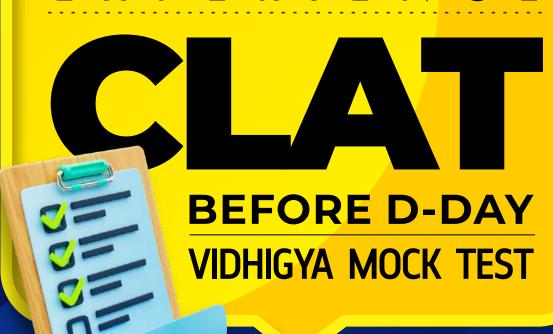








## EXPERIENCE





#### **Aman Patidar**

1 year Vidhigya Offline Classroom Program Student

St. Paul Public School

I am Aman patidar, an exclusive student of Vidigya CLAT Tutorials. We were given over a hundred movks by Vidigya and they were strikingly similar to the actual CLAT. I gave all of them religiously and analysed them thoroughly which helped me a lot in my preparation.



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Duration: 120 Minutes Maximum Marks: 120 17th February 2024

#### INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- 1. No clarification on the Question paper can be sought. Answer the questions as they are.
- **2.** There are 120 multiple choice objective type questions. Answer **ALL** the questions.
- 3. Each question carries **ONE** mark. **Total marks are 120**.
- **4.** There will be **negative marking**. **0.25 marks** will be deducted for every wrong answer.
- **5.** Candidates have to indicate the most appropriate answer by darkening one of the four responses provided, with **BLACK/BLUE BALL POINT PEN** in the **OMR** Answer Sheet.

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

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

#### 

- **6.** Answering the question by any method other than the method indicated above shall be considered wrong answer.
- 7. More than one response to a question shall be counted as wrong answer.
- **8.** The candidate shall not write anything on the OMR Answer Sheet other than the details required and, in the spaces, provide for.
- **9.** After the examination is over, the candidate can carry the test booklet along with candidate's copy of the OMR, after handing over the original OMR to the invigilator.
- **10.** The use of any unfair means by any candidate shall result in the cancellation of his/her candidature.
- **11.** Impersonation is an offence and the candidate, apart from disqualification, may have to face criminal prosecution.
- 12. Electronic gadgets like mobile phones, pagers or calculators etc. are strictly not permitted inside the Test Centre/Hall.
- **13.** The candidates shall not leave the hall before the end of the test.

Section	Subject	Q. No.	Total Questions
Section A:	English Language	Q.1 to 24	24
Section B:	Current Affairs with GK	Q.25 to 52	28
Section C:	Legal Reasoning	Q.53 to 84	32
Section D:	Logical Reasoning	Q.85 to 108	24
Section E:	Quantitative Techniques	Q.109 to 120	12



#### Section A – English PASSAGE - I

Environmentalists are always complaining that governments are obsessed with GDP and economic growth, and that this is a bad thing because economic growth is bad for the environment. They are partly right but mostly wrong. First, while governments talk about GDP a lot, that does not mean that they actually prioritize economic growth. Second - properly understood - economic growth is a great and wonderful thing that we should want more of.

Governments around the world – of every ideology – are in favour of economic growth all else being equal. Economic growth increases the wealth of a population and hence improves their options and those of the government that rules them. This is extremely politically convenient as it allows governments to serve all their various constituencies without having to make hard choices between them, and so keep them happy enough that they get to stay in power. Honest politicians can provide more public services to those who demand them, while keeping the tax rate the same. Corrupt politicians can get away with funneling money to themselves and their cronies without risking revolution. More money means fewer and easier political problems.

However, just because someone values a certain outcome, does not mean that they value it enough to take the necessary painful steps to achieve it. (Or else everyone would get A's in their exams and keep the waist size they had in high-school.) It turns out that the policies governments need to implement (or stop implementing) in order for their societies to get richer are often more politically costly than they are worth because they disrupt the status quo and the entrenched interests that benefit from it. Take for example governments' responsibility for the housing crisis across the rich world, in which the price of housing has been rising faster than incomes.

The rising price of housing makes people much poorer than they would otherwise be, since it leaves them with much less to spend on everything else and so reduces their real set of options. With minor differences in detail, all these different countries' housing crises are due to the same underlying problem: There are not enough housing units being built in the places that people want to live, and so people are forced to bid against each other – to spend all they can afford (by borrowing vast amounts and sacrificing other things in their lives) – to win a place to live. Meanwhile, like a sad game of musical chairs, more and more people can't afford to stay in the competition and are pushed down and out into homelessness.

There are lots of other ways that governments hinder economic growth not merely by their inactions, but by continuing economically foolish policies demanded by some vocal well-organised interest group or other, from subsidising fossil fuels to blocking economic migration and free trade (Brexit!), and the unnecessary licensing of professions like hairdressing and interior design. It is simply not true that governments only care about economic growth and will stop at nothing to achieve it. Governments care about the immediate political costs and benefits of their rhetoric and actions, and it turns out that many of the drivers of economic growth are political non-starters.

http://www.philosophersbeard.org/2023/04/governments-dont-actually-prioritise.html

- 1. According to the passage, why do governments find it challenging to address housing crises effectively?
- (a) Because there is a lack of awareness about the housing crisis.
- (b) Natural market fluctuations are beyond government control.
- (c) Political cost of disrupting the status quo.
- (d) Because of the Government prioritizing economic growth over housing concerns.
- 2. What is the key argument in the passage regarding governments and their approach to economic growth?
- (a) Governments prioritize environmental concerns over economic growth.
- (b) Governments are generally unaware of the benefits of economic growth.
- (c) The political costs of implementing growth-inducing policies often outweigh the possible benefits.
- (d) Governments are consistently effective in implementing policies that foster economic growth.
- 3. What is the main concern of the author in the passage?
- (a) Highlighting the negative impact of environmental policies on economic growth.
- (b) Advocating for increased government intervention in addressing the housing crisis.
- (c) Emphasizing the need for governments to prioritize economic growth over considerations.
- (d) Discussing the inhibitions of the governments in implementing policies for economic growth due to political costs.
- 4. According to the passage, why does the rising price of housing contribute to people becoming poorer?
- (a) Governments are unaware of the housing crisis and its impact on the population.
- (b) Natural market fluctuations cause housing prices to rise uncontrollably.
- (c) There is a lack of housing units in desired locations, leading to intense competition and high costs.
- (d) Governments prioritize the interests of vocal, well-organized groups over addressing economic challenges.
- **5.** What does the term "entrenched interests" refer to in the passage?
- (a) Interests that are newly established and gaining popularity.
- (b) Interests that are deeply rooted and resistant to change.
- (c) Interests that governments prioritize over economic growth.
- (d) Interests that are environmentally sustainable.



#### PASSAGE - II

On the day that the poet Christian Wiman turned thirty-nine, he missed a phone call from his doctor. For months, he'd been playing with a bump above his collarbone, one so small he sometimes literally couldn't put his finger on it. He had recently got married, and his wife had persuaded him to get it looked at. The voice mail, when he played it, informed him that he had lymphoma.

This was on a Thursday, and the doctor was out for the weekend. The following Monday, Wiman learned that his was a rare form of lymphoma called Waldenström's macroglobulinemia, and then, from a graph sketched sloppily on a napkin, that he likely had five years left to live. Somewhere between a thousand and three thousand Americans receive a diagnosis of Waldenström's each year, most of them men in their sixties and seventies. For a while, Wiman felt fine. A few years passed. He and his wife, Danielle Chapman, who is also a poet, had children, twin girls named Eliza and Fiona. Then, when the girls were eight months old, Wiman got very sick very fast, and went into the hospital.

By all accounts, that should have been the beginning of the end, but it was not. Chapman told me, "Chris's doctors said this thing a long time ago that we still say all the time: We've moved beyond the edge of knowledge." Whenever Wiman's cancer threatened to kill him, a new intervention saved his life. After years of chemotherapy and cancer drugs like rituximab, he got an autologous bone-marrow transplant, which seemed to cure him, shrinking his tumours until they disappeared. Then, when the twins were four, he got sick again. A new drug, ibrutinib, came along, which gave him a few more years. Another, venetoclax, gave him a few more months after that.

Last spring, when his daughters were teen-agers, Wiman became so sick that he could barely get out of bed. He was accepted into an experimental trial and became one of the first people with Waldenström's to undergo chimeric-antigen-receptor T-cell therapy, or car-T. The treatment involves intravenous drips of the patient's own T cells, reëngineered in a laboratory to bind with specific antigens on the surface of the patient's cancer cells. "I don't think anyone thought it would work," Wiman's friend the novelist Naeem Murr told me. The drip, Murr said, "looks like nothing, a thimble of clear nothing. But it worked, he went into a complete remission. It was miraculous." Although Wiman is among the most distinguished Christian writers of his generation, he is uncomfortable with the word "miracle." But he doesn't have an alternative description for what happened last Easter or after any of the other treatments that have kept him alive for the past nineteen years. In his new book, "Zero at the Bone," he writes, "I had—have—cancer. I have been living with it-dying with it-for so long now that it bores me, or baffles me, or drives me into the furthest crannies of literature and theology in search of something that will both speak and spare my own pain. Were it not for my daughters I think by this point I would be at peace with any outcome, which is, I have come to believe, one reason-the least reason, but still-why they are here."

(Source: https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2023/12/11/a-poets-faith?src=longreads)

- **6.** What is the primary theme expressed in the passage?
- (a) The passage primarily discusses the medical details and challenges of Christian Wiman's battle with cancer.
- (b) The main focus is on Christian Wiman's discomfort with the term "miracle" accorded to his cancer treatment and his search for its meaning in literature and theology.
- (c) The passage highlights the success of experimental cancer treatments.
- (d) The central point revolves around the emotional impact of Christian Wiman's illness on his family.
- 7. What can be inferred about Christian Wiman's attitude towards the term "miracle" based on the passage?
- (a) Christian Wiman wholeheartedly embraces the term "miracle" to describe positive outcomes of his medical treatments.
- (b) Christian Wiman expresses discomfort with the term "miracle" and seeks alternative explanations in literature and theology.
- (c) The passage does not provide enough information to make an inference about Christian Wiman's attitude towards the term "miracle".
- (d) Christian Wiman dismisses the significance of any miraculous occurrences in his journey.
- 8. In the passage, what does the term "chimeric-antigen-receptor T-cell therapy" refer to?
- (a) A new form of chemotherapy used in the treatment of lymphoma.
- (b) An experimental trial involving intravenous drips of synthetic antigens.
- (c) A cutting-edge cancer treatment involving the reengineering of patient's T cells.
- (d) A traditional bone-marrow transplant procedure for patients with Waldenström's macroglobulinemia.
- **9.** According to the last paragraph, what is the reason Christan Wiman attributes to his continued resilience in the face of cancer?
- (a) The effectiveness of experimental cancer treatments.
- (b) The unwavering support of his wife, Danielle Chapman.
- (c) The profound impact of literature and theology on his perspective.
- (d) The constant advancements in medical technology.



- **10.** How did Christian Wiman's perspective on mortality evolve over time according to the passage?
- (a) Wiman became increasingly indifferent to his mortality, finding peace with any outcome.
- (b) Initially indifferent, Wiman's perspective on mortality intensified as his battle with cancer progressed.
- (c) Wiman's attitude towards mortality remained constant throughout his battle with cancer.
- (d) Over time, Wiman's perspective shifted, and he embraced a profound sense of peace and acknowledging influence of his daughters.

#### PASSAGE - III

Years ago, my professor would make his architectural history students prepare for seminars by pinning large sheets of paper to a noticeboard. Each had finely printed plans and elevations on them. Over the week, I'd stand in front of those sheets for at least an hour looking at the various drawings, as instructed. Back in class, students took turns to explain what exactly the drawings represented, determining the building's appearance from the drawings alone and describing how a person might move through the space as if we were there. Those well-spent hours were among my favourite during my degree; the language of drawing was a catalyst to my imagination, creating worlds beyond what words could ever do.

