. It fosters a sense of ownership and participation among the states, enabling them to shape their own development trajectories within the overarching framework of the Constitution.



Moreover, the division of powers in the Indian legal system contributes to a healthy balance between centralized decision-making and regional autonomy. It prevents the concentration of power in a single authority and ensures that governance is responsive to local aspirations and realities. This distribution of powers also serves as a safeguard against potential abuse of authority, as it requires cooperation and collaboration between the Union and the States for effective governance. It promotes healthy competition among states, encouraging innovation, experimentation, and the adoption of best practices. By striking a balance between central authority and regional autonomy, the Indian legal system enables the democratic ideals of participation, representation, and diversity to thrive, strengthening the fabric of the nation.

[Source with edits and revisions from: <https://blog.ipleaders.in/distribution-legislative-powers-union-states/> ]

71. Manav, a scientist working at a private research facility in Goa, discovers a new method to harness atomic energy efficiently. Ecstatic about his discovery, he wishes to collaborate with a foreign research institute to further refine his findings. However, he is aware of the Atomic Energy Act, 1962, which regulates such matters. Can Manav independently take his atomic energy research abroad for further study without involving the Central Government?
- (a) Yes, since the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 does not explicitly prevent scientists from taking their research to foreign institutes.
- (b) Yes, as Manav is a private individual, and the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 only restricts organizations from transferring research.
- (c) No, atomic energy is a subject of national importance listed in the Union List, and its control is exclusively under the Central Government's jurisdiction as per the Atomic Energy Act, 1962.
- (d) No, because Goa is not a Union Territory, and therefore all research conducted within its borders must remain there.
72. Rohan and Tina, a couple from Gujarat, decided to file for divorce after seven years of marriage. Both Rohan and Tina had previously lived in Delhi for work but had moved back to Gujarat after their marriage. They had been living separately for the past two years due to irreconcilable differences, and now they wanted to formally end their marriage. They decided to file their divorce petition in a court in Delhi, as they felt that the provisions of the divorce law in Delhi were more favorable. However, the law in Gujarat where they had last resided as a couple, had different provisions regarding division of property and alimony. On filing the petition in Delhi, they are informed by the Court Registrar that their case cannot be adjudicated under Delhi law as they are residents of Gujarat. Rohan and Tina are confused as they thought the laws on marriage and divorce are part of the Concurrent List and, thus, the Parliament's law would prevail.
- Are Rohan and Tina correct to assume that they can file for divorce in Delhi under the Delhi law?
- (a) Yes, they can file for divorce in Delhi because marriage and divorce are part of the Concurrent List and Delhi law, being more favourable, can be applied.
- (b) No, they cannot file for divorce in Delhi because they are residents of Gujarat, and state laws are applicable based on their residency.
- (c) Yes, they can file for divorce in Delhi as marriage and divorce are subjects in the Concurrent List. However, in case of conflict between state law and union law, the law made by the Parliament would prevail.
- (d) No, they cannot file for divorce in Delhi as the union law would only prevail if there's a conflict between two states' laws, which is not the case here.



73. In the city of Chennai, there has been a significant increase in the incidence of dengue, a mosquito-borne disease. As a result, the state government decides to enact a law mandating that every household maintains cleanliness and eradicates mosquito breeding sites within their premises. The law also includes punitive measures for those who fail to comply, including fines and jail terms. However, some residents argue that the state government does not have the authority to enact such laws as they feel public health matters should be under the purview of the central government.
- Given the situation, does the state government of Tamil Nadu have the authority to enact such a law?
- (a) Yes, because the state government can pass laws on all matters related to public health as per the Constitution.
  - (b) Yes, because public health is a subject in the State List, which means state legislatures have exclusive powers to enact laws on this subject.
  - (c) No, because public health matters should be under the purview of the central government according to the Union List.
  - (d) No, because any law involving punitive measures such as fines and jail terms can only be enacted by the central government.
74. In 2024, a global pandemic strikes, wreaking havoc on all corners of the earth. In India, the situation is grim, with the health infrastructure struggling to cope with the rapidly increasing number of cases. The central government, considering the seriousness of the situation, decides to impose a national emergency under Article 352 of the Constitution. In light of the emergency, the central government also decides to enact a law requiring all hospitals in the country, both public and private, to dedicate a certain percentage of their total beds to patients affected by the pandemic. The law also includes provisions for penalties in case of non-compliance. However, some states argue that the central government does not have the authority to enact such a law, as health is a state subject.
- Given the situation, does the central government have the authority to enact such a law?
- (a) No, because health is a subject under the State List, and the central government cannot legislate on state subjects.
  - (b) No, because a national emergency does not give the central government the authority to legislate on state subjects.
  - (c) Yes, because the central government can legislate on any subject during a national emergency.
  - (d) Yes, because during a national emergency, the central government can legislate on State subjects under certain conditions.
75. In the year 2026, a new form of digital currency, "Cryptotokens", becomes increasingly popular across the globe, which functions on a decentralized system of blockchain technology. Seeing a substantial portion of the Indian population taking interest in Cryptotokens, the Indian Government decides to enact a law to regulate the use and transaction of this digital currency to ensure its misuse is prevented, and tax obligations are met. However, a debate arises whether the Central Government has the authority to legislate on this subject, considering it is not enumerated in the Union, State, or Concurrent Lists provided in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.
- In light of this situation, can the Central Government enact a law to regulate Cryptotokens?
- (a) No, because the power to legislate on matters not enumerated in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution lies with the State Legislatures.
  - (b) Yes, because if a subject is not enumerated in any of the three lists, it falls within the residuary powers of the Union, as provided in Article 248 of the Constitution.
  - (c) No, because Cryptotokens operate on a decentralized system, and thus cannot be regulated by the Central Government.

(d) Yes, because the Central Government has the power to legislate on all matters concerning finance and currency.

#### PASSAGE 5

Jallikattu, a traditional bull-taming sport of Tamil Nadu, India, has seen intense debate in recent years due to issues of animal cruelty. Its controversy has brought two important aspects of Indian law into focus - the prevention of cruelty to animals and the right to protect cultural interests under Article 29 of the Indian Constitution.

The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, was enacted to prevent unnecessary suffering of animals. The Act deems any act of cruelty towards animals, including beating, over-riding, and torture, as illegal. In 2014, the Supreme Court, taking into account the Act, banned Jallikattu, citing animal cruelty and threat to human lives.

However, in 2017, the Tamil Nadu state government passed the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Act, allowing Jallikattu under specific conditions, arguing the sport's cultural significance. This was a clear invocation of Article 29 of the Indian Constitution, which protects the cultural rights of citizens, allowing any section of citizens with a distinct culture, script, or language the right to conserve the same.

