



ALL INDIA

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NLTI CLOSERS

OUR
CLOSERS
CLAT 2024



AIR

4



AIR

5



AIR

9



AIR

21



AIR

28



AIR

34



AIR

38



AIR

40



AIR

62



AIR

81



AIR

87



AIR

88



AIR

93

OUR
CLOSERS
AILET 2024



AIR

1

Diya Agrawal



AIR

2

Kanav



AIR

3

Nandita Matolli



AIR

6

Divas Upadhyay



AIR

7

Ishaan Sehrawat



AIR

9

Nitya Singhania

6/10

Top 10 Rank in
AILET 2024



AIR

12

Preeyal



AIR

17

Guruv Pratap



AIR

18

Kanishka Mittal



AIR

21

Shreya Reji



AIR

37

Pranav Mittal



AIR

45

Mahi Jain



AIR

50

Arihant



AIR

53

Ramya



AIR

59

Suhani Gupta



AIR

60

Dhruti Hegde



AIR

63

Vishwendra



AIR

72

Pragnya

NATIONAL LAW TRAINING INSTITUTE

CLAT MOCK TEST SERIES (2024-2025)

NLTI – AIOM 9th JUNE



INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CANDIDATES

Duration of Test : 2 Hours (120 Minutes)

- Oh, by all means, don't feel free to ask for clarification on the question paper. Answer the questions as they appear and maybe, just maybe, take a printout of the PDF before diving in.
- We thought 119 questions would be too few, so we bumped it up to 120 multiple-choice questions for your entertainment and educational pleasure.
- Now, for a little extra excitement, we have added a negative marking. Incorrect answers are worth minus 0.25 points because, let's face it, we all need to feel a bit more jeopardy in our lives. On the other hand, each question you do get right is an entire, exhilarating one point! Your potential for earning up to 120 points should be the highlight of your day, maybe even your month, or for the next five years.
- Ever thought about choosing more than one answer? Well, don't. Because that's wrong, just like not wearing socks with sandals.
- Feel like doodling on the OMR Answer Sheet? Please go ahead, and turn it into the next Mona Lis(A) Just know that if you do, we'll ignore anything you wrote that isn't your details, turning your artistic endeavours into meaningless scribbles. Isn't that fun?

Maximum Marks: 120

- Feel like doodling on the OMR Answer Sheet? Please go ahead, and turn it into the next Mona Lis(A) Just know that if you do, we'll ignore anything you wrote that isn't your details, turning your artistic endeavours into meaningless scribbles. Isn't that fun?
- After you're done with your masterpiece of a test, you might be tempted to hand in that OMR Sheet and Test Paper, but why deprive yourself of such a memorable keepsake? Take it home. Frame it. Show your grandchildren.
- Unfair means? Do you mean like using your inherent psychic powers? Feel free, but know that we will catch you, and your dreams of test-taking glory will be permanently cancelled, which would be a real tragedy.
- Ah, impersonation! Because taking exams is such a blast, why should two people get to experience it for the price of one? But alas, should you choose this daring route, not only will you be disqualified, but you'll also get to explore the criminal justice system from a unique perspective.

ALL THE BEST!!

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Passage I

In February America slapped new sanctions on Sovcomflot, a Russian state-owned shipping firm responsible for carrying around 15% of Russian oil exports to India. Almost immediately, Indian importers stopped taking shipments from Sovcomflot tankers. But that did little to stem the flow of Russian crude to India, the world's third-biggest consumer of oil. Deliveries increased by 6% in March, compared with February. Exporters arranged alternative transport to India—probably through the shadow fleet that helps them bypass sanctions. India has also bought Russian crude at prices below the \$60-per-barrel price cap imposed by the West. Taken together, these purchases have helped make India the second-biggest importer of Russian oil, behind China.