In learning about this language, I realised that we know remarkably little about how it developed, as if it arose fully formed in the 13th century, since no single drawing can be linked to a specific building project until that century's end. This baffled me. How could monuments like Durham Cathedral, the renovated basilica of Saint-Denis outside Paris (the genesis of the Gothic style), and all the High Gothic churches in northern Europe have been made without something so simple as a drawing? Visually communicating the appearance of a building seems a natural thing to do – an easier way of planning.

As it happens, drawings were used in the construction process before the 13th century. In the 1st century BCE, the architect Vitruvius wrote his De architecture in an attempt to elevate the practice of architecture to the level of the liberal arts; that is, work derived from the mind rather than the mindless graft of one's hands. Near the beginning of the treatise, Vitruvius describes three types of architectural drawing: plans, elevations, and (very likely) drawings in perspective (his precise meaning is hotly contested). Despite this evidence for the use of drawings, none survive from antiquity. The only examples to weather the test of time are monumental plans inscribed on stone or mosaics, but these could have been decorative objects – simple maps or sculptural monuments: their purpose is not clear. Also, most were done after the buildings they depict were completed, so they cannot have been used in the construction process.

After the decline of the Roman Empire in the 5th century, the infrastructure for educating and training architects vanished in the West. Not until the 13th century do we get a designer who oversees several projects simultaneously – a sort of proto-architect. Prior to their emergence, there was a master mason who'd make certain geometrical constructions on the ground or in plaster, allowing him to construct the layout of a building. This master mason is an obscure historical figure. He likely did not have a formal education but started his career as an apprentice who learned structurally sound forms from his master. He would have travelled across building sites learning and picking up new designs and ideas. At 12th-century Canterbury, for example, the original designer of the Gothic building was William of Sens, who likely had experience of working on the new Gothic elements of the French cathedral. He could promise that and more to his new patrons in England, not necessarily using a drawing but by describing what exactly he would do over the coming years.

Later, in the 15th century, the artist and architect Leon Battista Alberti, in his brief mention of architectural drawings, assumes that they are done only by architects. This leaves us with a story of architecture that follows a well-worn narrative: the decline of Rome led to a dearth of advanced practices, which were picked up again only in early modern Italy.

- **11.** What challenges and gaps in knowledge regarding the historical development of architectural drawings does the passage suggest?
- (a) The passage implies that the use of architectural drawings was widespread and well-documented before the  $13^{th}$  century.
- (b) The passage suggests a lack of surviving examples of architectural drawings from antiquity, raising questions about their existence and purpose.
- (c) The passage indicates that master masons in the 5th century had a formal education in architectural drawing.
- (d) All of the above.
- **12.** What is the primary purpose of the architectural drawings described in the passage?
- (a) The primary purpose of architectural drawings was to serve as decorative elements in completed buildings.
- (b) Architectural drawings primarily aimed at aiding communication and visualization of a building's appearance during the construction process.
- (c) The main purpose of architectural drawings was to record completed structures for historical documentation.
- (d) Architectural drawings were primarily used for formal education and training architects before 13th century.



- **13.** How does the passage characterize the education of training of architects in the West after the decline of the Roman Empire?
- (a) Formal academic progression

(b) Masterful apprenticeship

(c) Artistic pedagogy

- (d) Didactic craftsman ship.
- **14.** What is the author's perspective on the use of architectural drawings before the 13<sup>th</sup> century, as presented in the passage?
- (a) The author believes that architectural drawings were extensively used and documented in the construction process before the 13th century.
- (b) The author suggests that there is uncertainty and a lack of surviving examples regarding the use of architectural drawings before the 13th century.
- (c) The author asserts that architectural drawings primarily served a decorative purpose in completed buildings.
- (d) The author contends the master masons had a formal education in architectural drawing during the 5th century.
- **15.** In the context of the passage, what analogy can be drawn between the education and training of architects in the West after the decline of the Roman Empire and a historical figure?
- (a) The education of architects is likened to a structured curriculum, similar to modern university programs.
- (b) The training of architects resembles the journey of a medieval knight, acquiring skills through apprenticeships.
- (c) Architectural education is analogous to an artistic apprenticeship, where mastery is achieved through a skilled mentor.
- (d) The development of architects mirrors the progression of a scientific researcher, emphasizing theoretical knowledge and experimentation.

#### PASSAGE - IV

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has taken a firm step in support of data security and privacy by introducing disposable IDs, authentication tokens and tiered KYC requirements to reduce the exposure of Aadhaar numbers. These are logical measures, since providers only need to have the number authenticated against a person. There is no need for them to store it even for a second thereafter. This principle has been followed in other services for decades. For instance, email providers do not know their users' passwords, since they are not stored on servers in plain text. They are stored as hexadecimal hashes, which are cryptographically compared against passwords during a login. It is surprising that this pervasive principle, which is followed by almost all services requiring a login, was not applied to UIDAI earlier. While the objectives of Aadhaar are entirely reasonable, its implementation has not earned universal trust. Apart from disastrous denials of the very services it was designed to assure-withdrawal of food and shelter entitlements to the poorest have been noted -the security of the world's biggest repository of biometric data has been questioned following leaks. The first problem is being examined by the courts. And the virtual ID is the UIDAI's first attempt to address the second. From the time the project was launched by Nandan Nilekani, its promoters chose to stonewall criticism, instead of engaging with it, by arguing that Aadhaar is an impregnable data silo. The UIDAI's reaction to a newspaper story which showed how easy it is to acquire Aadhaar numbers was to target the messenger. Just two months ago, the government claimed in an affidavit that Aadhaar is breach-proof.

There is an element of hubris here, and the technologists behind Aadhaar must know it. Systems are secured by multiple strategies, but there is no such thing as bulletproof security. All systems are vulnerable to a capable, imaginative and determined attacker, no matter how diligently they are secured. The only certain deterrent is legal, and fortunately privacy law has plugged the gap. However, it remains to be seen how many impugned parties have the stomach for private litigation. And the fact remains that large repositories of data, whether Equifax or Aadhaar, are targets in a world where data is the new gold. Their holdings must be shared on a need-to-know basis, and the recent blanket requirements for Aadhaar data to be shared with service providers, from mutual fund managers to telecom companies, flies in the face of that principle. Tiered exposure and virtual IDs would now reduce exposure of real Aadhaar numbers, though they must have already been shared in large quantities. Now, UIDAI has taken a step towards seeking universal trust, which is the bedrock of a legitimate authentication system.

- **16.** Which of the following is the potential criticism for the implementation of new security measures to reduce the exposure of Aadhaar numbers?
- (a) The politicians interfering in the implementation of disposable IDs.
- (b) Its promoters are arguing over something that the Aadhaar security fails to provide potentially leading to leaks.
- (c) There could be concerns about the ethical implications of the security measures suggesting they might be misused.
- (d) The world's largest storage of biometric data is being questioned for leaking.
- **17.** Based on the passage, what are the views of the author on the new measures proposed against security breach of Aadhaar number?
- (a) The author supports the implementation as it will secure public's information.
- (b) The author criticizes the implementation as the world's biggest repository of biometric data is questioned for leaks.
- (c) The author suggests that the privacy law can help as the security can be breached even with the diligent security.
- (d) The author dismisses the idea of disposable ID as the implementation is weak.



- **18.** Select the option that negates the given opinion, based on the information given in the passage: 'Apart from disastrous denials of the very services it was designed to assure-withdrawal of food and shelter entitlements to the poorest have been noted -the security of the world's biggest repository of biometric data has been questioned following leaks.'
- (a) The Aadhaar was designed to provide food and shelter entitlement to the poorest and has successfully delivered it.
- (b) The Aadhaar had been designed to provide food and shelter to the poorest but is lacking in security.
- (c) The Aadhaar which was designed to provide food and shelter to the poorest is subjected to the biometric data leaks.
- (d) The Aadhaar which was originally designed to provide food and shelter service to the poorest is itself in danger of the biometric safety.
- 19. What can be inferred from the phrase "element of hubris" in the context of the passage?
- (a) The technologists are lacking the confidence to design a perfect security.
- (b) The technologists are over confident about their bullet proof security.
- (c) The technologists are confident about their security system but ignore the possibility of any vulnerability.
- (d) The technologist should know that no technology can stop the security breach so they should leave it.
- **20.** According to the passage, the tone of the concluding statement of the passage is:
- (a) Persuasive
- (b) Pessimistic
- (c) Criticising
- (d) Optimistic

#### PASSAGE - V

The strength and resilience of institutions in a democracy derive from both legal provisions and a climate of respect and reciprocity. In a time, therefore, when the executive armed with a large mandate does not hesitate to weaponise it against political opponents and unelected institutions, the legislative move to downgrade the status of members of the Election Commission is disquieting. A Bill listed for discussion in the Special Session of Parliament proposes to do just that. Currently, the poll monitors are treated as equivalent to Supreme Court judges. But a clause in the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill, 2023, proposes to align the service conditions and salaries of the CEC and ECs with the Cabinet Secretary. The issue is not so much about financial remuneration, but the signals that the Narendra Modi government intends to send out, when general elections are less than eight months away and a newly set up committee is examining the feasibility of the farreaching and contentious proposal of holding simultaneous elections to state assemblies, local bodies and Parliament. By effectively demoting the ECs to the status of civil servants, the Bill limits their authority to discipline the political class, in case of violations, at a critical juncture. It is less than mindful, and respectful, of the poll monitor's delicate and difficult task - of upholding protocols and norms in a scrupulously non-partisan manner in a diverse and intensely competitive democracy.

Article 324 of the Constitution empowers the EC to be independent and bestows on it the enormous responsibility to "superintend, control and direct elections". The Supreme Court has repeatedly upheld and shored up these powers. Of course, the EC was not always the formidable referee that it is now. It came into its own in the 1990s, when the then CEC, TN Seshan, forcefully asserted its constitutional role in enforcing the rules of the game. Today the institution's well-deserved reputation for impartiality and fairness is an inextricable part of the legitimacy of India's political-electoral system. Admittedly, in recent times, the Commission has invited questions when it has not risen to its own high standards - for instance, in the alacrity with which it seemed to echo the establishment's narrative on revdis and put political parties on the mat on poll promises, its prevarication over halting the election campaign in West Bengal during the brutal second wave of the Covid pandemic till the Prime Minister had made his speech, or compliance with summons issued by a PMO official for an "informal interaction". But those are aberrations in the arc of one of India's most trusted institutions.

The EC has earned national and international esteem for ensuring that the poor, marginalised and women vote freely, without fear. The new Bill errs by not recognising and acknowledging the EC's above-the-fray stature and role. The official argument that the "table of precedence" isn't changed doesn't wash. This isn't about who sits in which chair in which row at an official function, this is about protecting the commission's dignity and autonomy - critical to the health of a democracy. That's why the government should rethink.

- **21.** Based on the information given in the passage, what are the views of the author for the new bill proposed?
- (a) The author supports the proposal with the feasibility of it to the Parliament.
- (b) The author criticizes the intention of the proposal being related to the general elections.
- (c) The author remarks that the bill will limit the civil servants' authority to discipline the political class.
- (d) The author acknowledges the timing of the bill proposal to be fruitful for the Parliament.
- **22.** What were the primary issues with the clause of the new bill proposed by the government?
- (a) The bill affected the authority of the service class to monitor and discipline the political class at the time of elections.
- (b) The bill proposal was held at the time of state elections which became a problem to the opposition.
- (c) The bill proposal would affect the diverse and intensely competitive democracy.
- (d) The bill was proposed to align the service conditions and salaries of CEC and ECs.



- **23.** All the following statements regarding the new bill proposal are true except?
- (a) The government's intention of proposing the bill was otherwise.
- (b) The demotion of EC is a mindful and respectful play by Modi government.
- (c) The EC was not always the formidable referee.
- (d) The new bill lacks in recognising and acknowledging the EC.
- **24.** Which of the following options captures the meaning of the conclusion best?
- (a) The bill should be reconsidered as it overlooks and ignores the EC's stature and dignity.
- (b) The bill should be reconsidered as it is unfair towards the current government.
- (c) The bill should be reviewed for the betterment of the legislative.
- (d) The bill is not up to the expectations of the health of a democracy.