The situation presents an interesting dichotomy in law where there's a conflict between animal rights and cultural preservation. While the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act aims to safeguard animals from any form of harm or suffering, Article 29 serves to protect the cultural heritage of distinct groups within India.

This contention further brings to light the need for a balanced interpretation of the law, especially in a diverse country like India. The essential ingredients for such an interpretation include the intention of the legislation, the values of society, and the larger public interest.

For instance, while animal rights need to be safeguarded, exceptions can be made if the sport of Jallikattu is regulated rather than completely banned. Strict guidelines can be established for conducting Jallikattu, ensuring the animals involved are not harmed or treated cruelly. At the same time, this would preserve the cultural integrity of the communities for whom Jallikattu holds traditional value.

The debate surrounding Jallikattu brings to the forefront the complexity of balancing animal welfare with cultural practices. While the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act is designed to prevent any form of harm or suffering to animals, it is essential to recognize the deeply rooted cultural significance that Jallikattu holds for certain communities. The right to protect cultural interests, as enshrined in Article 29 of the Indian Constitution, underscores the importance of preserving the diverse cultural heritage of different groups within the country. Thus, striking a balance between animal rights and cultural preservation requires a nuanced approach that respects both aspects.

A potential way forward could involve comprehensive regulation and monitoring of Jallikattu events to ensure the well-being of the animals involved. Strict guidelines can be implemented, including measures to prevent physical harm or cruelty towards the bulls, regular veterinary check-ups, and training for participants on animal handling techniques. Additionally, incorporating animal welfare organizations and experts in the monitoring process can help ensure compliance with the prescribed regulations. Such a regulated approach would acknowledge the cultural value of Jallikattu while ensuring that animal welfare standards are upheld, providing a compromise that considers both aspects and promotes a more inclusive and informed decision-making process.

[Source with edits and revisions from: <https://www.barandbench.com/news/jallikattu-cultural-right-article-29-matter-likely-referred-constitution-bench> ]

76. In the city of Ajmer, there exists a local tradition of snake charming, where snakes are taken from the wild, kept in captivity, and made to perform at local fairs and festivals. Rahul, an environmental activist, believes this practice to be cruel and harmful to snakes. He wants to put a stop to it, and seeks to file a case against the snake charmers under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960. During the investigation, it is revealed that the snake charmers remove the venom glands of the snakes for safety, but otherwise, they provide the snakes with appropriate food and care. They also claim that this is a part of their cultural heritage, and it provides them with their primary source of income. Should Rahul be able to successfully file a case under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, against the snake charmers?
- No, because the snake charmers are providing appropriate care to the snakes.
  - Yes, because taking snakes from the wild and making them perform is cruelty.
  - No, because the snake charming is part of the charmers' cultural heritage.
  - Yes, because removing the venom glands of the snakes can be deemed as a form of cruelty.
77. The annual village fair in the state of Rajasthan is well-known for its traditional sport, 'Hathi-Daud.' In this sport, participants mount and race elephants. Over the years, this event has become a significant tourist attraction. Recently, concerns have been raised regarding the welfare of the elephants involved in the sport, as the race puts undue stress on the elephants and poses safety risks to the riders and spectators. Raghav, a local villager and animal rights advocate, wants to challenge the practice of Hathi-Daud in court. Drawing parallels from the 2014 Jallikattu ban, he argues that Hathi-Daud is equally, if not more, harmful to the elephants and dangerous for humans.
- In light of this scenario, which of the following would be the most plausible arguments Raghav can present before the court?
- The local economy significantly depends on the revenue generated by the Hathi-Daud event.
  - The tradition of Hathi-Daud is crucial to the cultural identity of the village.
  - Animal cruelty and threat to human lives override the cultural significance of Hathi-Daud.
  - The event of Hathi-Daud can be modified to be less stressful for the elephants without banning it.
78. In the heartland of Assam, a traditional festival 'Bulbuli Fight' is celebrated, where two Bulbuls (songbirds) are pitted against each other. The local people believe that this festival is a part of their distinct culture and heritage. However, concerns regarding the treatment of the Bulbuls have led to significant controversy.
- The Bulbuli fight usually results in considerable stress, harm, and sometimes death for the birds. The local wildlife conservation organization, led by Sangeeta, is pushing for the festival to be banned, citing the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, and the potential harm to the Bulbuls.
- Meanwhile, the local community leaders argue that the Bulbuli fight is an integral part of their cultural heritage and is protected under Article 29 of the Indian Constitution. They propose to continue the festival under specific guidelines to ensure the welfare of the Bulbuls.
- In this scenario, which of the following could be the most effective argument Sangeeta could make to the local community leaders?
- The Bulbuli fight generates significant tourism revenue, which is essential for the local economy.
  - The preservation of culture should not justify causing harm to animals, and there are other ways to keep traditions alive without harming the Bulbuls.
  - The Bulbuli fight, though a part of the local cultural heritage, does not involve a distinct script or language, so it does not fall under the protection of Article 29.
  - The community should let the Bulbuli fight continue but should ensure that the birds are provided with medical care post-fight.

79. A massive public protest ensues in the city of Chennai after the Central Government announces a plan to ban the sport of Jallikattu. Ram, a community leader who believes in the cultural importance of Jallikattu, is asked by the local community to draft an argument against the ban. He, however, also acknowledges the animal welfare concerns raised against the sport. After consulting with various stakeholders, he comes up with four potential responses:
- (a) Propose strict guidelines and regulations for conducting Jallikattu that ensure the animals involved are not harmed or treated cruelly.
  - (b) Argue that the cultural integrity of the communities supersedes animal rights.
  - (c) Push for a complete ban on all forms of entertainment involving animals to ensure fairness.
  - (d) Ask for a public referendum to decide on the matter.
80. Vinay is a member of a tribal community in Northeast India where a unique form of bullfighting, "Moichara", has been practiced for centuries as a cultural tradition. Vinay wants to organize a Moichara event in his village for the upcoming harvest festival. However, there has been a rise in animal rights activism in the country and there are concerns that the Moichara could violate the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. Still, Vinay believes that Moichara should be preserved as a cultural heritage under Article 29 of the Indian Constitution. Is Vinay's view in accordance with the balance described in the given passage?
- (a) Yes, because the cultural heritage of distinct groups in India should be protected under Article 29, despite the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.
  - (b) No, because the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act aims to safeguard animals from any form of harm or suffering and should supersede cultural practices.
  - (c) No, because bullfighting is a violent sport and should not be classified as a cultural tradition.
  - (d) Yes, but Vinay needs to implement strict guidelines and measures to ensure the bulls involved in Moichara are not subjected to harm or cruelty.