The immediate impact has been to help India to meet demand at a lower cost. Cheaper imports have helped India's BJP government. On the government's instructions, oil firms kept the prices of petrol and diesel unchanged in 2022, even as global oil prices surged in the aftermath of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The price freeze helped **insulate** India from the type of fuel inflation that ravaged neighbouring Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Last month, with an eye on the upcoming general election, retailers cut petrol and diesel prices for the first time since the war began. Less costly oil has also given the BJP more fiscal room by shrinking the fuel-subsidy bill. That has helped it extend a popular subsidy for liquefied petroleum gas by a year.

Globally, Indian buying of Russian oil has been important. It has helped prevent a supply crunch. India's petroleum ministry claims that global oil prices could have shot up by about \$30-40 per barrel were it not for India's trade with Russia.

India has also rewired energy markets by processing Russian crude and shipping it back to the West. In 2023 they imported roughly 225,000 barrels per day (b/d) of Indian petrol and diesel products, up from an average of 120,000 b/d in the previous five years, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA). These exports have boosted India's trade balance and are another illustration of India's growing clout in the market. In 2023 oil-related exports were worth \$85bn, around 60% more than in 2021.

India's influence on global oil markets will only increase. The IEA expects India to be the single largest source of growth in global demand between 2023 and 2030. Growth and urbanisation are expected to drive oil consumption up by 20% by 2030, to roughly 1.2m barrels per day, accounting for more than a third of the projected global increase. To meet the boom in demand, Indian refineries are expected to increase processing capacity faster than any country in the world besides China.

Much of the oil will have to come from abroad. Production from Indian oil reserves is declining. It accounted for just 13% of the country's supply in 2023. An import-dependent strategy is always vulnerable to risks, such as a wider conflict in the Middle East.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from <https://www.economist.com/asia/2024/04/11/how-indias-imports-of-russian-oil-have-lubricated-global-markets>]

1. What is the note of caution, which the author strikes at the end of the passage?

- (a) With increase in oil demand met by imports, India finds itself susceptible to global events which might act as import choke points
- (b) India is specifically only vulnerable to a conflict in the Middle East
- (c) Environmental considerations like a reducing Green House Gas emissions will force India to decrease exports
- (d) India faces competing from China as well European countries while sourcing oil from the Middle East

2. Which of the following aligns with the views espoused by the author?

- (a) Western sanctions on Russian shipping firms have led to a decrease in oil demand from India.
- (b) Increased oil import from Russia has indirectly boosted India's refined oil exports to the western world
- (c) India bought oil above the \$60 price cap, which led to increased inflation
- (d) Indian refiners are sourcing oil from domestic sources to meet its increasing demand

3. In what sense is the word "insulate" used in the passage?

- (a) Protect a material from heat loss
- (b) Isolating an element from the environment
- (c) To protect something from unfavourable circumstances
- (d) None of the above

4. Which of the following best describes the tone of the author?

- (a) Optimistic
- (b) Critical
- (c) Circumspect
- (d) Objective

Passage II

Given the tenor of conservatism that has generally guided its views on LGBTQIA+ rights, including its opposition to the legalisation of same-sex marriage in the country, the Centre's notification of a committee "[to examine the various issues relating to the queer community](#)", honouring its undertaking to the Supreme Court (SC) in October last year, is welcome. Chaired by the Cabinet Secretary, the mandate of the six-member committee is to ensure that the systemic discrimination and violence faced by the community in accessing social welfare schemes and services is mitigated. The work that lies ahead is arduous. The panel will need to consult widely with LGBTQIA+ rights groups and other experts to draw up a roadmap for a more equitable society.

In its landmark 3:2 judgment last year that stopped short of granting constitutional validity to same sex marriage, SC had shifted the onus on to the legislature to ensure that protective safeguards are woven into the framework of rights and that "a bouquet of entitlements which flow from an abiding relationship of this kind" is recognised. The entitlements iterated by the apex court included the right to be treated as a family for banking and medical purposes, jail visitations and last rites, among others. The Court also mentioned "legal consequences such as succession rights, maintenance, financial benefits such as under the Income Tax Act 1961, rights flowing from employment such as gratuity and family pension and insurance".