#### Section B-Current Affairs with GK

#### PASSAGE - VI

A constitutional bench, presided over by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud and comprising seven judges, is set to commence hearings next week on the case related to the sub-categorization among Scheduled Castes (SCs). States contend that certain castes, despite having reservation, remain significantly underrepresented in comparison to the dominant scheduled castes. During an election rally in Telangana, Prime Minister Narendra Modi pledged to investigate the sub-categorization of Scheduled Castes (SCs) with the objective of identifying and assisting the most marginalized within this demographic. The prevailing indications lean towards supporting the sub-categorization of the scheduled caste quota. However, a persistent query emerges: Is further division and classification the optimal strategy for addressing the historical disadvantages ingrained in the caste system, which stands as a fundamental fault line in Indian society? States have endeavoured to refine the scheduled caste quota, contending that caste serves as a manifestation of graded inequality. They argue that unequal treatment and discrimination persist not only at broader social levels but also within the overarching groupings of scheduled castes. The question, therefore, lingers about whether such subcategorization is the most efficacious means of mitigating the entrenched challenges posed by caste-based disparities in Indian society.

25. Who is appointed to head the committee for the equitable distribution of benefits among Scheduled Castes (SCs)?

(a) Rajiv Gauba

(b) Amit Shah

(c) Narendra Modi

(d) Arun Jaitley

**26.** Which community's demands in Telangana played a role in triggering this governmental response regarding sub categorisation of SCs?

(a) Madiga

(b) Mahar

(c) Mala

(d) Mang

**27.** Which commission was formed in 1996 in response to the demand of the community (asked in previous question) for sub-categorization of Scheduled Castes (SCs)?

(a) Justice P. Ramachandra Raju

(b) Justice Rohit Arya

(c) Justice B.A Vaishnav

(d) None of the Above

28. The National Commission for Schedule Caste was established under......of Indian Constitution.

(a) Article 338

(b) Article 250

(c) Article 180

(d) Article 142

**29.** In 2023, which commission submitted a long-awaited report for the sub-categorization of Other Backward Classes (OBC) caste groups to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment after nearly six years of work?

(a) Justice P. Ramachandra Raju

(b) Justice Sunita Sri

(c) Justice Ashok Chandra

(d) Justice G. Rohini

#### PASSAGE - VII

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's recent budget presentation on February 1 marked a significant milestone, coinciding with nearly a decade of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's governance. In a departure from traditional preelection strategies of doling out populist measures, Sitharaman opted to underscore the government's accomplishments over the preceding years, laying out a nuanced narrative of India's economic trajectory. This budget, being an interim one preceding the impending national elections, was strategically positioned to set the tone for the political discourse. Sitharaman, in a calculated move, revised down the fiscal deficit target for the fiscal year 2024-25 to 5.1% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), showcasing a commitment to prudent fiscal management amidst economic uncertainties. Notably, there were no adjustments made to the prevailing direct and indirect tax structures, indicating a stance of stability and continuity in the fiscal policy landscape. Moreover, the finance minister seized the moment to initiate a discourse on the nation's economic evolution by announcing the forthcoming presentation of a white paper in the parliament. This document aims to meticulously examine India's trajectory from the preceding government's tenure until 2014 to its current state, with the intent of discerning lessons from past policy frameworks and addressing potential pitfalls. Prime Minister Modi lauded the budget's calibrated approach, characterizing it as striking a delicate balance between promoting capital expenditure initiatives and upholding fiscal prudence. This sentiment encapsulates the government's strategic manoeuvring, aligning developmental imperatives with fiscal sustainability goals, thereby positioning India's economic narrative on a trajectory of resilience and progress.



<b>30.</b> By which year does	s the Interim Budget aim to	o achieve the vision of 'Viks	sit Bharat'?
(a) 2030	(b) 2047	(c) 2050	(d) 2025
31. Which Article of th	e Indian Constitution deals	s with the Annual Financial	Statement?
(a) Article 111	(b) Article 112	(c) Article 113	(d) Article 114
	tructure development pla	ins, how many major eco	onomic railway corridor programs will be
implemented?			
(a) One	(b) Two	(c) Three	(d) Four
		e group for vaccination to p	
(a) 5 to 10 years		(c) 15 to 20 years	(d) 18 to 25 years
-	of free electricity per mor	ith will each household be	e eligible for under the rooftop solarizatior
scheme?	(1.) 200	( ) 000	( D 400 - 11
(a) 100 units	(b) 200 units	(c) 300 units	(d) 400 units
The Intermetional Col	or Alliance (ICA) remain	PASSAGE - VIII	nember-driven, and collaborative platform
strategically geared to facilitating energy according is dedicated to the power, aiming to guid generating substantial Developing States (Simultilateral developmorganizations, civil sciendeavours to catalyse endeavours to catalyse endeavours to catalyse (a) Mobilizing USD 100 (b) Mobilizing USD 100 (c) Mobilizing USD 1,00 (c) Mobilizing 1,000 m (d) Achieving 100 GW 36. What does STAR-C (a) Solar Technology A (b) Solar Technology A (c) Sustainable Technology A (d) Solar Training and 37. Which country is for	wards amplifying the depless, ensuring energy secur- conception and implement e member countries towal impacts within countries (IDS). Functioning as a genent banks (MDBs), develocity, and various internet exprofound changes on a globjective of the International billion in solar investment of billion in solar investment of solar energy capacity stand for in the context of dvancement and Research and Application Resource Cology and Renewable Centre anding the STAR-C initiative	oyment of solar energy tectity, and steering the energy tation of cost-effective, trained low-carbon growth trajectassified as Least Development financial institutional institutions. These obal scale.  Al Solar Alliance's 'Towards the ISA's programs?  Centre entre	chnologies. Its primary objectives encompass transition within its member countries. The insformative energy solutions fuelled by solar jectories. It places a distinctive emphasis or oped Countries (LDCs) and the Small Island cacy relies on strategic partnerships withoutions (DFIs), private and public sector e collaborations form the linchpin of ISA's \$1000' strategy?
(a) India  38 Who is leading the	(b) France Green Grids Initiative — C	(c) United States one Sun, One World, One Gr	(d) China rid (GGL — OSOWOG)?
(a) India and France	dicentarias iniciative	The built, one world, one di	ia (dai obowod).
	Alliance (ISA), India, Fran	ce, and United Kingdom	
(c) United Kingdom			
(d) International Rene	wable Energy Agency (IRE	NA)	
<b>39.</b> Who is the current	Director General of the In	ternational Solar Alliance (1	ISA)?
(a) Dr. Ajeet Singh	(b) Dr. Ajay Mathur	(c) Dr. Anil Sharma	a (d) Dr. Ravi Singh
		PASSAGE - IX	
Gaganyaan mission by technology, it is equip manned missions. Des it possesses the ability operations. Its reperto and adaptability in a meticulous engineerin ventures ever further	the Indian Space Research ped with a sophisticated a igned to emulate human-li to meticulously monitor i ire includes operating six complex extraterrestrial s ing and innovation, signify	n Organisation (ISRO). Replarray of capabilities aimed ke functions within the chamodule parameters, issue to panels and adeptly responetting. Beyond its technicating India's ascent in the as a testament to the ingen	ey into space as a precursor to the ambitious resenting a significant advancement in space at ensuring the success and safety of future allenging confines of the space environment imely alerts, and execute critical life suppording to inquiries, underscoring its versatility of prowess, it symbolizes the culmination of realm of space exploration. As humanity uity and determination driving our quest for
<b>40.</b> Which of the follow (a) Vyommitra	ving will replace [1] in this (b) Gaganmitra	passage? (c) Nabh	(d) Sky High



41. Gaganyaan manned mission will be the first of ISRO's human spaceflight missions. Which countries have conducted human spaceflights thus far?

(a) Japan, Russia, China

(b) USA, Russia, Japan

(c) USA, Russia, China

(d) Russia, China, South Korea

**42.** For how many days is the manned mission planned in the Gaganyaan Mission?

(a) 3 days

(b) 9 days

(c) 13 days

(d) 15 days

**43.** Which rocket is identified as the launch vehicle for the Gaganyaan mission?

(a) GSLV II

(b) PSLV I

(c) GSLV Nk II

(d) LVM3

44. By which year does India aim to establish the Bharatiya Antariksha Station (Indian Space Station)?

(a) 2025

(b) 2030

(c) 2035

(d) 2040

#### PASSAGE - X

On the commemoration of India's 75th Republic Day, a resplendent parade unfolded, symbolizing the nation's rich cultural heritage and military prowess. This significant day marks the anniversary of India's formal adoption of its constitution, heralding its status as a sovereign republic. Despite the biting cold and the thick shroud of fog enveloping the national capital, a multitude of individuals converged upon the Kartavya Path, where President Droupadi Murmu led the processions with unwavering dignity. This year's celebration showcased the cultural vibrance of India, with a noteworthy inclusion of over 13,000 special guests. This initiative, designed to foster 'jan bhagidari' (people's participation), provided a unique opportunity for individuals from diverse backgrounds to partake in the festivities. A notable highlight was the historic participation of an all-women Tri-Service contingent gracefully marching down the Kartavya Path. Furthermore, women pilots captivated the audience during the Fly-past, embodying the essence of 'nari shakti' (women's power). Notably, the contingents of the Central Armed Police Forces proudly featured exclusively women personnel, underscoring the empowerment and inclusivity woven into the fabric of this monumental occasion.

- **45.** Why was 26th January chosen as Republic Day in India?
- (a) Adoption of the Constitution
- (b) Declaration of Purna Swaraj by INC (Indian National Congress)
- (c) Independence from the British regime
- (d) Formation of the Constituent Assembly
- **46.** What is the theme for the Republic Day parade in 2024?
- (a) 'Vikas, Unnati, Pragati
- (b) 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India)
- (c) 'Bharat-Loktantra ki Matruka' (India-Mother of Democracy)
- (d) Both b and c
- 47. Who was the chief guest of Republic Day 2024?

(a) Vladimir Putin

(b) Emmanuel Macron

(c) Cyril Ramaphosa

(d) None of the Above

48. In a historic first, the 2024 Republic Day Parade in India featured two all-women contingents from the defense forces, marking a significant milestone in the country's journey towards military gender equality. Who led the Allwomen tri-services contingent during the 2024 Republic Day Parade in India?

(a) Captain Sandhya

(b) Captain Priya

(c) Captain Bhavna

(d) Captain Navya

#### PASSAGE - XI

The sixth edition of the Khelo India Youth Games-2024, held across four districts in [1], concluded on Wednesday, January 31, with [2] emerging as the overall champion. The 13-day event witnessed intense competition among young athletes from across the country. Addressing the glittering closing ceremony, Union Sports Minister lauded the Khelo India Games as a platform that empowers young athletes to showcase their talent. He emphasized that the initiative, envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has grown in stature with each edition, attracting thousands of young athletes from across the country. The successful conclusion of the Khelo India Youth Games 2024 marked a significant milestone in India's sporting landscape. The event provided a platform for young athletes to showcase their skills, while also inspiring future generations to pursue excellence in sports. With the continued support of the government and stakeholders, the Khelo India initiative is poised to play a vital role in nurturing sporting talent and promoting a culture of physical fitness among the youth of India.

**49.** Which of the following will replace [1] in the passage?

(a) Tamil Nadu

(b) Maharashtra

(c) Gujrat

(d) Kerala

**50.** Which of the following will replace [2] in the passage?

(a) Maharashtra

(b) Tamil Nadu

(c) Haryana

(d) Kerala



**51.** Which game made its debut in the Khelo India Youth Games 2024?

(a) Squash

(b) Badminton

(c) Cricket

(d) Basketball

**52.** How much annual financial assistance is provided under the Khelo India Programme to talented players identified in priority sports disciplines?