#### PASSAGE 6

The Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999, and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, are two pivotal statutes in India regulating economic offences. They symbolize the commitment of the Indian state to check illicit financial activities and ensure a transparent, healthy economic environment.

Under FEMA, several regulations govern different aspects of foreign exchange management. For example, the Foreign Exchange Management (Current Account Transactions) Rules, 2000, regulate transactions like remittances abroad for education or medical treatment, establishing the procedural requirements and limits on remittances. FEMA's Regulation 3 prohibits a person resident in India from entering into a foreign exchange transaction with a person resident outside India without general or specific permission of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Another example is the Foreign Exchange Management (Borrowing and Lending in Foreign Exchange) Regulations, 2000, which stipulates conditions and procedures for borrowing and lending in foreign exchange for residents and non-residents alike. These regulations have direct bearings on investments, loans, and borrowings in India and by Indians abroad.

On the other hand, PMLA focuses on preventing and controlling money laundering and the confiscation of property derived from, or involved in, money laundering. Section 3 of the Act defines the offense of money laundering, and Section 4 outlines the punishment for this offense. Section 4 of the PMLA provides for the punishment of the offence of money laundering. It provides that a person guilty of money laundering will be punished with imprisonment of 3 years which may extend to 7 years, along with a fine. Also, imprisonment shall be rigorous.

A notable provision is Section 5, which allows for provisional attachment and confiscation of the property of an offender if the authority (generally the Enforcement Directorate) has a reason to believe it's involved in money laundering. Under Section 12, obligations of banking companies,

financial institutions, and intermediaries are stated, including the verification of the identity of all clients and maintaining records of all transactions.

The scope of both FEMA and PMLA is expansive, covering almost every aspect of financial and foreign exchange transactions, and monetary frauds.

The essential ingredients of both acts pertain to their objective to uphold the integrity of the Indian economy. For FEMA, it's about maintaining orderly conditions in the forex market, ensuring that India's foreign trade and investment are not affected by irregularities in exchange transactions. For PMLA, it's about ensuring that the proceeds of crime are not utilized to fuel further illegal activities, thereby keeping the economic ecosystem free from tainted money.

The combination of these two acts, along with other economic legislation, contributes to the overall financial security of the country, ensures India's reputation as a secure destination for investment, and helps in maintaining economic stability. While the laws themselves outline the general and specific guidelines, it's their interpretation and enforcement that shape the economic landscape. Hence, a thorough understanding of these acts and their appropriate application is crucial for maintaining the economic well-being of the nation.

The Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) play a vital role in India's efforts to combat economic offenses and financial irregularities. These acts are not only crucial in protecting the Indian economy but also contribute to enhancing the country's credibility on the global stage. By regulating foreign exchange transactions, FEMA ensures the smooth functioning of India's foreign trade and investment, guarding against any potential disruptions or manipulations in the forex market. Similarly, the PMLA focuses on preventing money laundering and the illegal utilization of proceeds from criminal activities, thereby safeguarding the integrity of the financial system and deterring illicit financial flows that could undermine economic stability.

The stringent provisions within FEMA and PMLA underline India's commitment to maintaining a transparent and accountable economic environment. Both acts incorporate provisions that require individuals and institutions to comply with robust regulatory frameworks, such as the verification of client identities, maintaining transaction records, and reporting suspicious activities. These measures aim to create a culture of financial integrity and discourage illicit financial activities. Furthermore, the powers granted to authorities under these acts, such as provisional attachment and confiscation of property, serve as effective deterrents against money laundering and economic offenses, reinforcing the importance of adhering to lawful financial practices.

[Source with edits and revisions from: <https://enforcementdirectorategov.in/what-we-do> ]

81. Ravi, an Indian national, is studying in the United States for his Master's degree. His tuition fees and living expenses are financed through remittances sent by his parents from India. Last semester, Ravi faced some financial difficulties and his parents decided to send him an extra amount of money to cover his unexpected expenses.
- However, they were informed by their bank that they have already reached their annual limit under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) regulated by the Foreign Exchange Management (Current Account Transactions) Rules, 2000. As a result, they couldn't remit additional funds. Distraught, Ravi's parents contemplate selling one of their properties to a foreign national to acquire the needed foreign exchange directly.
- Would this action be legal under FEMA?
- (a) Yes, because Ravi's parents have a genuine need to acquire foreign exchange for their son's educational needs.
  - (b) No, because the LRS limit applies to all foreign exchange transactions, regardless of the method of obtaining the foreign exchange.
  - (c) Yes, because selling property to a foreign national is not governed by the FEMA regulations.



(d) No, because Ravi's parents are circumventing the annual limit set by the LRS, which could be interpreted as an attempt to violate FEMA regulations.

82. Anita, an Indian resident, owns a successful tech startup in Bangalore. She is contacted by Max, a resident of Germany, who expresses interest in investing in her company. Max wants to purchase a significant number of shares in her startup. Excited by the prospect of foreign investment, Anita is ready to proceed with the transaction. However, she is unsure whether this transaction would be permissible under FEMA's regulations.

Is Anita allowed to proceed with the transaction under FEMA's Regulation 3?

- (a) Yes, because Anita is an Indian resident and she is conducting a transaction within the Indian territory.
- (b) No, because Max is a foreign resident and such a transaction would be considered a foreign exchange transaction.
- (c) Yes, if Anita obtains either general or specific permission from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the transaction.
- (d) No, because such transactions are strictly prohibited under FEMA.
83. Reena owns a rapidly growing fintech startup in India. Her company has recently ventured into facilitating overseas transactions for their clients. As the transactions grew, she started to rely on automated systems for client identification and record-keeping. However, one day, a technical glitch in the system erased several transaction records of the last month. Moreover, in the process of rapid expansion, Reena's company had inadvertently missed verifying the identities of a few clients. Could Reena's company be in violation of Section 12 of the PMLA?
- (a) No, because as a fintech company, they are exempted from the obligations stated in Section 12.
- (b) Yes, because Reena's company has failed to verify the identity of all clients and maintain records of all transactions.
- (c) No, because the missed verifications and lost records were unintentional.
- (d) Yes, but only because of the lost transaction records.
84. In 2023, India faced a sudden financial crisis due to an unexpected surge in the foreign exchange market, leading to a significant devaluation of the Indian Rupee. In response, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed severe restrictions on foreign exchange transactions to control the situation. Samanvay Pvt. Ltd., a prominent exporter of Indian handicrafts, had been in the process of expanding their business to foreign markets during this period. The imposed restrictions affected the company's operations, resulting in substantial financial losses. Aggrieved by this, Samanvay Pvt. Ltd. decided to challenge the restrictions imposed by the RBI. Would the challenge likely be successful?
- (a) Yes, because the restrictions have caused significant financial losses to Samanvay Pvt. Ltd.
- (b) Yes, because such restrictions impede the free functioning of the forex market.
- (c) No, because the RBI has no authority to impose restrictions on foreign exchange transactions.
- (d) No, because FEMA aims at maintaining orderly conditions in the forex market, and these restrictions serve that objective.
85. Gaurav, an acclaimed businessman and resident of India, was investigated and charged under the PMLA for engaging in a series of suspicious financial transactions with an overseas entity. These transactions were linked to an organized crime ring operating outside India, suspected of drug trafficking. The Enforcement Directorate discovered that Gaurav was aiding the crime ring by laundering its illicit proceeds through his various business ventures. During the trial, Gaurav defended himself by claiming he was unaware that the money he received was from illicit sources. He argued that this lack of knowledge should exempt him from the punishment for money