The reading down of the provisions of Article 377 by the SC stands out as a seminal moment but the progress on queer rights in the country has been chequered at the best of times. Legislative intentions have often appeared to be out of sync with ground realities — a survey conducted by Pew Research between June 2022 and September 2023, for instance, showed that 53 per cent adults were in favour of legalising same-sex marriages. It is also telling that the community's rights barely feature as election issues. This year, only the Congress manifesto speaks of a “law to recognise civil unions between couples belonging to the LGBTQIA+ community” and the CPI(M)'s of “legal recognition and protection to same-sex couples similar to marriage-‘civil union’/same-sex partnerships””. The [BJP](#) has promised insurance coverage to transgender individuals under the Ayushman Bharat scheme and wider access to Garima Grehs. These are progressive aspirations, but they remain in the tentativeness of the future. The immediate work ahead of the Centre's panel is to seize the momentum set in motion by the apex court and to assure the community that their concerns will be heard — and addressed.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from <https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/editorials/express-view-on-centres-panel-of-queer-rights-better-late-than-never-9278434/>]

5. Which of the following best encapsulates the central idea of the passage?

- (a) The forming of the committee shows the government's regard for the SC judgement
- (b) The government should eventually move to legalise same sex marriage, reflecting the majority opinion in favour of the same
- (c) The forming of the committee is welcome, it must now move to act on its mandate while conducting wide ranging consultations
- (d) Congress and CPI(M)'s manifesto better reflect the aspirations of the queer community

6. Which of the following is an accurate title of the passage

- (a) Centre's panel of queer rights: One Step Forward
- (b) Momentous Day for the Queer Community
- (c) A Victory In Inclusion
- (d) None of the above

7. Which of the following is divergent from the author's viewpoint?

- (a) Supreme Court has abdicated its responsibility by not acting on issue of granting equal rights to queer couples
- (b) The discourse on queer rights in the political space is marginal
- (c) The majority of the public's liberal outlook towards same sex marriages doesn't find representation in either the government's or the SC's stance
- (d) While BJP's announcement of insurance coverage to transgender people is positive, it's actualisation remains uncertain

8. What is the main purpose of this passage?

- (a) Trace the journey of queer rights in India
- (b) Inform about the formation of panel to examine queer rights, while laying out the surrounding context
- (c) Criticise the political parties on their inaction on a pressing issue for the queer community
- (d) Critique the SC judgement which refused to give legal validity to same sex marriages

Passage III

As concerns about a conflict, by design or miscalculation, between Israel and Iran grow stronger, news of the United Nations Security Council resolution on granting Palestine full-member status at the UN, that was vetoed by the United States, has not received the attention it should have. The resolution, proposed by Algeria, was one more step at the world body to attempt to make good on the promise made in 1947, when the UN General Assembly originally adopted its resolution partitioning the then-mandated Palestine into two states, one Jewish and one Arab. Only Israel became a full member of the UN in 1949. The “Question of Palestine” has been tossed around for decades, and even though the state of Palestine received permanent observer status in 2012, and temporary powers of a full member during its tenure as Chair of the G-77 and China grouping, in 2019, it has not been recognised as a full member so far. In vetoing Thursday’s UNSC resolution, that was supported by 12 of 15 UNSC members, the U.S. said that it believed Palestine should not be granted the membership through the UN process, but through “direct negotiations between the parties”. The Israeli Ambassador added that to give Palestine full member status at this time, six months after the October 7 terror attacks by Hamas, would be “the vilest reward for the vilest crimes”. It could also be argued that this is precisely the time to recognise Palestine’s long-denied right — in the aftermath of October 7, Israel has bombed Palestinians both in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank indiscriminately. That it has continued its operations despite a UNSC ceasefire resolution that even the U.S. signed on, and now threatens yet another offensive on Rafah, shows the dire need for the Palestinian state to have a much stronger voice on the multilateral stage.