(a) INR 1 lakh

(b) INR 3 lakh

(c) INR 5 lakh

(d) INR 10 lakh

#### Section C-Legal Reasoning

#### PASSAGE - XII

A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court challenging the "automatic disqualification" of lawmakers upon their conviction and being sentenced to a jail term for two years or more according to section 8(3) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (1951 Act). The petitioner, Aabha Muralidharan, has sought a declaration that the automatic disqualification under Section 8(3) of the 1951 Act, is ultra vires the Constitution for being "arbitrary" and "illegal". The petition has claimed that an automatic disqualification of people's representatives of elected legislative bodies restrains them from "freely discharging their duties cast upon them by the voters of their respective constituencies, which is against the principles of democracy". "The present scenario provides a blanket disqualification, irrespective of the nature, gravity and seriousness of the offences, allegedly against the concerned member, and provides for an 'automatic' disqualification, which is against the principles of proportionality and natural justice since various convictions are reversed at the appellate stage and under such circumstances, the valuable time of a member, who is discharging his duties towards the public at large, shall be rendered futile." It said members of Parliament are the voice of people and they uphold the right to freedom of speech and expression of millions of their supporters who have elected them." All that the petitioner and the petition wish to establish is that the right under Article 19(1)(a) enjoyed by a member of Parliament is an extension of the voice of millions of his supporters," it said. Section 8(3) of the 1951 Act states that if an MP or MLA is convicted for any other crime (not specifically mentioned in Section 8(1) and 8(2)of this 1951 Act, and is sent to jail for 2 years or more, he/she will be disqualified for being chosen as, and for being, a member of either House of Parliament or of the Legislative Assembly or Legislative Council of a State, for the period of conviction and 6 years from the time of release.

Section 8(1) of the 1951 Act provides that if a Member of Parliament or MLA is convicted for any offense listed in this clause, he shall be disqualified for being chosen as, and for being, a member of either House of Parliament or of the Legislative Assembly or Legislative Council of a State, where the convicted person is sentenced to—

- (i) Only fine, for a period of six years from the date of such conviction;
- (ii) Imprisonment, from the date of such conviction and shall continue to be disqualified for a further period of six years since his release.

Similarly, Section 8(2) of the 1951 Act provides that person convicted for the contravention of any law providing for the prevention of hoarding or profiteering; or any law relating to the adulteration of food or drugs; or any provisions of the Dowry Prohibition Act, and sentenced to imprisonment for not less than six months, shall be disqualified from the date of such conviction and shall continue to be disqualified for a further period of six years since his release.

Even if a person is on bail after the conviction and his appeal is pending for disposal, he is disqualified from contesting an election.

**Source**: Extracted (with edits and revisions) from an article titled "Supreme Court declines challenge to Section 8(3) of Representation of People Act providing automatic disqualification of convicted MPs/ MLAs", published in Bar and Bench.

- **53.** Vidhan, a Member of Parliament (MP), was convicted for corruption charges and sentenced to one year of imprisonment. During his time in jail, Vidhan's political party wanted him to contest in the upcoming elections, which are due 3 months after Vidhan's conviction period is getting over. Decide whether Vidhan can fight the elections or not. Note: The offense of Corruption is mentioned under section 8 (1) of the Act.
- (a) Vidhan can run in the election as his conviction period is less than 2 year.
- (b) Vidhan can run in the election as the elections are due only after his conviction period.
- (c) Vidhan cannot run in the election as he was convicted for the offense of corruption.
- (d) Vidhan cannot run in the election as he is in jail and will not be able to take part in election campaigning process.
- **54.** Assuming the situation given in the previous question, certain facts are substituted. Suppose Vidhan was convicted for a non-bailable offence not mentioned in section 8(1) or 8(2) of the Act and was sent to jail for 3 years. He has completed his sentence and has been released from prison. Can he contest the upcoming state assembly election?
- (a) He cannot contest the election as he is disqualified from contesting the election for the next 6 years from the date of release.
- (b) He can contest the upcoming state assembly election, as his conviction is not related to corruption or moral turpitude, which are the grounds for disqualification under the Act.
- (c) He can contest the election as the court while convicting him, failed to consider the nature, gravity and seriousness of the offences.
- (d) He cannot contest the election as criminals should not be allowed to enter in the legislative bodies.



- **55.** Vishal, an elected MP, was convicted for an offence mentioned under the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, by the trial court. He was also sentenced to imprisonment. Upon his conviction, he was immediately disqualified from the House. He appealed against his conviction, and the consequent disqualification from the House in the High Court. In the light of the principles mentioned in the passage, which of the following statements, if true would strengthen the case of Vishal?
- (a) That the Trial Court failed to consider the nature and gravity of his offence.
- (b) That the Trial Court failed to consider the fact that his disqualification would restrict him from freely discharging his duties cast upon him by the voters of his respective constituency.
- (c) That he was sentenced to five months imprisonment and thus the conviction is outside the scope of Section 8(2) of the Act.
- (d) That his disqualification from the house is unlawful as he was convicted for a petty offense.
- **56.** Assuming that in the situation given in the previous question, an additional fact is added. Suppose that the elections for Lok Sabha are due in 3 months. Since Vishal has filed an appeal against his conviction and has been granted bail by the high court, while the case is pending for disposal, can he contest the upcoming Lok Sabha election?
- (a) No, he is disqualified from contesting the election, as per Section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
- (b) Yes, he can contest the election as he has filed an appeal against his conviction and is on bail during the pendency of his appeal.
- (c) No, he is disqualified from contesting the election until his appeal is disposed of.
- (d) Yes, he can contest the election but not from the same constituency.
- **57.** Based on the passage, decide:

Assertion (A): Disqualification under Section 8(3) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, is ultra vires the Constitution for being "arbitrary" and "illegal".

Reason (R): Section 8(3) of the Act provides a blanket disqualification, irrespective of the nature, gravity and seriousness of the offences.

- (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation for A's truthfulness.
- (b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation for A's truthfulness.
- (c) A is true but R is false.
- (d) A is false but R is true.
- **58.** According to the principle of proportionality as discussed by the Petitioner before the Supreme Court, what should be considered while disqualifying a member under Section 8(3) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951?
- (a) The nature, gravity, and seriousness of the offences allegedly committed by the member.
- (b) The political affiliation of the member.
- (c) The age of the member.
- (d) The number of terms the member has served in office.

#### PASSAGE - XIII

The Kerala High Court recently held that a customer in a brothel can be hauled up in a case under the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 (ITP Act). Justice PG Ajithkumar noted that while the ITP Act does not define the word "procure", Section 5 of the Act penalises "procuring, inducing or taking person for the sake of prostitution".

The judgment was rendered on a criminal revision petition moved by a man who was found as a customer at a brothel. He was arrayed as an accused in a crime registered by the police alleging offences under Sections 3, 4, 5, and 7 of the ITP Act

Upon going through the provisions of the ITP Act and considering the facts and circumstances of the case, the Court discharged the petitioner for the offences under Sections 3, 4 and 7. However, it held that the petitioner is liable to be charged with the offence under Section 5.

A brothel includes "any house or any portion of any house; room or any portion of any room; conveyance or portion of any conveyance; place or portion of any place, for purpose of: sexual exploitation or; abuse for the gain of another person or; for the mutual gain of two or more sex workers."

The criteria for declaring a person as a 'sex worker' is construed from the definition of prostitution. It means "the sexual exploitation or abuse of persons for commercial purpose." Accordingly, two things to be remembered are: (a) the occurrence of exploitation or abuse of a person for sex, and (b) such a person engaging in this activity does it for commercial gain.

Section 3 of the Act provides that "any person who keeps or manages, or acts or assists in the keeping or management of, a brothel shall be punishable on first conviction with rigorous imprisonment for a term of not less than two years and for subsequent conviction the punishment shall be between two to five years with the same amount of fine."

As per Section 4 of the Act any person who is over the age of eighteen years and knowingly lives on the earnings of the prostitution of any other person shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees, or both.

According to Section 5, any person who - procures or induces any person for the purpose of prostitution; or takes, causes or induces any person to carry on prostitution, shall be punishable with- rigorous imprisonment for not less than



3 years but may extend up to 7 years. This offence is complete when a person procures another person for prostitution or induces such person to go from any place with intent that such person becomes the inmate of a brothel or to take such a person from one place to another to carry on prostitution." If it is done against a persons' will or is minor then between seven to fourteen years and if the same is done with a child then it is seven years to life imprisonment.

**Source**: Extracted (with edits and revisions) from an article titled "Brothel customer can be booked under Immoral Traffic Act for procuring person for prostitution: Kerala High Court" published in Bar and Bench.

- **59.** Vidhan, an unemployed youth, lives in a 2 storey house. Due to financial distress, he is always on a lookout to find ways to make money. Sometime, he lets his ground floor of his house to be used by a sex worker. He earns a small amount of income from this, which he uses to support his family. On the basis of the passage, decide whether Vidhan's house can be considered as a brothel?
- (a) Vidhan's house cannot be considered as a brothel as he is financially distressed and uses the money earned to sustain his family.
- (b) Vidhan's house cannot be considered as a brothel as his house is only temporarily used by sex worker.
- (c) Vidhan's house can be considered as a brothel as it is used for sexual exploitation.
- (d) Vidhan's house can be considered as a brothel because he is directly involved in sexual abuse.
- **60.** Vidhi, a 28 year old adult, engages in a consensual sexual intercourse with a man. After which, they visit a restaurant, where the man pays the bill. Based on the information given in the passage, will it be appropriate to label her as a sex worker?
- (a) Vidhi can be labelled as sex worker as she asked the man to pay the bill.
- (b) Vidhi can be labelled as sex worker as she was sexually exploited.
- (c) Vidhi cannot be labelled as a sex worker as there was no sexual exploitation for commercial gain.
- (d) Vidhi cannot be labelled as a sex worker as she had consensual sexual intercourse.
- **61.** Vidhya, a sex worker, gave birth to her child Vishal in 2002. Despite poor financial condition, she ensured to give the best possible education to his son. Having successfully completed his schooling in 2018, Vishal is actively seeking job opportunities. Unable to find a job, he continues living on the earnings of mother, which he knows are earned through prostitution. Can Vishal be punished for knowingly living on the earnings of the prostitution?
- (a) Vishal can be punished for living on the earnings of prostitution as he is aware about the source of the income.
- (b) Vishal can be punished for living on the earnings of prostitution since he is educated and must do a job.
- (c) Vishal cannot be punished for living on the earnings of her mother as he is still looking for a job.
- (d) Vishal cannot be punished for living on the earnings of prostitution as he doesn't falls in the category of persons that can be punished for the offense.
- **62.** Vidhyut, a 28 year old man, suggests Vidhita, an adult, to take-up prostitution as a means to earn money, as she was in a financial distress. Vidhita, agreed with his suggestion as she desperately needed money to support her family. Vidhyut took her to a place where she can take up prostitution. Can Vidhyut be held liable for his act?
- (a) Vidhyut can be held liable under Section 5 as he has induced Vidhita to take up prostitution.
- (b) Vidhyut can be held liable for his act as inducing someone to take up prostitution is morally wrong.
- (c) Vidhyut cannot be held liable under Section 5 as Vidhita is an adult and should take these decisions on her own.
- (d) Vidhyut cannot be held liable under Section 5 as he genuinely wanted Vidhita to come out of financial distress.
- **63.** Which of the following statements can be concluded from the passage?
- i. A customer in a brothel cannot be hauled up in a case under the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956, as the act does not define the word 'procure'.
- ii. If an individual undergoes sexual exploitation for financial gain, they may be referred to as being involved in sex work. iii. If any person knowingly lives on the earnings of the prostitution of any other person, he shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees, or both.
- (a) (i), (ii) and (iii) only
- (b) (ii) and (iii) only
- (c) (i) only
- (d) (ii) only

**64.** Based on the passage, decide:

Assertion (A): Any person who - procures or induces any person for the purpose of prostitution; or takes, causes or induces any person to carry on prostitution, shall be punishable with- rigorous imprisonment for not less than 3 years but up to 7 years.

Reason (R): Section 5 of the Act penalises procuring, inducing or taking person for the sake of prostitution.

- (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation for A's truthfulness.
- (b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation for A's truthfulness.
- (c) A is true but R is false.
- (d) A is false but R is true.



#### PASSAGE - XIV

Recently, the Press and Registration of Periodicals Bill, 2023, (PRP Bill) was passed in the Lok Sabha on December 21 to repeal the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867 (1867 Act). A periodical means any publication, barring books or journals, which is printed at regular intervals and contains public news or comments on public news. How is this Bill different from the 1867 Act?