laundering. Is Gaurav likely to be exempted from the punishment for money laundering because he was unaware that the money he received was from illicit sources?

- (a) Yes, because the PMLA requires the accused to have knowledge of the crime for punishment.
- (b) Yes, because Gaurav is a resident of India and the crime was committed by an organization outside India.
- (c) No, because the PMLA does not consider the place where the crime was committed.
- (d) No, because under Section 4 of the PMLA, ignorance of the nature of the money doesn't exempt one from punishment.

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## SECTION – IV: LOGICAL REASONING

## PASSAGE 1

As we mark the 30th anniversary of the World Press Freedom Day, there is one number that tells us a lot about the state of press freedom globally: 363. That's how many journalists were in prison across the planet as of December 1 last year, according to a snapshot by the Committee for the Protection of Journalists. Since then the number has risen, most notably with Russia's arrest and jailing of the Wall Street Journal's Moscow correspondent Evan Gershkovich on spying charges. The number of detained journalists is alarming for several reasons. First, it is a record by a significant margin. World Press Freedom Day was set up to help defend a principle widely recognised as a cornerstone for any functioning democracy. Soon after Al-Qaeda launched its attacks on that horrific day, then-US President George W. Bush declared the 'war on terror'. Unlike so many conflicts of the past, the war on terror was a battle not so much over tangible things like ethnicity, land or water, where journalists are witnesses rather than participants. Instead, it was a fight over ideas – a struggle between liberal democracy and Islamic theocracy. In that kind of war, the battlefield extends to the place where ideas themselves are transmitted, in other words, the media. This idea is much less abstract than it sounds. In the post-9/11 world, terrorism and national security became touchstones for politicians everywhere. They gave governments a licence to pass a host of draconian laws that strengthened state power beyond physical things like lives and property, into control over information and ideas. They did that by loosening the definitions of what constituted 'terrorism' and 'national security'. In Egypt for example, human rights groups accused the government of using terrorism as an excuse to pass a suite of laws that have then been used to shut down anyone who criticises the government, and lock up journalists who talk to those critics. The increasing number of journalists in prison is deeply concerning as it reflects the growing threats faced by the press worldwide. Press freedom is a fundamental pillar of democracy, providing a vital check on power and ensuring transparency and accountability. The imprisonment of journalists not only suppresses their voices but also stifles the free flow of information and undermines democratic principles. In the context of the war on terror, the media's role becomes even more crucial. As the battleground for ideas and information, the media plays a pivotal role in shaping public opinion, challenging narratives, and holding governments accountable. However, the post-9/11 era has witnessed an erosion of press freedom, with governments exploiting the rhetoric of national security to curtail civil liberties and silence dissenting voices.

Extracted with edits and revisions from When Journalists Are Targets, We All Suffer, The Wire <https://thewire.in/media/when-journalists-are-targets-we-all-suffer>

86. What inference can be made from the passage about the impact of the 'war on terror' on press freedom globally?
- (a) The 'war on terror' led to the passing of laws that have been used to suppress freedom of the press in many countries.
  - (b) The 'war on terror' had a positive impact on press freedom by encouraging a more robust public debate on national security issues.
  - (c) The 'war on terror' had little impact on press freedom globally, as most governments continue to respect the principle of freedom of the press.
  - (d) The 'war on terror' was primarily a physical conflict and did not involve any threats to freedom of the press.
87. What is the central idea of the passage regarding press freedom and the war on terror?
- (a) The number of detained journalists globally has reached a record high due to the loosening definitions of "terrorism" and "national security" in the post-9/11 world.
  - (b) The war on terror has led to the imprisonment of journalists who report on government corruption and human rights abuses in countries like Egypt.

- (c) The media has become a battleground for the ideas of liberal democracy and Islamic theocracy in the war on terror.
- (d) The Committee for the Protection of Journalists has declared a state of emergency for global press freedom as the number of imprisoned journalists continues to rise.
88. What assumption is required for the conclusion that the global state of press freedom is alarming based on the number of journalists in prison across the planet?
- (a) The majority of journalists in prison are being held due to accusations of terrorism or national security threats.
- (b) The number of imprisoned journalists has been steadily increasing since the establishment of World Press Freedom Day.
- (c) The current global political climate is increasingly hostile towards the concept of press freedom and journalistic integrity.
- (d) The imprisonment of journalists has a direct correlation to the decline of liberal democracy and the rise of Islamic theocracy.
89. As we celebrate the 30th anniversary of World Press Freedom Day, the Committee for the Protection of Journalists reports that 363 journalists were imprisoned globally as of December 1 last year, with numbers continuing to rise. In light of this information, which of the following statements, if true, would weaken the argument for the importance of press freedom?
- (a) Journalists who are imprisoned often have links to terrorist groups, and therefore pose a threat to national security.
- (b) Governments have a responsibility to ensure that the media does not publish material that could be harmful to the public.
- (c) Press freedom is not an absolute right, and can be limited in certain circumstances.
- (d) Journalism is not the only way to transmit ideas, and therefore the media is not as crucial to the battlefield of ideas as the passage suggests.
90. As we mark the 30th anniversary of the World Press Freedom Day, we come across a startling fact that indicates the state of press freedom globally. According to the Committee for the Protection of Journalists, there were 363 journalists in prison across the world as of December 1 last year. This number has only increased since then, which is alarming for various reasons. Given that the media plays a vital role in the transmission of ideas, especially in the post-9/11 world, how can this paradox be resolved?
- Which of the following options best resolves the paradox stated above?
- (a) The governments are justified in passing laws that strengthen state power to combat terrorism, which ultimately protects the freedom of the press.
- (b) The media has become increasingly sensationalistic, which has led to an increase in the number of journalists being jailed.
- (c) The idea of a liberal democracy is fundamentally flawed, and a theocratic government is the best way to ensure press freedom.
- (d) The war on terror and the resulting laws have created a situation where journalists who criticize the government are seen as a threat to national security.