The U.S. must seriously reconsider such blanket protection for the Israeli position on all issues. The contention that Palestine could only be a state through “dialogue between the parties” has a flaw: it is Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu who declared in January that he would never accept a Palestinian state, and intended to retain “full Israeli security control over all the territory west of Jordan”. A Palestine in the UN fold would also ensure that the new state would be bound by the obligations of all UN members. It is a gross injustice to all Palestinians to conflate them with terrorist acts perpetrated by Hamas — refusing to make a distinction between combatants and non-combatants only further marginalises the pain of all victims of violence. At a time when the international order is fracturing, the U.S., as a global leader, must endeavour to build, not break consensus in order to favour one country. To do so is to run counter to the UN’s basic principle: sovereign equality of all, following instead the more primitive dictum that “might is right”.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/permanent-status-on-palestine-and-the-un/article68084512.ece>]

9. What would be a course of action which the author approves of?

- (a) Palestine becomes a recognised member of the UN
- (b) The Palestinian and the Israeli side engage in negotiations to decide the question of recognition of a Palestinian state
- (c) America should rethink its alliance with Israel
- (d) There must be a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas conflict

10. What is the central idea of the passage?

- (a) Israel must be held accountable for its actions in Gaza
- (b) Israel must differentiate between combatants and non-combatants in its operation in Gaza
- (c) Algeria's resolution advocating for full member status for Palestine is a step in the right direction
- (d) None of the above

11. What is America's stance on the question of full member status for Palestine?

- (a) America unambiguously support full member status
- (b) America believes that full member status should only be granted after negotiations between all stakeholders involved
- (c) America is completely against granting full member status to Palestine
- (d) America believes that full member status should only be granted to Palestine after a direct vote in the UN General Assembly

12. Why must full member status be granted to Palestine according to the passage?

- (a) To allow it to advance concerns its concerns in the international community
- (b) To bring to light Israel's actions in Gaza in the multilateral stage
- (c) The Palestinian state would have to conform to all obligations observed by UN Members
- (d) Both A and C

Passage IV

Alliances are a bit like families: you may not have a favourite member, but there is always one you depend on most. Throughout the Cold War, NATO was the collective ally that the United States depended on most in its global effort to stop Soviet expansionism. But in the twenty-first century, with the growing slate of traditional and nontraditional security issues, many of which centre on China, the United States' new go-to ally is Japan.

Today, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida will arrive at the White House for a state visit with U.S. President Joe Biden—the first such visit by a Japanese leader since 2015. The relationship has changed over the past decade but in ways that most Japan analysts could not have envisioned. Japan is now committed to spending close to two percent of its GDP on defence. This increase in funding is helping the country beef up its cybersecurity and acquire counter strike capabilities to respond to enemy attacks. Japan has authorised the transfer of Patriot missiles to the United States and the export of advanced fighter jets abroad, and it is focusing on areas of national security that the country has long neglected. Altogether, these efforts demonstrate Japan's determination to do more for its own defence and for the U.S.-Japanese alliance.

Meanwhile, the U.S.-Japanese relationship continues to change and deepen, including by expanding outside Northeast Asia—for example, aligning their foreign policy strategies to not just support a “free and open Indo-Pacific,” but to support what both countries now call a free and open international order based on the rule of law. The Biden administration should build on this momentum by elevating the U.S.-Japanese alliance to an even more central status in U.S. strategy. Unlike Europe, where the United States is one country in the multinational NATO alliance, U.S. alliances in the Indo-Pacific are separate, bilateral partnerships. Historically, this has been referred to as a hub-and-spoke system, in which the United States is the hub to each of its five treaty alliances (Australia, Japan, the Philippines, South Korea,

and Thailand), but those alliances, in turn, do not interact.

This structure no longer reflects reality and is a suboptimal way to deal with today's security landscape. Given the central role Japan plays in U.S. thinking, Washington should seek out new methods of not just cooperating with Japan but leveraging its centrality to U.S. strategy to help promote the security and stability of the greater Indo-Pacific region. It is time to make the U.S.-Japanese alliance the hub of a growing confederation of regional groupings.