The 2023 Bill seeks to decriminalise the colonial-era statute by replacing jail terms with fines, and providing for an appellate mechanism headed by the Chairman of the Press Council of India (PCI). The Appellate Board (Press and Registration Appellate Board) will comprise, alongside the PCI chairman, two PCI members and hear appeals against refusal of registration, imposition of penalties, suspension, or cancellation of registration. An aggrieved person may prefer an appeal, within sixty days from the date on which such order is communicated to him.

The 1867 Act included up to six-month imprisonment for offences like keeping a press without declaration, making false statements, and violating printing or publishing requirements under Section 3. The new law has replaced all such penal provisions with fines, barring one. Section 14(4) allows six-month imprisonment for anyone failing to cease publication even after six months of the issuance of directions or those publishing without a certificate of registration. The upper limit of fines has been hiked considerably — from Rs 2,000 to Rs 5 lakh.

The new Bill shifts all the power from the DM's hands to the Press Registrar General (PRG), a newly created position. Although the 1867 Act included a "Press Registrar" or a "Registrar of newspapers for India" appointed by the Centre, its powers were limited, unlike the PRG's under the new law.

Sections 5 and 6 of the Bill delineate the PRG's functions and powers, respectively. The PRG is entrusted with tasks like issuing certificates of registration to periodicals, maintaining records of registered periodicals, collecting application fees, and disbursing the Centre's funds for the Act's implementation, among others.

What is the process of declarations and registration?

The 1867 Act mandated a declaration specifying the printer or publisher be made to the DM, who then sent it to the Press Registrar, who issued a certificate of registration necessary for publication.

The process was deemed "time-consuming" and "onerous" under the new Bill. Notably, publishers will no longer be required to file a declaration with the DM or the local authorities. Meanwhile, printing presses can simply give an online "intimation" instead of filing a declaration.

Once a registration application is filed, the "specified authority" must furnish its no-objection or comments on the application within 60 days before making an application to the PRG, which eventually decides the grant of registration. Notably, this requirement for such authority's no-objection has been removed for the registration of periodicals proposed to be published by the government.

**Source**: Extracted (with edits and revisions) from an article titled "Press and periodicals Bill 2023: Why it was brought in, differences from 1867 Act" published at Indian Express.

- **65.** Vidur runs a publication house. His publication house specifically deals with exclusive books. These books are printed at random intervals depending upon the demand for such exclusive books. Based on the facts and legal principles, decide whether the books published by him will be covered under the definition of periodicals?
- (a) Yes, as books are not published at regular intervals.
- (b) No, as books are specifically excluded from the definition of periodicals.
- (c) Yes, since the definition of periodicals cover any publication including books.
- (d) No, since the definition of periodicals only exclude books published at regular intervals.
- **66.** Vidhan, has applied for registration under the recently enacted under Press and Registration of Periodicals Act, 2023 on 21st January. His registration was refused on 30th January. However, due to administrative holidays, the appropriate authorities communicated the order of refusal to him on 15th February. Aggrieved by such refusal, he has filed an appeal on 07th April to Press and Registration Appellate Board. In light of the facts mentioned, decide whether the appeal is filed in consonance with the law?
- (a) No, as the appeal has not been filed within sixty days from date of refusal of registration.
- (b) No, as appeal cannot be filed before Press and Registration Appellate Board as provisions of the Bill are not enacted yet.
- (c) Yes, as the appeal is filed within sixty days of date of communication of order of refusal.
- (d) Yes, as after excluding administrative delays the appeal is filed within sixty days of date.
- **67.** Vidyut runs a publication house. He is not registered as a periodical under the recently enacted Press and Registration of Periodicals law. Despite non-registration, he continues to publish periodicals. The appropriate authority took notice of such violation and directed him to undergo for six months imprisonment. Vidyut has challenged the punishment on ground that it contravenes the provisions of the new law. Based on the legal principles in the passages, decide whether Vidyut's challenge is valid.



- (a) The challenge by Vidyut is valid as the Press and Registration of Periodicals law replaces all penal provisions with fine.
- (b) The challenge by Vidyut is invalid as even the Press and Registration of Periodicals law provides for imprisonment on those publishing without a certificate of registration.
- (c) The challenge by Vidyut is valid as Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867 provided for punishment and it is now omitted.
- (d) The challenge by Vidyut is invalid as he is still governed by provisions of Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867.
- 68. Based on the Passage, decide:

Assertion (A): The publishers will no longer be required to file a declaration with the DM or the local authorities. An online intimation is sufficient for obtaining a certificate of registration.

Reason (R): The process under 1867 Act was deemed time consuming and onerous and thus under the new bill, printing presses can simply give an online "intimation" instead of filing a declaration.

- (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation for A's truthfulness.
- (b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation for A's truthfulness.
- (c) A is true but R is false.
- (d) A is false but R is true.
- **69.** Vidhata runs a daily news agency. After the enactment of the latest law on press and registration of periodicals, he has applied for registration under the Act. The registration application is filed on 01<sup>st</sup> January, 2024. The specified authority is reviewing the application. No response is heard from the authority as on 01<sup>st</sup> March, 2024. Vidhata inquired with the authority. Still, he has not received any response. Decide, whether the acts of the authority is in consonance with the recently enacted Press and Registration of Periodicals.
- (a) No, since the authorities have not shared any response even after inquiry.
- (b) Yes, since the 60 days' time period is to forward the application to the PRG.
- (c) Yes, since the authorities are not mandated to respond to any such inquiry from the applicant.
- (d) No, since the authorities have failed to issue a no-objection on the application within 60 days.
- **70.** The Government of India is planning to publish a special series of articles to educate people about unknown Indian freedom fighter. These articles are published as part of weekly publication by the government of India. The article will educate people through news editorials and clippings. The periodicals is released as part of "Azaadi ka Amrit Mahotsav". After finalising the plan, the Government started the publication of the periodical immediately. This was challenged by Vidhan on the ground that government has failed to obtain a no-objection from the authority under the recently enacted Press and Registration of Periodicals Act. In light of the facts mentioned, choose the most appropriate option.
- (a) The challenge is invalid as the requirement of no-objection is not applicable on periodicals proposed to be published by the Government.
- (b) The challenge is invalid as the Government does not require a no objection to publish periodicals on freedom fighters.
- (c) The challenge is valid as obtaining no-objection from specific authority is mandatory under the Press and Registration of Periodicals Act.
- (d) The challenge is valid as periodicals to inform people about freedom fighters is not covered under the definition of periodicals under the Press and Registration of Periodicals Act.
- 71. With regards to relation between the 1867 Act and the PRP Bill, which of the following is not correct?
- (a) The PRP Bill replaces the penal provisions as provided under the 1867 Act with fines.
- (b) The PRP Bill increased the upper limit of fine from Rs. 2000 to Rs 5 lakh.
- (c) The PRP Bill creates a balance between equal powers available to DM and Press Registrar General.
- (d) The 1867 Act included the office of Press Registrar.

#### PASSAGE - XV

The Supreme Court bench comprising Justices MR Shah and CT Ravi Kumar have held that academic qualifications are a valid criteria to differentiate pay scale for different employees even when the nature of the work undertaken by them is more or less the same. It is observed and held that considering the educational qualifications prescribed for appointment to the post of Data Entry Operators, Grade B and the order assigning duties, the classification of Data Entry Operators in different grades, does not violate any right of equality guaranteed by Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution nor does it violate the constitutional protection against hostile or arbitrary discrimination.

Article 14 of the Constitution of India mandates that the State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India. Equality before law is a dynamic concept having many facets. One facet-the most commonly acknowledged-is that there shall be no privileged person or class and that no one shall be above law. For equality before law can be predicated meaningfully only in an equal society. The guarantee of the equal protection of the laws means the protection of equal laws. It forbids class legislation, but does not forbid classification which rests upon reasonable grounds of distinction. It does not prohibit legislation, which is limited either in the objects to which it is directed or by the territory within which it is to operate.



It merely requires that all persons subjected to such legislation shall be treated alike under like circumstances and conditions both in the privileges conferred and in the liabilities imposed.

It is well settled that equality before the law or the equal protection of laws does not mean identity or abstract symmetry of treatment. Distinctions have to be made for different classes and groups of persons and a rational or reasonable classification is permitted, as otherwise it would be almost impossible to carry on the work of Government of any State or country. In order, however to pass the test of permissible classification two conditions must be fulfilled, viz. (i) that the classification must be founded on an intelligible differentia which distinguishes persons or things that are grouped together from those that are left out of the group; and (ii) that differentia must have a rational relation to the objects sought to be achieved by the statute in question. The other facet of Article 14 which must be remembered is that it eschews arbitrariness in any form. Thus, for a law to be valid under Article 14, it must appear that not only a classification has been made but also that it is one based upon a reasonable ground on some difference which bears a just and proper relation to the attempted classification and is not a mere arbitrary selection.

**Source**: Extracted (with edits and revisions) from an excerpt from the judgement by the Supreme Court in the case of Union of India & Ors. versus Rajib Khan & Ors.

- **72.** Seeing the rise of Artificial Intelligence in India, the Government of India has decided to make it mandatory for all the Universities in India to include this subject in the curriculum. The Government has by law established specific posts for teachers in government universities. Accordingly, the Government has decided to conduct a national level recruitment exam for recruitment to these posts. The pay scale for the selected teachers under the recently enacted law are different. The pay scale is dependent on their experience and academic qualifications. Vidur, who has recently cleared the recruitment exam has challenged the law on ground of violation of Article 14. Based on principles laid down in the passage, decide if his challenge is valid?
- (a) Yes, as Section 14 prohibits class legislation.
- (b) No, as the differentiation based on educational qualification and experience does not violate Article 14.
- (c) Yes, as the role of the teachers is same and therefore all the teachers should get similar benefits.
- (d) No, as Vidur should work on his qualifications in order to get more benefits.
- **73.** The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has had a history filled with violence and misery. During partition, a lot of local communities migrated out of the Union territory. Recently, the Government of India decided to enact a law to provide reservation to these communities in the legislative assembly of Jammu & Kashmir. This was done to prompt these communities to come back into their home. Waghey and Ghirath are two such communities eligible for such reservation. The law only states that the Waghey community is entitled to 4% reservation and Ghirath community is entitled to 2% reservation. In light of the facts mentioned, which of the following is correct with regards to the validity of the legislation.
- (a) The law granting reservation is valid as it is based on reasonable classification.
- (b) The law granting reservation will be valid if it is proved that granting reservation was necessary.
- (c) The law granting reservation is invalid as the difference in privileges granted to the Waghey and Ghirath community violates Article 14.
- (d) The law granting reservation is invalid as the classification between these communities and others is not founded on an intelligible differentia.
- **74.** In the event of the Bhopal gas tragedy, the Government of India decided to enact a law to provide compensation to those affected. The victims of the tragedy were divided into three different categories depending on their vicinity from the origin of gas leak. This was done to ensure that the adequate compensation is given on the basis of severity of injuries caused due to vicinity of the gas leak. Category A included people who were within 500 m of the gas leak. Category B included people who were within 501 m to 1 km of the gas leak. Category C included people who were within 1km to 2 km of the gas leak. The compensation awarded to Category A, B & C was Rs. 5Lakh, 3Lakh and 2 Lakhs respectively. The victims from Category C have decided to challenge the law on ground of violation of Article 14. Will they succeed?
- (a) They will succeed as classification is not based on reasonable grounds.
- (b) They will not succeed as law is based on intelligible differentia and has rational relation to the object sought to be achieved.
- (c) They will not succeed as they are not entirely excluded from obtaining benefit from the law.
- (d) They will succeed as the classification is not founded on an intelligible differentia.
- 75. Based on the Passage, decide:

Assertion (A): In order for a law to be valid under Article 14, it is important that any classification under the act for different treatment is not done on any arbitrary grounds.

Reason (R): Distinctions have to be made for different classes and groups of persons and a rational or reasonable classification is permitted under Article 14. The other facet of Article 14 which must be remembered is that it eschews arbitrariness in any form.