### PASSAGE 2

Defence outlays among NATO members – the Euro-Atlantic military alliance incorporating most European countries – have been going up since at least 2014. That's when Russia initially attacked Ukraine, illegally annexing the Crimean Peninsula and backing separatists in the eastern part of the country. NATO members agreed to meet a defence spending goal of 2% of national GDP by 2024, and many have been slowly working toward that target. The Russian threat that all this money is meant to counter, however, has not materialised as frightfully as first imagined. The fact that Ukraine has so far managed to counter the Russian forces, which

are theoretically superior, and hem them into a corner of the country has cast serious doubt on a broader danger to the rest of Europe. Still, money for new military kit and other defence-related spending keeps pouring in. Russia may be a flop on the battlefield, Nan Tian said, but it could still be a potent adversary in cyberspace. Attacks on digital infrastructure can be low-cost, but high-damage. And, of course, Russia maintains a considerable nuclear arsenal. A chicken-or-egg scenario has taken shape. As governments respond to a growing sense of unravelling security, they contribute to its further deterioration. At the same time, however, the SIPRI data shows that the spending spree may not be as pronounced as headlines and policymakers sometimes make it out to be. In each of these countries, however, defence spending has declined as a percentage of national economic output. The discrepancy suggests economic expansion has outpaced national budgets in areas such as defence, even if dollar figures can appear eye-popping; and rapid, record inflation has forced governments to spend more just to keep up. In other words, they have lost purchasing power. A defence ministry faces similar price pressures when shopping for a squadron of fighter jets that a normal household does for buying a carton of eggs. Countries looking not just to maintain, but grow or upgrade their militaries, have to spend even more, which has been reflected in SIPRI's reporting. While defence spending among NATO members has been increasing since the Russian annexation of Crimea and the conflict in Ukraine, the actual threat posed by Russia has not materialized as initially anticipated. Ukraine's ability to effectively counter Russian forces has cast doubts on the broader danger to Europe. However, despite this discrepancy, governments continue to allocate significant funds for military expenditures, driven by concerns over cybersecurity and Russia's formidable nuclear arsenal. The evolving nature of security threats, particularly in cyberspace, has prompted governments to prioritize investments in digital infrastructure and cybersecurity capabilities. Russia has demonstrated its ability to conduct low-cost, high-impact cyberattacks, highlighting the need for robust defence measures in the digital realm. Furthermore, Russia's possession of a substantial nuclear arsenal serves as a constant reminder of the potential catastrophic consequences that could result from any escalation of tensions.

Extracted with edits and revisions from Global Military Spending Reaches Record High, The Wire  
<https://thewire.in/world/global-military-spend-record-high-2022>

91. In light of the Russian threat, NATO members have been increasing their defense spending since 2014, with the aim of meeting a 2% GDP target by 2024. However, the threat has not materialized as seriously as initially feared, raising doubts about the need for such spending. The paradox, therefore, is: if the Russian threat is not as severe as thought, why are NATO members continuing to increase their defense spending? Which of the following options does not resolve this paradox?
  - (a) The Russian threat may not be materializing on the battlefield, but it is a potent adversary in cyberspace, and maintains a considerable nuclear arsenal, making increased defense spending necessary.
  - (b) The governments of NATO members have lost purchasing power due to rapid inflation, which has resulted in the need for increased spending just to maintain their existing military capabilities.
  - (c) Despite the increased defense spending, many NATO members are still far from meeting the 2% GDP target by 2024, and may need to continue increasing their defense spending in order to meet this goal.
  - (d) The increased defense spending by NATO members has contributed to a growing sense of unravelling security, which in turn has led to even more defense spending.
92. According to the given text, defence spending in NATO member countries has increased since 2014 to counter the threat posed by Russia. However, a new argument can weaken the conclusion presented in the text. Which of the following statements could weaken the conclusion that NATO's increased defence spending is justified?

- (a) Many NATO member countries have experienced a decline in defence spending as a percentage of their national economic output.
- (b) The Russian threat in cyberspace and their nuclear arsenal pose a greater danger to Europe than their military capabilities.
- (c) Rapid inflation has forced governments to spend more on defence just to keep up with economic expansion, resulting in lost purchasing power.
- (d) Despite the increase in defence spending, NATO's military capabilities have not improved significantly, as demonstrated by the fact that Russian forces were able to hem Ukrainian forces into a corner of the country.
93. The passage discusses the increase in defence spending among NATO members, primarily due to the perceived threat from Russia. However, the author also notes that the actual threat from Russia may not be as severe as anticipated, and that economic factors may be contributing to the increase in spending. To strengthen the argument, which of the following would be most helpful?
- (a) More NATO members should meet or exceed the 2% of national GDP defence spending goal by 2024, regardless of the actual threat from Russia.
- (b) The possibility of cyber attacks and the existence of a significant nuclear arsenal make it prudent to continue increasing defence spending.
- (c) The decline in defence spending as a percentage of national economic output is due to economic factors such as inflation and loss of purchasing power, rather than a decrease in perceived threat.
- (d) The increase in defence spending among NATO members has led to a more peaceful and stable geopolitical climate in Europe, reducing the likelihood of a Russian attack.
94. What can be inferred from the passage regarding the increase in defence spending among NATO members since 2014?
- (a) The Russian threat has not materialized as originally feared, and the increase in defence spending may be unnecessary.
- (b) Despite the lack of a significant Russian threat, NATO members are continuing to pour money into their militaries.
- (c) The increase in defence spending may be due in part to a growing sense of unravelling security, which is contributing to its further deterioration.
- (d) The increase in defence spending is largely due to economic expansion outpacing national budgets, and governments struggling to maintain purchasing power.
95. Which of the following arguments is most similar to the author's view on defence spending among NATO members?
- (a) Companies should invest in expensive cybersecurity systems to protect against potential cyberattacks, even if there is no evidence of a specific threat.
- (b) Individuals should always carry pepper spray with them for protection, even if they have never been attacked before.
- (c) Governments should allocate a large portion of their budget to defence spending, even if there is no immediate threat to national security.
- (d) Homeowners should purchase home security systems, even if their neighborhood has low crime rates and there is no evidence of a burglary threat.