Just ten years ago, there was still an active debate over Japan's strategic significance. Its economy was struggling, and its defence budget was limited. But developments over the past decade have laid these concerns to rest. After the United States abandoned the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a 12-nation trade deal negotiated under President Barack Obama, Japan took the lead on the successor agreement, called the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership. Tokyo has also promoted the rules and norms underpinning the international order through its Free and Open Indo-Pacific strategy, which other countries—including the United States—later adopted as their own. In these ways, Japan has not only picked a side in the geopolitical competition unfolding between China and the United States; it has put itself front and centre.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/united-states/americas-best-friend-asia>]

13. How has Japan changed its policy as compared to previous years?

- (a) Focusing more on national security capability
- (b) Actively stoking conflict with China
- (c) Pursuing dialogue with other like minded countries like Australia and Thailand
- (d) Adopting a pacifist stance in emerging conflicts and competitions

**14. “This structure no longer reflects reality and is a suboptimal way to deal with today's security landscape”
What ‘structure’ is the author talking about?**

- (a) A system of alliances where the member countries rarely engage in dialogue with each other
- (b) A system of alliances with America as the centre and other countries interacting with America, but not with each other
- (c) A system of alliances which is highly interconnected, with every country having good relations with each other
- (d) An alliance which has a coherent mandate and is united to achieve that

15. What is the foreign policy which the author advocates for?

- (a) Making US- Japan alliance as a focal point, establish other wider groupings to establish order
- (b) Adopting a confrontational stance with respect to China
- (c) Promoting trade linkages within the Indo-Pacific region
- (d) None of the above

16. What is the purpose of the passage?

- (a) Informing the reader about the closeness of US-Japan relations
- (b) With respect to a new development in US-Japan relations, advancing a new foreign policy posture

- (c) Criticising the lack of interconnection within the wider Indo-Pacific region
- (d) Advocating for the potential of Japan as a future close American partner

Passage V

In the last 50 years, Bengaluru has seen a massive surge in urban development, shooting up by 1,055% from a mere 8% in 1973 to a staggering 93.3% in 2023. This rapid growth has taken a toll on the city's greenery, causing an 88% decline in vegetation. To put things into perspective, Bengaluru now has only 1.5 million trees to serve a population of 9.5 million, which means there is just one tree for seven people. T V Ramachandra from the Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru highlights that the city has lost 93% of its natural lakes and forests to urban development and concrete structures. Water coverage has decreased by 79% and forest cover by 88%, while construction activity has skyrocketed by over 1,000%.

These troubling discoveries align with a serious water-scarcity issue affecting Bengaluru. The city faces abnormally high temperatures in February and March, and recent years have witnessed severe flooding even from light rainfall. As temperatures rise, concrete makes things worse, creating urban heat islands that crank up the heat in cities even more.

People living in Bengaluru and local community groups have been keeping an eye on how the city is spreading out and getting bigger, using satellite images. Each year, the city has less greenery and fewer water bodies. Right now, experts are suggesting some plans to help, like building the city more vertically and adding more green spaces, among other ideas.

Bengaluru now stands on the brink of facing a "Day Zero" scenario, much like what Cape Town encountered in 2018. Addressing Bengaluru's water crisis requires us to tackle it from multiple angles. First, we need to focus on reducing the demand for water. This means adopting water-saving practices in our homes and businesses.

According to Ramachandra, Bengaluru receives around 700 to 850 millimetres of rain every year, which translates to roughly 15,000 million cubic feet (TMC) of rainwater. Considering the city's water demand is 18 TMC, rainwater alone could cover about 70% of what we need. One effective way to manage this is by collecting rainwater, both at homes through rooftop harvesting and in **rejuvenated** lakes.

Keeping water in these restored lakes not only helps refill our groundwater but also boosts how much water we can store. Another good option is treating wastewater. By using natural methods like constructed wetlands and algal ponds alongside treatment plants, as has been done at Jakkur lake, we can get high-quality water. This process produces what is called tertiary treated water. Over the past 12 years, Jakkur lake has shown that we can remove about 85%–90% of the harmful stuff like nutrients and chemical ions from this water. If we treat 18 TMC of waste water using this method, we could get 16 TMC of clean, treated water. This would mean we would have a total of 31 TMC of water available, combining the 15 TMC from rainwater harvesting and the 16 TMC from wastewater treatment.