- (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation for A's truthfulness.
- (b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation for A's truthfulness.
- (c) A is true but R is false.
- (d) A is false but R is true.
- **76.** Air India, one of the largest government airlines in India, employs both male and female. Recently the Government released a regulation providing for compulsory retirement of female employees in the event of their first pregnancy. The reason for such a regulation was that Government believed that all females are not physically fit to work in the airline industry after their pregnancy. Therefore, such retirement is necessary to maintain quality of service in the airline. The medical jurisprudence in India does not support Government's belief. The female employees, affected by the regulation, have challenged the regulation on ground that it is a class legislation and thus violates Article 14. Will they succeed?
- (a) No, since the medical jurisprudence certifies that females are not physically fit to work for airlines after their pregnancy.
- (b) Yes, only if the female employees can prove that such a restriction is applicable on females only.
- (c) Yes, since the classification is not based on reasonable grounds and does not have a rational relation to the object sought to be achieved.
- (d) No, since the classification between males and females is based on reasonable grounds.
- 77. Assume in the previous question certain facts are substituted. The regulation provided for compulsory retirement for female employees only after they were medically certified as not fit for working in airline industry. The regulation provided that such certification should be granted based on independent medical assessment before and after pregnancy to see the physical condition of the female employees. What effect would these substituted facts have on the challenge made to the validity of the regulation?
- (a) The substituted facts would weaken the challenge.
- (b) The substituted facts would strengthen the challenge.
- (c) The substituted facts would have no effect on the challenge.
- (d) The substituted facts would have no effect on the challenge as the regulation still does not have a rational relation with the object sought to be achieved.

#### PASSAGE - XVI

The Supreme Court of India has held that - Presiding Judge should give adequate reasons while giving opinion under Section 432 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Cr.P.C.). Section 432 deals with power of the appropriate government to suspend or remit sentences. As per the Section, when any person has been sentenced to punishment for an offence, the appropriate Government may, at any time, without conditions or upon any conditions which the person sentenced accepts, suspend the execution of his sentence or remit the whole or any part of the punishment to which he has been sentenced. Remission refers to reduction in duration of sentence imposed without changing the nature of the sentence. Once an application is made to the appropriate Government under Section 432, the appropriate Government may require the presiding Judge of the Court before or by which the conviction was had or confirmed, to state his opinion as to whether the application should be granted or refused, together with his reasons for such opinion and also to forward with the statement of such opinion a certified copy of the record of the trial or of such record thereof as exists.

In Union of India vs. Sriharan, the Court observed that the opinion of the presiding judge shines a light on the nature of the crime that has been committed, the record of the convict, their background and other relevant factors. Crucially, the Court observed that the opinion of the presiding judge would enable the government to take the 'right' decision as to whether or not the sentence should be remitted. Hence, it cannot be said that the opinion of the presiding judge is only a relevant factor, which does not have any determinative effect on the application for remission. The purpose of the procedural safeguard under Section 432 (2) of the CrPC would stand defeated if the opinion of the presiding judge becomes just another factor that may be taken into consideration by the government while deciding the application for remission. It is possible then that the procedure under Section 432 (2) would become a mere formality.

However, this is not to say that the appropriate government should mechanically follow the opinion of the presiding judge. If the opinion of the presiding judge does not comply with the requirements of Section 432 (2) or if the judge does not consider the relevant factors for grant of remission that have been laid down in Laxman Naskar v. Union of India, the government may request the presiding judge to consider the matter afresh. These factors include assessing (i) whether the offence affects the society at large; (ii) the probability of the crime being repeated; (iii) the potential of the convict to commit crimes in future; (iv) if any fruitful purpose is being served by keeping the convict in prison; and (v) the socioeconomic condition of the convict's family.

**Source**: Extracted (with edits and revisions) from an excerpt from the judgement by the Supreme Court in the case of Jaswant Singh & Ors. versus the State Of Chhattisgarh.



- **78.** Vidhi and Vidhan are neighbours. Recently, Vidhan has built a teen shed around his house. Vidhi feels that this teen shed prevents access to sunlight. This has led to damage to the exquisite plants that Vidhi was growing. Accordingly, she has filed a suit for damages under Code of Civil Procedure against Vidhan. The Civil Court after taking into account the facts and circumstances of the case, passed an order directing Vidhan to pay compensation to Vidhi. Vidhan has approached the appropriate government under Section 432 for suspension of his sentence. Which of the following is a valid course of action for the appropriate government?
- (a) The government should suspend Vidhan's sentence by exercising power under Section 432 of CrPC.
- (b) The government should reject Vidhan's application as he has caused damage to Vidhi's plants.
- (c) The government should suspend Vidhan's sentence after taking the opinion of the Presiding Judge of the Civil Court.
- (d) The government should reject Vidhan's application as Section 432 is not applicable in the present case.
- **79.** Vidyut has been accused of committing theft. An FIR has been filed against him. The matter was heard by Judicial Magistrate. The Court heard the matter and after taking the relevant evidence into account, convicted Vidyut. A three year sentence was imposed upon him. While undergoing sentence, Vidyut was informed by his lawyer that the court which convicted him omitted a key piece of evidence. Accordingly, Vidyut will get acquitted if appeal is filed. In light of this information, Vidyut has applied before the appropriate government for termination of his remaining sentence. However, the appropriate government is of the view that Section 432 only deals with suspension of the sentence and does not allow for termination as requested. Based on the legal principles in the passage, choose the correct statement.
- (a) The Government is correct as Section 432 only provides for suspension or remission of sentence and does not involve termination as requested.
- (b) The Government is correct as Section 432 only provides for suspension of sentence.
- (c) The Government is incorrect as Section 432 provides for remission and **Vidyut'**s request for termination of the remaining sentence is covered under remission
- (d) The Government is incorrect as it has not considered the opinion of the presiding judge.
- **80.** Vidushi has been convicted for committing murder. The Trial Court has sentenced her to life imprisonment. She has applied for remission under Section 432. After receipt of the application, the Appropriate Government requested the Judge convicting her to state its opinion on the application. In response, Trial Court's judge merely stated that application should be refused. Along with its reply, the judge shared the certified copy of record of the trial. Nothing else is provided. In light of the facts mentioned, decide the most appropriate course of action for the Government?
- (a) The Government shall accept the opinion of the judge and reject Vidhushi's application.
- (b) The Government can send the matter back to the judge for fresh reconsideration.
- (c) The Government shall reject the opinion of the judge and decide the application on its own.
- (d) The Government can reject the opinion as it anyway does not affect the Government's decision.
- **81.** Assume in the previous question a fact is substituted. Instead of sending the certified copy, the judge of the trial court send the record as it existed before it. What effect would this substituted fact have on the validity of the judge's opinion under Section 432?
- (a) The substituted fact would strengthen the validity of the judge's opinion.
- (b) The substituted fact would weaken the validity of the judge's opinion.
- (c) The substituted fact would have no effect on the validity of the judge's opinion.
- (d) The substituted fact would further weaken the validity of the judge's opinion.
- **82.** Vidhit has been convicted for committing sexual harassment at workplace. The Trial Court has sentenced him to imprisonment for three years. He has applied for remission of sentence before the appropriate government under Section 432. The appropriate government has requested the judge of the Trial Court to share his opinion on the application. Which of the following factors would be relevant for the judge?
- I. Vidhit has a criminal history and is therefore likely to commit crime in the future.
- II. Vidhit's family is poor and dependent upon his salary.
- III. The offence in question was committed only against a single colleague.
- (a) Only I.
- (b) Only II.
- (c) Only I and II.
- (d) I, II and III
- 83. With regards to the Supreme Court's judgement in Union of India vs. Sriharan, which of the following is not correct?
- (a) The opinion of the Judge shines a light on the nature of the crime that has been committed.
- (b) The opinion of the judge is only a recommendation and thus does not affect the decision taken by the appropriate government.
- (c) The opinion of the judge is a procedural safeguard under Section 432 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.
- (d) The opinion of the presiding judge enables the government to take the right decision.
- **84.** With regards to the relevant factors for grant of remission that have been laid down in Laxman Naskar v. Union of India, which of the following statement is not a relevant factor?
- (a) Assessing the impact of the offence on society at large.
- (b) Assessing whether the convict has the potential to commit crimes in future.
- (c) Assessing the political opinion of the convict's family and whether that led to the crime.
- (d) Assessing if any fruitful purpose is being served by keeping the convict in prison.



#### Section D-Logical Reasoning PASSAGE - XVII

There are a lot of good reasons to keep global warming below 2°C .To maintain reasonable odds of meeting this goal, the world must rapidly reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions. And in the absence of effective and cost-competitive carbon capture or removal technologies, net zero means gross zero: a near complete phaseout of fossil fuels.

The problem with fossil fuel phaseouts is that millions of people around the world are currently paid to extract, sell, or make electricity out of fossil fuels. In the US, this concerns about 1.7 million workers. In addition, a large workforce makes a living in fossil-dependent sectors, such as refineries, steel, or (for now) automobile. In India, about 21 million people work in such sectors one shouldn't forget induced jobs created by fossil fuels: employment that is unrelated yet created by the presence of large fossil fuel employers. Think of restaurant staff in a coal town. In sum, phaseouts are a threat to many workers and their communities. Unsurprisingly, these regions tend to be hostile to climate action.

In response, governments around the world are deploying new policy tools to prop up new industries and jobs in at-risk regions. This includes so-called 'just transition' programmes such as the EU's €55 billion Just Transition Mechanism. In the US, industrial policy is making a comeback and programmes such as the Inflation Reduction Act and the CHIPS Act are transforming the economic landscape in historical fossil fuel communities.

But is this the right strategy? Will these policies be effective? How should they be designed? And can they mitigate the concerns of those millions of workers whose job is at risk?

To answer these questions, a natural starting point is to clarify why policy intervention is needed in the first place. When technological change is slow and steady, reallocation of labour across sectors can be gradual and done with limited pain. But the clean energy transition is different. It requires the reallocation of millions of workers over a relatively short period of time. Indeed, the transition to net zero needs to happen soon (say, by 2050) to mitigate global warming. This creates bottlenecks and coordination failures: rapid disorderly phaseouts can lead to too many jobseekers for too few jobs. There are few comparable examples of similarly rapid and large-scale job transitions to guide us. The few that exist, such the Soviet Union's transition to a market economy, remind us of the importance of paying close attention. And even managed phaseouts, where they existed, are painful processes

Thus, policy intervention might be warranted to avoid ending up in unpleasant equilibria. This may entail creating new jobs for at-risk fossil fuel workers. One idea pushed forward by the Biden administration has been to facilitate workers' transition from the fossil fuel sector to new green industries. Green jobs offer appealing features, such as their potential resilience to automation. Yet how realistic is such a 'fossil-to-green' job pipeline?

- **85.** According to the passage, what is the primary reason for the implementation of 'just transition' programmes such as the EU's Just Transition Mechanism and the US's Inflation Reduction Act?
- (a) To rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by fostering clean energy technologies.
- (b) To mitigate the impact of fossil fuel phaseouts on workers and communities dependent on these industries.
- (c) To enhance the economic growth of regions historically reliant on fossil fuel industries through diversification.
- (d) To provide financial support to industries transitioning from fossil fuels to more sustainable energy sources.
- **86.** The passage discusses the impact of rapid phaseouts of fossil fuels on employment. How does it describe the nature of this impact on the workforce, particularly in regions heavily dependent on fossil fuel industries?
- (a) It leads to immediate and widespread unemployment in fossil fuel-dependent regions.
- (b) It creates a dynamic labor market with new opportunities in emerging sectors.
- (c) It results in a significant threat to job security and community stability.
- (d) It fosters a gradual shift towards more sustainable and diverse job markets.
- **87.** In the context of the passage, how does the clean energy transition compare to other historical labor reallocations, and what are the implications of this comparison for policy intervention?
- (a) It is characterized by gradual shifts in employment, allowing for smooth transitions, which diminishes the need for policy intervention.
- (b) It closely resembles the rapid labor reallocation during the Soviet Union's transition to a market economy, highlighting the necessity of careful policy planning.
- (c) It differs from previous labor reallocations due to its pace and scale, posing challenges that may require policy intervention to avoid negative outcomes.
- (d) It mirrors the managed phaseouts in some industries, suggesting that policy intervention is unnecessary.
- **88.** How does the passage evaluate the concept of transitioning fossil fuel workers to green industries, and what factors are considered in assessing its feasibility?
- (a) The passage evaluates the concept positively, emphasizing the seamless transition and reduced impact on workers.
- (b) The passage is critical of the concept, citing challenges and doubts about the feasibility of such transitions.
- (c) The passage provides a mixed evaluation, acknowledging potential benefits but also highlighting the need for careful planning.
- (d) The passage does not address the concept of transitioning fossil fuel workers to green industries.