### PASSAGE 3

A Muslim married couple registering their marriage in Delhi might be in for a rude shock in case they want their marriage and inheritance to be governed by Muslim personal law. The Delhi government's policy on compulsory registration of marriages is effectively forcing Muslims to relinquish their personal law. The Delhi



government is registering marriages of non-Hindus under the Special Marriage Act, 1954 (SMA). On account of certain provisions of the SMA, Muslims registering their marriages in Delhi will no longer be governed by Muslim personal law on issues of marriage, divorce and inheritance. Alarming, it appears that a lot of Muslim couples registering their marriage in Delhi are unaware of the consequences of such a registration. Even though the effects of such a policy are not immediately felt, they will become crucial when couples who have registered their marriage under this policy decide to get a divorce or the inheritance of their property comes into question. It is important to note that the Delhi Order itself does not specify any particular law under which to register marriages which have been performed under personal laws. It merely requires that all marriages performed in Delhi be registered with the designated marriage officers appointed by the government. This is where the Delhi government's arbitrary practice has served to deprive non-Hindus, especially Muslims, of their personal law. The Delhi government's internal practice, which appears to be arbitrary and without any legal basis, is to register marriages only under the SMA where one or both the parties to a marriage are non-Hindus. On the other hand, in cases of marriage between Hindus or Sikhs, they have an option to register their marriage under their personal law or the SMA. The legality of registration of Muslim marriages under the SMA in Delhi was challenged before the Delhi high court in the case of *Dhanak of Humanity & Anr. Vs State of NCT of Delhi*. The petition was disposed off after the Delhi government's counsel assured the high court that the Delhi government will issue necessary instructions to register Muslim marriages directly under the marriage order and not under the SMA. The policy of compulsory registration of marriages in Delhi has raised concerns among Muslim couples who wish to have their marriages and inheritances governed by Muslim personal law. By registering their marriages under the Special Marriage Act, Muslims in Delhi inadvertently relinquish the application of their personal law on important matters like marriage, divorce, and inheritance. The lack of awareness among Muslim couples about the consequences of registering their marriages under this policy is alarming, as it can significantly impact their lives when issues of divorce or inheritance arise in the future. The Delhi government's arbitrary practice of registering marriages only under the Special Marriage Act for non-Hindus, while providing an option for Hindus and Sikhs to register under their personal laws, further exacerbates the discriminatory effect on non-Hindus, particularly Muslims. This policy has the potential to undermine the principles of religious freedom and equal treatment under the law. While the Delhi government has assured the high court that necessary instructions will be issued to register Muslim marriages directly under the marriage order and not under the Special Marriage Act, it is essential to closely monitor the implementation of this assurance to ensure the protection of individuals' rights to their personal laws.

Extracted with edits and revisions from Delhi's Compulsory Registration of Marriages Has Unintended Consequences for Muslims, The Wire <https://thewire.in/law/delhis-compulsory-registration-of-marriages-has-unintended-consequences-for-muslims>

96. What is the central idea of the passage "A Muslim married couple registering their marriage in Delhi might be in for a rude shock in case they want their marriage and inheritance to be governed by Muslim personal law."?
  - (a) The Delhi government's policy on compulsory registration of marriages is effectively forcing Muslims to relinquish their personal law.
  - (b) Muslims registering their marriages in Delhi will no longer be governed by Muslim personal law on issues of marriage, divorce and inheritance.
  - (c) The Delhi government's arbitrary practice has served to deprive non-Hindus, especially Muslims, of their personal law.
  - (d) The Delhi high court disposed off a petition regarding the legality of registration of Muslim marriages under the SMA in Delhi.
97. What can be inferred from the passage regarding the Delhi government's policy on marriage registration and its effect on Muslim couples?

- (a) The Delhi government's policy on compulsory registration of marriages is discriminatory towards Muslims and deprives them of their personal law.
- (b) Muslim couples who have registered their marriage under the Special Marriage Act in Delhi will face legal complications in case of divorce or inheritance issues.
- (c) The Delhi government's internal practice of registering marriages under the SMA for non-Hindu couples is arbitrary and lacks any legal basis.
- (d) All of the above
98. Based on the given text, which one of the following is an assumption on which the conclusion depends?
- (a) The Delhi government's policy of registering marriages only under the Special Marriage Act for non-Hindus is arbitrary and without any legal basis.
- (b) Muslim personal law is the only suitable law for governing marriage, divorce, and inheritance for Muslim couples.
- (c) Muslim couples who register their marriage under the Special Marriage Act in Delhi are aware of the consequences of relinquishing their personal law.
- (d) The Delhi government's issuance of necessary instructions to register Muslim marriages directly under the marriage order will prevent Muslim couples from relinquishing their personal law.
99. Identify from the given statement that cannot strengthened the argument presented in the passage?
- (a) The Delhi government should provide clear information on the consequences of registering a marriage under the SMA to all couples seeking to register their marriage, regardless of their religion.
- (b) The Delhi high court should issue a ruling prohibiting the Delhi government from registering Muslim marriages under the SMA.
- (c) The Delhi government should appoint designated marriage officers for each religion to ensure that couples can choose to register their marriage under their personal law.
- (d) The Delhi government's policy on compulsory registration of marriages should be abolished.
100. In light of the recent policy by the Delhi government, a Muslim couple registering their marriage in Delhi might lose the right to have their marriage and inheritance governed by Muslim personal law. Which of the following, if true, would weaken the argument presented in the passage?
- (a) The Special Marriage Act, 1954 (SMA) provides a more equitable and fair framework for governing marriage, divorce, and inheritance for all parties involved regardless of their religious beliefs.
- (b) The Delhi government's policy of registering all marriages in Delhi is a necessary step to prevent child marriages and ensure the safety and welfare of women.
- (c) Muslims have the option to register their marriage under their personal law or the SMA in cases of marriage between Hindus or Sikhs.
- (d) The Delhi government has already issued necessary instructions to register Muslim marriages directly under the marriage order and not under the SMA, thereby eliminating the issue highlighted in the passage.