17. What approach does the author advance to solve Bengaluru's water crisis?

- (a) To pick one side of the problem and concentrating efforts to solve it
- (b) To consider the issue from different aspects
- (c) To collect data on the problem, and then approaching with a solution
- (d) To assemble researchers to study the matter, and then acting on their recommendations

18. What can be inferred from the passage?

- (a) Urbanisation is solely responsible for Bengaluru's water scarcity
- (b) Rapid urbanisation has had an impact on the city's forest cover
- (c) Bengaluru will face a 'Day Zero' situation within the next week
- (d) Rainwater harvesting alone could satisfy the water needs of Bengaluru

19. What's the meaning of the word rejuvenated as used in the passage?

- (a) River bodies feeling refreshed
- (b) Lakes who have been replenished with water after facing depletion for years
- (c) Increasing the water holding capacity of lakes
- (d) Ensuring that lakes are not being encroached upon

20. Which of the following is likely to be the source of the passage?

- (a) A research journal paper
- (b) An Op-Ed piece
- (c) A fiction novel
- (d) A magazine on AI regulation

Passage VI

Despite the most aggressive and coordinated monetary policy tightening in decades, the global economy's strength has surprised many economists. The US economy, in particular, has demonstrated greater resilience than initially anticipated. The latest World Economic Outlook (WEO) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), released this week, expects the global economy to grow by 3.2 per cent in 2024, 10 basis points higher than its January update. The US economy is expected to expand by 2.7 per cent in 2024, 60 basis points higher than the January projection. The projection for the euro area, however, has been lowered by 10 basis points and is expected to expand under 1 per cent. Meanwhile, growth projection for India has been improved by 30 basis points to 6.8 percent for 2024-25. Projections for China have been left unchanged at 4.6 percent.

As the WEO has underscored, stronger than expected private consumption, along with a tight labour market, has supported aggregate demand in some advanced economies, including the US. Further, higher government spending has supported aggregate demand. Among large economies, compared to October 2022 projections, additional budgetary support in the US was about 2 percent of gross domestic product, while it was a modest 0.2 per cent in the euro area. Households in advanced economies are also drawing down savings accumulated during the pandemic. On the supply side, the easing of supply-chain pressures after the pandemic helped increase output. Thus, the risk of the so-called hard landing has not materialised so far. However, as the restrictive monetary policy stance begins to affect demand and output, central banks are again in focus with expectations of policy-rate reductions. In this context, the IMF notes that with inflation projected to decline towards the medium-term target in advanced

economies, major central banks are expected to start lowering interest rates in the second half of 2024. By the fourth quarter, for instance, the US Federal Reserve is expected to reduce the policy rate from 5.4 per cent to 4.6 per cent, which is similar to the projection made by Fed officials in the last meeting. However, the last stretch of disinflation to reach the inflation target is looking challenging in the US.

The inflation rate for March, at 3.5 per cent, surprised analysts on the upside and reduced the possibility of policy-rate reduction. Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell noted this week that attaining the target of 2 per cent could take longer than expected and the central bank would maintain the current policy rate for as long as necessary. A shift in expectations on Fed policy action can significantly increase financial market volatility and affect capital flows. Renewed tensions in West Asia will only complicate matters further. Although India has large foreign exchange reserves and portfolio flows have been positive in recent months, a significant increase in crude oil prices owing to geopolitical tensions and a spike in US bond yields, which have inched up over the past few days, can increase macroeconomic challenges. In this regard, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India did well to leave the policy rate unchanged in its last meeting. Given the disinflation challenges being witnessed in the US, and potential volatility in oil prices, the wait to attain the 4 percent inflation target could get longer for the MPC.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from https://www.business-standard.com/opinion/editorial/shifting-expectations-124041700957_1.html]