- **89.** What rationale does the passage provide for the necessity of policy interventions in the face of rapid technological changes in energy sectors?
- (a) The passage argues that policy interventions are unnecessary as rapid technological changes can naturally adapt to workforce shifts.
- (b) The passage suggests that policy interventions are vital due to the potential for disarray and job scarcity in fast-changing energy sectors.
- (c) The passage emphasizes that policy interventions are essential to accelerate technological changes for quicker job transitions.
- (d) The passage mentions that policy interventions should focus on supporting large fossil fuel employers to maintain stability.

#### PASSAGE - XVIII

Delhi and parts of the surrounding States of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh encounter their annual air quality inflection point. This is the time when the southwest monsoon has receded and with it, the great drafts in the upper atmosphere that normally flush out pollutants from the gamut of anthropogenic activities such as construction, driving, power generation and the burning of agricultural residue. Through the years, there have been studies commissioned and executive action initiated to study, acknowledge and address the crisis. The science is also fairly clear on the relative contribution of pollutants and the limits of corrective intervention in the face of adverse meteorology and the disruption to economic life that this can entail. The consequence of this is that the air pollution crisis has now devolved into a stalemate. The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), which is tasked with addressing the causes of air pollution in Delhi and the adjoining States, is now a body packed with expertise but whose powers are limited to evoking and recommending grades of measures depending on the degree of deterioration in air quality.

While the CAQM pointed out, as recently as October 31, that the daily average air quality in Delhi from January to October of this year was the best in the last six years, it elides the fact that the number of days in November when air quality becomes 'severe' has remained roughly the same. Thus, in 2022, the AQI was in the severe category in the first fortnight of November for three days, the same as in 2021, 2020 and 2019. While there is greater awareness and action to curb the sources of pollution, November, which has in recent years emerged as the critical month for pollution, remains to be tamed. Incidents of stubble burning in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh this year have been roughly half that when compared to previous years, though the weeks ahead are expected to see more such activity. While the measures earlier have seen an institutionalised response to tackle air pollution, it is now time for a concerted approach to address these challenges of November. Beyond stubble burning, this means addressing the more daunting challenges of vehicular pollution and construction dust. While urban Delhi could have always blamed the distant farm fires for the pollution crisis, tackling November may mean hard measures and greater inconvenience. Bodies such as the CAQM have to assert their independent credentials and ensure greater coordination and compliance within Delhi and the surrounding States to address the challenge.

[Taken from Source with edits: https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial]

- **90.** What role does the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) primarily play in combating air pollution according to the passage, and what limitation is highlighted regarding its effectiveness?
- (a) The CAQM actively reduces pollutants by directly intervening in urban planning and transportation policies.
- (b) The CAQM suggests measures based on air quality levels but cannot enforce compliance.
- (c) The CAQM coordinates with state governments to impose restrictions on agricultural practices like stubble burning.
- (d) The CAQM regulates power generation and construction activities to mitigate anthropogenic pollution.
- **91.** Identify the information that would most critically weaken the CAQM's assertion that the air quality from January to October represents the best in six years, especially when juxtaposed with the unchanging severity of November's pollution levels.
- (a) Data indicating a significant increase in industrial emissions during the November period.
- (b) Statistical evidence showing a consistent rise in air purifier sales during November.
- (c) Records demonstrating a steady decrease in wind speeds in November over the years.
- (d) Reports revealing a consistent number of days with severe AQI levels in November.
- **92.** What underlying assumption must hold true for the CAQM's strategy on recommending grades of measures based on air quality deterioration to be effective in addressing the air pollution crisis?
- (a) Meteorological conditions will consistently aid in the dispersal of pollutants.
- (b) Economic activities contributing to pollution will remain constant year-round.
- (c) There will be full compliance by the public and industries with the recommended measures.
- (d) Technological advancements will continue to improve the precision of AQI measurement.



- **93.** What can be most reasonably concluded about the relationship between the decrease in stubble burning incidents and the air quality during November based on the trends presented in the passage?
- (a) The mitigated stubble burning correlates with an incremental improvement in November's air quality.
- (b) Despite fewer stubble burning events, November's air quality remains critically impacted by other pollutants.
- (c) Reduced stubble burning has little to no effect on the persistent 'severe' AQI days during November.
- (d) Stubble burning's decline is a factor, yet November's air quality is influenced by complex, multifaceted issues.
- **94.** How could one reconcile the paradox between the reported reduction in stubble burning incidents and the unchanged number of 'severe' air quality days in November over the past years?
- (a) Increased vehicular emissions could have offset the air quality gains from reduced stubble burning.
- (b) The implementation of air quality measures might have not been as widespread as reported.
- (c) Stubble burning may not be the predominant factor affecting November's air quality.
- (d) Climatic variations could be undermining the positive effects of reduced stubble burning.

#### PASSAGE - XIX

Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenues hit their second highest monthly tally in October at a little over Rs. 1.72 lakh crore, breaking a few long- and short-term trends. To start with, they reflect a 13.4% uptick over last year's kitty, the highest so far in 2023. Moreover, it reverses a persistent deceleration in revenue growth seen through the second quarter of this financial year. From an average growth of 11.5% between April and June, the rise in GST revenues had slowed to 10.6% between July and September, with the last month seeing a 27-month low uptick of 10.2%. The Finance Ministry shall hope that this growth rate pick-up sustains so that its 2023-24 fiscal math gets some buffer from any possible spending or subsidy shocks, whether they arise from external risks such as fuel or urea prices or internal ones such as pre-election goodies like extending the free foodgrains programme. Seen over a broader timeframe, last month's mid-year indirect tax collections bely a pattern that the highest revenues are received in April as businesses close their books of accounts for the financial year. Year-end compliances had propped up this April's kitty to a record Rs. 1.87 lakh crore.

The entire bump up in October's revenues, stemming from transactions undertaken in September, may not be ascribed to a consumption spike at the onset of the festive season. Experts believe the Revenue Department's continuing crackdown on the non-compliant, and a September 30 deadline for settling any disputes that may have arisen since the GST regime's launch in 2017-18, also played a role. However, there is some indication of a recovery in domestic demand. While revenues from domestic transactions and services imports grew 13%, the revenue growth from imports that the Finance Ministry did not explicitly disclose, was sharper at 13.94%. This is not only the fastest uptick in at least nine months but also marks only the third time in seven months that goods import revenues have grown. Some of this must reflect a rebound in discretionary demand, even if this may be largely for premium or high-end goods rather than a broad-based bump. If this sustains through the festive season, revenues could hold up even if companies are reporting some weakening of demand growth in October in consumer goods, especially in rural areas. A new amnesty scheme to settle a limited set of GST demands, unveiled last week for taxpayers who failed to appeal them in time, may also bolster the kitty as it mandates firms to deposit an additional amount of the disputed levy for consideration. Anyone tracking the trajectory of GST as a high-frequency indicator to assess the economy's growth prospects must not lose sight of such factors

[Taken from Source with edits: https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/]

- **95.** Given the Finance Ministry's reliance on GST revenues to buffer against potential spending or subsidy shocks, what additional information would be most crucial to evaluate the stability of this financial strategy?
- (a) The projected growth rate of GST revenues for the next fiscal quarter.
- (b) Historical data comparing current GST revenues with the past five years.
- (c) The proportion of GST revenue derived from non-compliant businesses after the crackdown.
- (d) Specific external risks that could impact future subsidy shocks and spending.
- **96.** What assumption is critical to the argument that the increase in October's GST revenues can be attributed to the Finance Ministry's enforcement actions and the deadline for settling disputes?
- (a) The compliance enhancement measures were the predominant factor in increasing revenue.
- (b) The deadline for dispute resolution had a direct, significant effect on revenue collection.
- (c) Businesses generally respond to enforcement deadlines with increased compliance.
- (d) The enforcement actions and deadline for disputes were adequately publicized to businesses.
- **97.** What can be most reliably inferred about the relationship between the GST revenue collection and the festive season's consumption patterns, as suggested by the passage?
- (a) Enhanced GST revenue collection aligns temporally with festive season commencements.
- (b) Festive season consumer behavior potentially manifests in escalated GST revenue figures.
- (c) The seasonal festivity period correlates with a discernible increment in GST accruals.
- (d) The festive season precipitates a discernible, albeit indirect, augmentation of GST revenues.



- **98.** Which of the following, if true, would most seriously weaken the argument that the uptick in GST revenue from imports is a strong indicator of a recovery in domestic demand?
- (a) The increase in import GST revenue is primarily from non-consumable bulk industrial goods.
- (b) Recent currency fluctuations have artificially inflated the value of imported goods' GST.
- (c) There has been an increase in the number of imported goods subjected to GST.
- (d) A substantial proportion of imported goods are being re-exported rather than consumed domestically.
- **99.** How could the paradox of increasing GST revenues in October despite the reported weakening of demand growth in consumer goods, especially in rural areas, be most effectively resolved?
- (a) The GST revenue rise is attributed to increased compliance and reporting by businesses.
- (b) GST revenues have increased due to higher taxation rates implemented in October.
- (c) The uptick in GST revenues is due to a significant surge in service sector taxation.
- (d) October's GST revenue includes substantial one-time payments from dispute resolutions.

#### PASSAGE - XX

New evidence that increasing numbers of women are being investigated by police on suspicion of having procured abortions illegally is a worrying reminder of all that is wrong with the current law. The 28-month prison sentence imposed on Carla Foster, who was convicted of terminating a pregnancy at between 32 and 34 weeks, prompted widespread criticism and was reduced and suspended on appeal. But while this was an unusual case, it was not unique. This year, at least five women have appeared in English courts charged under section 58 of the 1861 Offences against the Person Act, which criminalises abortions that do not come under the terms of the 1967 Abortion Act. Previously, there had been just three prosecutions in more than 150 years.

What has caused this shift is uncertain. But campaigners for decriminalisation believe longstanding concerns about the status quo are being proved correct. While the law on abortion in England, Scotland and Wales has hardly changed since 1990, when the upper limit was lowered to 24 weeks, the context has altered in significant ways.

On the positive side, the Welsh government set an example in continuing a "pills by post" scheme that was launched during the pandemic. Last year, the UK government copied it, meaning that women can now have medical abortions at home during the first 10 weeks of pregnancy. Abortion has also been decriminalised in Northern Ireland, following a vote by MPs. The lack of access to treatment there remains a problem. But the previous position, whereby Northern Irish women were at a disadvantage in terms of their entitlements, has reversed. Currently, it is women in England, Scotland and Wales who risk jail if they terminate a pregnancy illegally.

The wider availability of abortion pills, including over the internet, is likely to be one factor behind the rise in cases. Evidence that vulnerable women were accessing them through irregular means was one reason why experts were determined to ease restrictions governing their use in the NHS. Once again, a devolved administration (in this case, Scotland's) led the way by allowing women to take the second dose at home. The UK government followed.

Without further research, it is hard to be sure why investigations and prosecutions also began to rise around this time. But recent reports about police practice in this area, as it has developed over the past few years, are concerning. These include officers removing, as a matter of routine, electronic devices from women who are under suspicion. In some cases, medical tests for abortion drugs and data related to menstruation tracking apps have also been requested.

So far, the number of convictions remains low. But campaigners are justifiably alarmed by what appears to be a trend, and point to the influence of rightwing religious groups that oppose abortion and that were emboldened by the overturning of the landmark Roe v Wade judgment in the US. There is also huge frustration over the government's refusal to implement buffer zones, protecting women attending abortion clinics from harassment, despite MPs having voted for these a year ago.

Ministers are wrong to block a measure supported by parliament. In the past, many have argued that the current law on abortion is a reasonable compromise. Recent events make it clear that this view is mistaken. As this column has argued previously, abortion should be removed from the realm of the criminal law into that of medical regulation.