#### PASSAGE 4

It has no Muslim MP or MLA but says "sabka saath," with everyone. Its ministers garland those who are convicted of lynching the minorities, but it says "sabka saath". "Beti bachao" is a jumla when BJP supporters, national heroines in their own field, must sit in protest to beg for action against their oppressor. The

government is reluctant to act because the man in question is a long-term party MP and it senses there might be political benefit in not acting. This is the only reason it looks away from, and in that sense condones and encourages, the harassment of India's daughters. And yet it claims to promote "beti bachao", though in court it is unwilling to reveal the reasons for choosing to release convicted rapists. Again, mark the reluctance to reveal oneself honestly. Of course, it is true that hypocrisy and lies are a part of all political activity, and that is the reason why many people are not attracted to it. But this level of fake piety and pretend virtue while the deception is visible for all to see is likely to be unique to us, and that is why we have to talk about it. It is quite remarkable that a political party can do this and assume it can get away with it forever, but such is the arrogance of power and this time the delusion is likely real. On the one hand there is a mass media that is feeding at the trough and happy to be seen as a cheerleader for the government, if not aching to be an actual part of the official propaganda machine. From them we can expect no honest survey or assessment. Add to this a set of the world's most craven celebrities, film stars, musicians and cricketers. Unwilling to stand up even for their own when they are tortured and persecuted. Both are too afraid to speak and too selfish and greedy to put at stake the riches they have gathered through their fame. And so externally, there is no large dissenting, authoritative and popular voice to point out that what is being shown as day is really night. The prevailing atmosphere of hypocrisy and deception in Indian politics is both concerning and disheartening. The ruling party, while professing slogans like "sabka saath" and "beti bachao," often fails to live up to these ideals. Instances of ministers garlanding convicted perpetrators of violence against minorities raise serious questions about the government's commitment to inclusivity and justice. The reluctance to take action against powerful party members accused of harassment further highlights the prioritization of political gains over the well-being and dignity of India's daughters. This culture of hypocrisy is enabled by a complicit mass media, which often serves as a mouthpiece for the government rather than engaging in unbiased reporting. Additionally, the reluctance of influential celebrities from various fields to speak out against injustice and persecution further exacerbates the lack of dissenting voices. The absence of a powerful and influential external force to challenge the prevailing narrative allows the deception to continue unabated, leaving many disheartened and disillusioned.

Extracted with edits and revisions from 'The Hypocrisy of 'Sabka Saath' and 'Beti Bachao', The Wire <https://thewire.in/government/the-hypocrisy-of-sabka-saath-and-beti-bachao>

101. In light of the given text, which of the following statements, if true, would weaken the argument made against the Indian government's claims of promoting "beti bachao" (save the girl child) and "sabka saath" (with everyone) policies?
- (a) The current government has implemented several initiatives to improve the lives of women, including increasing access to education and healthcare, and providing financial aid for female entrepreneurs.
  - (b) The harassment and oppression of women in India is a complex issue that cannot be fully addressed by any single political party or government.
  - (c) Many prominent figures in the media and entertainment industry have publicly criticized the government's actions regarding women's rights and gender-based violence.
  - (d) The government's policies and actions regarding women's rights are influenced by a variety of factors, including cultural norms, societal expectations, and historical precedents.
102. In the given text, it is mentioned that a political party claims to promote "sabka saath" and "beti bachao" but contradicts itself through its actions. The ministers of the party garland those who are convicted of lynching minorities and the party is reluctant to act against a long-term MP who harasses women. Yet, the party assumes that it can get away with its hypocrisy forever. This is a paradoxical situation. Which of the following statements best explains this paradox?
- (a) The party is genuinely committed to promoting "sabka saath" and "beti bachao", but it is unable to control the actions of all its members.
  - (b) The party uses "sabka saath" and "beti bachao" as a tool to gain political power, without any real commitment to these causes.

- (c) The party is aware of its hypocrisy but believes that it can continue to deceive the masses without consequences.
- (d) The party genuinely believes that its actions are consistent with its stated goals, even though they appear contradictory.
103. What can be inferred from the argument presented about the Indian political party that claims to promote "sabka saath" and "beti bachao"?
- (a) The party's lack of Muslim MPs or MLAs contradicts its claims of inclusivity, rendering its policies hypocritical.
- (b) The party condones and encourages the harassment of women, as evidenced by its reluctance to act against convicted rapists who are party members.
- (c) The party's insistence on "beti bachao" is merely a slogan, as it fails to take action against oppressors of women, even when prominent supporters protest.
- (d) The party's use of propaganda and control over the media prevents any authoritative or popular dissenting voice from being heard, leading to a distorted perception of reality.
104. Based on the given text, which of the following viewpoints is the author most likely to agree with regarding the Indian government's promotion of "beti bachao" and "sabka saath"?
- (a) The Indian government's promotion of "beti bachao" and "sabka saath" is genuine and reflects their true intentions.
- (b) The Indian government's promotion of "beti bachao" and "sabka saath" is insincere and hypocritical, as demonstrated by their actions.
- (c) The media and celebrities are justified in supporting the Indian government's promotion of "beti bachao" and "sabka saath".
- (d) The Indian government's promotion of "beti bachao" and "sabka saath" is a complex issue that cannot be easily resolved or assessed.
105. Which of the following, if true, would most strongly support the argument presented in the passage?
- (a) Recent government statistics indicate a significant increase in incidents of harassment and violence against women in India.
- (b) The political party in question has a history of making false promises and failing to deliver on its social welfare programs.
- (c) A prominent international human rights organization has condemned the government's inaction regarding the harassment of women and its support of convicted individuals.
- (d) Several whistleblowers from within the government have come forward to reveal evidence of systematic cover-ups and protection of individuals involved in crimes against women.

#### PASSAGE 5

Most citizens believe that removing AFSPA would threaten the integrity of the Indian state or result in troops being jailed even for honest errors, and for that reason, we should not press for its removal even if its provisions are hard to justify and illegal. This is a myth propagated by interested parties. Even though this argument is not relevant while discussing the legality of AFSPA, let us look at it too. Here I cite personal experience. I have commanded a specialist counter-insurgency force – a Rashtriya Rifles unit – in a 'Disturbed Area (Manipur, 1994-95) and then again in a non-Disturbed Area (Doda, J&K, 1996-1997). The conditions in Doda were much more difficult than in the Valley sector of J&K, as only hardened foreign militants operated there and the density of security forces was very low. Those were peak insurgency times. However, we could easily and effectively operate equally in both sectors, whether having the umbrella of AFSPA or not. If your

men are directed to act within the ambit of law but are efficient, insurgency can be easily curbed while also protecting law-abiding troops. Even in Doda, my men knew that if they acted with good intentions, the absence of the AFSPA umbrella would not harm them, since they would have a chance to prove their innocence to a judge under the Indian legal system. Those who wish to not even face a trial after killing a human being must necessarily be those that doubt the Indian legal system. India will not get weakened by the removal of AFSPA. Far from it. In fact, it will be strengthened because the removal of an unjust umbrella will force units to desist from wrong acts and that will increase the willingness of ordinary citizens to abide by the law. The present fissiparous tendencies in border areas stem, to a large degree, from a feeling of anger among citizens arising out of the security forces illegally violating all aspects of their life and getting away with it. The argument that removing AFSPA (Armed Forces Special Powers Act) would threaten the integrity of the Indian state or lead to troops being unjustly jailed is a misconception that has been perpetuated by certain interested parties. While this argument may not directly address the legality of AFSPA, it is worth examining. Drawing from personal experience as a commanding officer in both a disturbed area and a non-disturbed area, I can attest that the conditions in the non-disturbed area were even more challenging than in the disturbed area. Yet, my unit operated effectively and efficiently in both areas, irrespective of the presence or absence of the AFSPA umbrella. When directed to act within the boundaries of the law and with good intentions, the absence of AFSPA did not pose a threat to the troops, as they had faith in the Indian legal system and knew they would have the opportunity to prove their innocence in court.