21. Which of the following can be inferred to be the meaning of “hard landing” from the contents of the passage?

- (a) Reduced economic activity
- (b) Increased profitability of firms
- (c) Increased economic activity
- (d) Reduction of inflationary pressures

22. According to the Federal Reserve Chairman, monetary policy rate cuts are contingent on what event?

- (a) Foreign portfolio flows being positive in upcoming months
- (b) Inflation being controlled within the target range
- (c) Economic growth rates being high
- (d) Fluctuations in oil prices having subsided

23. Which of the following events can be said to have been divergent from the forecasts of analysts and economists?

I Increased growth rates after policy rate tightening

II Increased inflation in recent months

III The projection of rate cuts in 2024 by the Fed officials

- (a) I and III
- (b) II and III
- (c) I and II
- (d) I, II and III

24. What is the author's tone with respect to India's place in the overall economic environment?

- (a) Approving of RBI's policies to stem inflation, while at the same time cautious about the impending inflationary pressures which lie ahead
- (b) Objective on the RBI's policies to stem inflation, while being optimistic about the disinflation process being over
- (c) Critical of RBI's policies, saying more can be done to stem the tide of inflation, while being alarmist of the threats which can derail the macroeconomic trajectory of India
- (d) None of the above

Current Affairs and General Knowledge

Passage I

China has landed on the moon's mysterious far side — again.

The robotic Chang'e 6 mission touched down inside Apollo Crater, within the giant (A), at 6:23 a.m. Beijing Time on Sunday (June 2), according to Chinese space officials. It was 6:23 p.m. EDT (2223 GMT) on June 1 at the time of the landing. The probe "successfully landed in the pre-selected area," China's space agency said.

The China National Space Administration (CNSA) now has two far-side landings under its belt — this one and Chang'e 4, which dropped a lander-rover combo onto the grey dirt in January 2019. No other country has done it once.

And Chang'e 6 will make further history for China if all goes according to plan: The mission aims to scoop up samples and send them back to Earth, giving researchers their first-ever up-close looks at material from this part of the moon.

'The Chang'e-6 mission is the first human sampling and return mission from the far side of the moon,' CNSA officials said in a translated statement. (To be clear: Chang'e 6 is a robotic, not crewed, mission.) "It involves many engineering innovations, high risks and great difficulty."

Chang'e 6 launched on May 3 with a bold and unprecedented task: haul home samples from the moon's far side, which always faces away from us. (The moon is tidally locked to Earth, completing one rotation on its axis in roughly the same amount of time it takes to orbit our planet. So observers here on Earth always see the same side of our natural satellite.)

(Extracted and Edited from: <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/chinas-change-6-probe-lands-on-far-side-of-the-moon/>)

25. Where did the Chang'e 6 Mission land on the Moon, as replaced by (A) in the above passage?

- (a) Aristarchus Crater
- (b) Tycho Basin
- (c) Aitken Basin
- (d) Copernicus Crater

26. How many of the following statements are correct regarding the Chinese Lunar Space Exploration Program?

- I. The Chang'e Program is named after the Chinese Moon Goddess.
 - II. China, in collaboration with Russia, is planning to establish an international scientific research station on the Moon by 2032.
 - III. The Chinese Lunar Exploration Program was launched in 2004.
- (a) One only
 - (b) Two correct
 - (c) Three correct

(d)None of the Above

27. Who is preparing for his or her third space mission and will hold the record for the most spaceflights by an Indian or someone of Indian origin?

- (a)Rakesh Sharma
- (b)Sirisha Bandla
- (c)Raja Chari
- (d)Sunita Williams

28. With the joining of Peru and Slovakia, the number of signatories to the Artemis Accord has gone to?

- (a)42
- (b)40
- (c)38
- (d)44

29. ISRO is collaborating with which agency for LUPEX Mission to demonstrate on-site sampling and analysis capabilities along with lunar night survival capabilities?

- (a)ESA
- (b)JAXA
- (c)NASA
- (d)ROSCOSMOS

Passage II

India was declared as the third-most polluted country in 2023, after (A) and (B), according to a report released by Swiss air quality monitoring body, IQAir.