[Taken from Source with edits: https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023 -]

**100.** How does the passage characterize the government's response to the call for buffer zones around abortion clinics?

- (a) The government is proactive and supportive, enacting legislation in alignment with parliamentary votes.
- (b) The government is reluctant and obstructive, blocking measures despite parliamentary support.
- (c) The government is indifferent, neither supporting nor blocking legislation on buffer zones.
- (d) The government is evaluative, considering the impact of such zones before making a decision.



- **101.** Which of the following, if proven, would most significantly bolster the argument that Northern Ireland's decriminalisation of abortion has created a more equitable access framework compared to the rest of the UK?
- (a) Data indicates a substantial increase in legal abortion procedures within Northern Ireland post-decriminalisation.
- (b) Reports show a marked decrease in illegal abortion rates in Northern Ireland relative to England, Scotland, and Wales.
- (c) Surveys reveal that Northern Irish healthcare providers are more willing to perform abortions since decriminalisation.
- (d) Statistics demonstrate a higher rate of abortion-related legal actions in England, Scotland, and Wales than in Northern Ireland.
- **102.** What evidence could most effectively weaken the argument that the introduction of "pills by post" schemes has been a wholly positive development in the context of the UK's abortion laws?
- (a) Studies show negligible changes in the incidence of complications from medical abortions since implementing the scheme.
- (b) Surveys reveal no significant alteration in public sentiment towards the accessibility of abortion post-scheme introduction.
- (c) Research indicates a marginal increase in the consumption of abortion pills without consultation post-scheme rollout.
- (d) Statistics demonstrate a slight uptick in the rates of reported psychological distress following medical abortions at home.
- **103.** Identify the underlying assumption in the passage that supports the viewpoint that recent increases in police investigations into illegal abortions are directly linked to the influence of rightwing religious groups.
- (a) Police departments have increased their surveillance due to pressure from conservative advocacy.
- (b) Rightwing religious groups have a significant influence on legislative changes and enforcement.
- (c) There has been a noticeable shift in public opinion against abortion, influenced by rightwing rhetoric.
- (d) The overturning of the Roe v. Wade judgment in the US has emboldened similar groups in the UK.
- **104.** What can be most reasonably concluded about the stance of the author on the relationship between technological advancements, such as menstruation tracking apps, and the rise in police investigations related to abortion?
- (a) The passage intimates that advancements in technology have inadvertently streamlined the process of police investigations into illegal abortions.
- (b) It can be inferred that technological progress has been co-opted into a mechanism for intensifying legal scrutiny over abortion practices.
- (c) The passage suggests that the evolution of technology has been tangentially related to the increase in law enforcement attention to abortion cases.
- (d) It could be concluded that technological tools have been repurposed as forensic aids in the substantiation of legal actions against abortion.

#### PASSAGE - XXI

Given that European settlers reached Utopia only last century, it was never the site of a religious mission, which would have converted Indigenous people to Christianity and then trained them to be manual labourers for white settlers. Nor did Utopia become a government-run reserve – its land designated for Aboriginal inhabitation, but where white managers often exerted extreme control. As a result, the experience of Utopia's Alyawarr and Anmatyerr communities differs from that of other Native peoples across Australia, for whom the arrival of James Cook marked centuries of violence and dispossession. In a colonial coup de grâce, from 1905 until the 1970s, the Australian government pursued a policy of forcible child removal, with the goal of indoctrinating Indigenous children in white culture, severing their ties with their families, their traditions and their languages.

This long history of trauma, internalised, embodied and generational, helps explain why to this day Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across Australia bear a disproportionate burden of disease compared with their non-Indigenous counterparts – a disparity that is compounded by structural racism in hospitals and other settings. The latest data, compiled by the Australian Bureau of Statistics between 2015 and 2017, shows a roughly eight-year life-expectancy gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians (a gap the government has pledged to close by 2030, although the Australian Human Rights Commission predicts that, if current patterns hold, this goal will not be met). The data further reveals that Indigenous Australians are at greater risk of suffering from health problems across the board – particularly cardiovascular disease, which accounts for almost a quarter of all Indigenous deaths in the country.

But in 2008 a decade-long study of health in Utopia turned up some intriguing results among the cohort of 296 local participants: there were significantly lower rates of hospitalisation and mortality from cardiovascular disease compared with other Aboriginal communities in the state, even when controlling for factors such as education, income and access to housing. To be sure, the authors acknowledge that part of the explanation might be the healthier lifestyle of rural outstations: more exercise, better diet, little access to alcohol (from 2007 to 2022, alcohol was banned in all Indigenous homelands in the Northern Territory). And yet, the Utopia study ran counter to conventional public health wisdom



relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, which suggests that those living in remote areas are more likely to bear the brunt of health disparities. What's more, Utopia today possesses high levels of unemployment and poverty – the kinds of markers, one might assume, that would be associated with worse health outcomes, not better ones. [Taken from Source with edits: https://aeon.co/essays/-]

- **105.** Evaluate how the absence of historical interventions such as religious missions or government-run reserves in Utopia contributes to the argument that Indigenous communities' health outcomes may be affected by cultural and social preservation.
- (a) The absence of historical interventions allowed for the preservation of traditional lifestyles conducive to better health outcomes.
- (b) Without the influence of external control, Utopia's communities maintained a level of autonomy that directly improved health statistics.
- (c) The lack of forced assimilation through missions or reserves possibly resulted in a stronger community cohesion impacting health positively.
- (d) Historical non-interference may have led to a less disrupted social fabric, fostering practices that benefit current health conditions.
- **106.** What assumption underlies the argument that the lower rates of hospitalisation and mortality from cardiovascular disease in Utopia's Indigenous population could be attributed to lifestyle factors such as diet and exercise?
- (a) Indigenous individuals inherently possess genetic predispositions that result in superior cardiovascular health outcomes.
- (b) Dietary and physical activity patterns in Utopia inherently differ significantly from those in other communities.
- (c) Utopia's environmental conditions inherently foster lifestyle choices that are more conducive to cardiovascular health.
- (d) Lifestyle choices in Utopia are inherently more influenced by cultural traditions than in other Indigenous communities.
- **107.** How might one resolve the paradox that Utopia's Indigenous communities exhibit better health outcomes despite high levels of unemployment and poverty, which are typically associated with poorer health?
- (a) Traditional communal support structures in Utopia compensate for economic adversities, bolstering health.
- (b) The remote location of Utopia may limit exposure to common societal stressors, enhancing overall well-being.
- (c) The intergenerational transmission of robust indigenous health practices overrides the negative impacts of poverty.
- (d) Utopia's prohibition of alcohol contributes to a significant reduction in lifestyle-related health issues.
- **108.** Which piece of evidence, if true, would most significantly strengthen the argument that structural racism in healthcare settings contributes to the health disparity between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians?
- (a) Studies showing longer wait times for Indigenous patients than non-Indigenous patients for the same procedures.
- (b) Data indicating lower rates of prescribed treatments for Indigenous Australians with comparable health conditions.
- (c) Surveys revealing Indigenous Australians report more instances of discrimination in healthcare than non-Indigenous Australians.
- (d) Records demonstrating a consistent underrepresentation of Indigenous professionals in the Australian healthcare system.

#### Section E-Quantitative Techniques

#### PASSAGE - XXII

#### Directions (109-112): Study the following information and answer the questions below.

In a particular city, there are three branches of SBI bank, each with a different composition of literate and illiterate employees. The total number of employees in Branch A, Branch B, and Branch C' are in the ratio of 9:8:7 respectively. In Branch A, the number of literate employees is 80% of the number of illiterate employees. Moving on to Branch B, the number of illiterate employees are three times the number of literate employees. In Branch C, the ratio of literate employees to illiterate employees is 5:2. Additionally, there is a difference of 600 employees between the number of literate and illiterate employees in Branch B.

109.	What are the total	number of	employees	working ir	n Branches E	and C?
( ) 0	0.00	(1.) 0.0	- 0		( ) 0500	

(a) 2200 (b) 2250 (c) 2520 (d) 2540

**110.** What is respective ratio of the number of literate male to illiterate female in Branch B if male to female ratio in Branch B is 3: 2 respectively and the number of illiterate males and literate females are 520 and 100, respectively?

(a) 27:10 (b) 15:13 (c) 17:16 (d) 10:19

**111.** The total number of employees working in Branch A is how much percentage more or less than the number of literate employees working in Branch B?

(a) 350 % (b) 35% (c) 250% (d) 25%



**112.** What is average number of illiterate employees in Branch A and B both?

(a) 822 (b) 852 (c) 825	l) 850
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#### PASSAGE - XXIII

#### Directions (113-116): Study the following information and answer the questions below.

The country's second largest IT services company Infosys, headquartered in Bengaluru, posted a net profit of Rs 6,106 crore for the third quarter ended December, showing a drop of 7.3 per cent from the same period last year. The company's profit was down 1.7 per cent sequentially (quarter-on-quarter), which was below the Bloomberg estimates of Rs 6,167 crore. In what is being described as a soft quarter, TCS' result was better with a 2 per cent rise in year-onyear net profit at Rs 11,058 crore.

Infosys' revenue for the third quarter was at Rs 38,821 crore, down 1 per cent year on year in constant currency terms. Mumbai-headquartered TCS reported a revenue growth of 1.5 per cent on a quarter on quarter basis and a growth of 4 per cent on a year-on-year basis. The TCS revenue for the quarter came in at Rs 60,583 crore.

While TCS perform	ance is a beat, according	to Bloomberg estimates, a co	omparison of growth rat	es establishes a
slowdown. In Q3 FY2	23, TCS reported a revenue	growth of 5.2 per cent sequent	ially and 19.1 per cent yea	ar-on-year.
<b>113</b> . For the third of	<sub>l</sub> uarter ended December, t	he Bloomberg's estimated pro	fit of Infosys is approxim	ately how much
percent less than the	e actual profit of Infosys this	s year?		
(a) 1.5%	(b) 1%	(c) 0.5%	(d) 1.9%	
<b>114</b> . According to th	e passage, what is the avera	age of revenue for the third qua	rter of Infosys and TCS? (	In crores)
(a) 47920	(b) 49720	(c) 49702	(d) 47902	
<b>115</b> . After the quart	terly report, Infosys decide	d to implement cost-cutting m	neasures within the comp	any. As a result
they have fired a to	otal of 1500 employees w	no were deemed unfit for the	company. If the average	salary of these
employees was Rs. 1	, 50,000 per month, what is	the total annual wages that the	e company saved after this	s firing?
(a) 270 cr	(b) 27 cr	(c) 22.5 cr	(d) 225 cr	
•		expand its business globally	,	
-		yees, which were divided in	C	_
<u> </u>	e e	ers is 3:7. Find the difference b	etween the number of ma	nagers and non
managers employee:				
(a) 1600	(b) 1400	(c) 600	(d) 800	

#### PASSAGE - XXIV

#### Directions (117-120): Study the following information and answer the questions below.

**117.** Find the marked price of article A?

The shopkeeper offers three different types of articles, namely A, B, and C. For article A, the shopkeeper marked 20% above its cost price but later provided a discount of 10% before selling it. On the other hand, the shopkeeper sells article C with a profit margin of 20%. Additionally, the cost price of article A is Rs. 200 more than that of article C. Furthermore, the selling price of article A is Rs. 360 less than that of article C.

(a) Rs. 5000	(b) Rs. 5400	(c) Rs. 5600	(d) Rs. 6000	
118. Find the diffe	rence between the profit earne	ed by shopkeeper on article .	A and C?	
(a) Rs.560	(b) Rs.640	(c) Rs.480	(d) Rs.620	
119. Find the avera	age of discount offers on articl	e A and C together, if the ma	rked price of article C and A	is equal?
(a) Rs.440	(b) Rs.240	(c) Rs.420	(d) Rs.220	
<b>120.</b> If the cost pr	ice of article B is Rs. 500 more	e than the cost price of artic	cle A, then the cost price of a	article B is how
much percent more	e than the cost price of article.	A?		
(a) 20%	(b) 10%	(c) 25%	(d) 40%	



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