Extracted with edits and revisions from We Need to Once Again Challenge AFSPA in the Supreme Court, The Wire [We Need to Once Again Challenge AFSPA in the Supreme Court \(thewire.in\)](https://www.thewire.in/2019/07/26/we-need-to-once-again-challenge-afspa-in-the-supreme-court/)

106. Which among the following option captures the central idea of the passage?
  - (a) Removing AFSPA would strengthen the Indian state by promoting adherence to the law and curbing insurgency, regardless of its provisions being hard to justify and illegal.
  - (b) The legal system in India guarantees protection to law-abiding troops, allowing them to prove their innocence in the absence of the AFSPA umbrella.
  - (c) The belief that removing AFSPA would threaten the integrity of the Indian state or result in troops being jailed is a myth propagated by interested parties, and its removal would actually strengthen the country.
  - (d) The presence of AFSPA has led to security forces violating citizens' rights, resulting in anger and fissiparous tendencies in border areas.
107. The conclusion of the argument above cannot be true unless which of the following is true?
  - (a) The existence of AFSPA encourages security forces to act inappropriately and violate the rights of citizens.
  - (b) The Indian legal system provides a fair and just process for troops accused of wrongdoing.
  - (c) The removal of AFSPA will result in a decrease in insurgency activities.
  - (d) The presence of AFSPA is the primary cause of fissiparous tendencies in border areas.
108. Which of the following statements provides additional evidence that strengthens the argument in favor of removing AFSPA?
  - (a) A study conducted by an independent organization revealed that the states without AFSPA have experienced a significant decrease in human rights violations by security forces.
  - (b) A retired judge, who presided over several cases involving security forces accused of misconduct, stated that the AFSPA provides a shield for troops to escape accountability and hampers the functioning of the Indian legal system.
  - (c) An anonymous survey conducted among soldiers revealed that a majority of them believe that the removal of AFSPA would undermine their ability to carry out counter-insurgency operations effectively.
  - (d) Both option A and option B.



109. Which of the following weakens the argument in favor of retaining the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) based on the passage provided?
- (a) Numerous international human rights organizations have condemned AFSPA for its potential to enable human rights abuses and impunity, suggesting that its removal would improve the overall human rights situation in India.
  - (b) The absence of AFSPA in Doda, J&K, during the peak insurgency times did not result in an increase in insurgency or a higher threat to the security forces, as stated by the author's personal experience.
  - (c) The retention of AFSPA contributes to the present fissiparous tendencies in border areas, as it leads to anger among citizens who feel that security forces are violating their rights with impunity.
  - (d) Both B & C.
110. Which among the following can be inferred from the passage EXCEPT?
- (a) The presence of AFSPA is essential for the effective operation of security forces in disturbed areas.
  - (b) Removing AFSPA would lead to a decrease in illegal activities by security forces.
  - (c) The removal of AFSPA would strengthen the Indian state by promoting adherence to the law.
  - (d) The absence of AFSPA would not jeopardize law-abiding troops who act with good intentions.

## SECTION – V : QUANTITATIVE TECHNIQUES

**Directions for Q. 136 to 140: Directions: Study the given information carefully to answer the questions.**

A tailor produces three types of clothing items: shirts, pants, and jackets. The tailor uses 2 meters of fabric for each shirt, 3 meters for each pant, and 4 meters for each jacket. The cost per meter of fabric is Rs. 100. The tailor produced 100 items last month, with a total fabric cost of Rs. 28,000.

111. How many jackets were produced last month?  
(a) 20 (b) 25 (c) 30 (d) 35
112. What was the total cost of fabric used for shirts last month?  
(a) Rs. 4,000 (b) Rs. 6,000 (c) Rs. 8,000 (d) Rs. 10,000
113. What is the percentage of the total fabric cost that is attributed to jackets?  
(a) 30.0% (b) 20.7% (c) 25.10% (d) 28.60%
114. If the cost per meter of fabric increases by 10%, what will be the new total fabric cost if the tailor produces the same number of clothing items using the same amount of fabric?  
(a) Rs. 30,800 (b) Rs. 25,000 (c) Rs. 26,000 (d) Rs. 27,000
115. If the tailor decides to reduce the number of shirts produced by 10% and increase the number of jackets produced by 10%, what will be the new total fabric cost if the tailor produces the same number of clothing items?  
(a) Rs. 21,000 (b) Rs. 22,500 (c) Rs. 28,000 (d) Rs. 24,000

**Directions for Q. 141 to 145: Directions: Study the given information carefully to answer the questions.**

There are three different burger shops – X, Y and Z which sells Veg burger and non-veg burger. The ratio of the number of veg burgers and non-veg burgers sold by X is 9:7. The ratio of the number of veg burger and non-veg burgers sold by Y is 3:4. The total number of veg and non-veg burgers sold by Z is 324 and the ratio of the number of veg and non-veg burgers sold by Z is 7:5. The total number of burgers (veg and non-veg) sold by all the shops together is 1128. The number of veg burgers sold by X is 20% more than the veg burgers sold by Y.

116. What is the average number of veg burgers sold by all shops?  
(a) 192 (b) 195 (c) 198 (d) 201
117. If the number of veg burgers sold by Y is increased by  $33\frac{1}{3}\%$  and the number of non-veg burgers sold by X is increased by 75%, then what is the sum of the number of veg burgers sold by Y and non-veg burger sold by X?  
(a) 486 (b) 495 (c) 528 (d) 534
118. If the selling price of each veg burger and each non-veg burger sold by Y is Rs.60 and Rs.90 respectively, then the total amount obtained by Y?  
(a) Rs.30000 (b) Rs.32400 (c) Rs.33000 (d) Rs.36000

119. Total veg burger sold by X and Z together is what percent of the total number of non-veg burger sold by Y and Z together?  
(a) 112%                      (b) 115%                      (c) 108%                      (d) 104%
120. What is the ratio of the number of non-veg burgers sold by X and Z together to the number of veg burger sold by Y and Z together?  
(a) 101:123                      (b) 103:124                      (c) 103:123                      (d) 101:124

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