According to the ‘World Air Quality Report 2023’, with an average annual PM2.5 concentration of 54.4 micrograms per cubic metre, India had the third worst air quality out of 134 countries in 2023 after (A) (79.9 micrograms per cubic metre) and (B) (73.7 micrograms per cubic metre)

In 2022, India was ranked as the eighth most polluted country with an average PM2.5 concentration of 3 micrograms per cubic metre.

Meanwhile, in the report’s list of the top 50 most polluted cities in the world, 42 cities were in India. Begusarai was the most polluted metropolitan area of 2023, followed by Guwahati and then (C). Located in Bihar, Begusarai had an average PM 2.5 concentration of 118.9 micrograms per cubic metre last year, marking a huge jump from an average of 19.7 micrograms per cubic metre in 2022. The city did not even figure in the 2022 rankings.

(Extracted and Edited from: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-3rd-most-polluted-country-rankings-top-50-cities-9221968>)

30. Which of the following countries emerged as Top-2 in the World Air Quality Index 2023?

- (a) China and Indonesia
- (b) Bangladesh and Pakistan
- (c) Myanmar and Indonesia
- (d) Pakistan and Vietnam

31. Which city is ranked the most polluted capital city in the world in the World Air Quality Index 2023?

- (a) Dhaka
- (b) Islamabad
- (c) Jakarta
- (d) Delhi

32. How many countries manage to keep the Air Quality Index below the WHO-prescribed guidelines?

- (a) 4
- (b) 5
- (c) 6
- (d) 7

33. Which of the following statements is false?

- I. Asia remains the most underrepresented continent in terms of data availability.
- II. India holds an average annual PM_{2.5} concentration of 54.4 mg
- III. China recorded a notable level of increase in air quality.
- IV. Begusarai from Bihar is the most polluted metropolitan city in the world.

- (a) I & III
- (b) II & IV
- (c) II & III
- (d) I & IV

34. Which of the following organisations releases the World Air Quality Index 2023?

- (a) World Health Organisation
- (b) United Nations Environment Programme
- (c) IQAir
- (d) Airly

Passage III

In a significant development this morning - as the country votes in the second phase of the 2024 Lok Sabha election - the Supreme Court has given Electronic Voting Machines, or EVMs, a big vote of confidence. A two-judge bench rejected petitions seeking 100 per cent verification of votes cast on EVMs using the VVPAT.

"We have discussed, elaborately, all protocols and technical aspects (and) we reject all pleas. Blindly distrusting a system can lead to unwarranted suspicions," Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice Sanjiv Khanna said, while also rejecting a plea to return to paper ballots.

Supreme Court's Directions On VVPATs, EVMs

The first was that after completing the loading of symbols into the machine, the SLU, or symbol loading unit, should be sealed and stored for a period of at least 45 days.

The SLU storage containers must be sealed and the seal is to be signed by candidates.

The second was that the burnt memory in the EVM microcontroller EVM must be checked by a team of engineers - after results are declared - if candidates make such a request.

This request - which can be made by candidates placing second and third in the election - must be made within seven days of the declaration of results, the court said.

The expenses for this verification will have to be borne by the candidate, the court also said. The cost will, however, be refunded if the EVM is found to have been tampered with.

The Supreme Court also suggested the Election Commission explore the possibility of using a machine to count VVPAT slips. Currently, VVPAT slips of five randomly selected EVMs in every Assembly segment are verified.

(Extracted and Edited from: <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/vvp-at-evm-case-supreme-court-verdict-in-vvp-at-case-supreme-courts-2-big-directions-on-evms-symbol-units-5526842>)

35. What does VVPAT stand for?

- (a) Voting Verifiable Print Audit Trail
- (b) Voter Verifiable Print Audit Trail
- (c) Voting Verifiable Paper Audit Trail
- (d) Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail

36. In which case and in which year did SC mandate the use of VVPAT in elections?

- (a) Chandrababu Naidu Vs ECI, 2019
- (b) Association for Democratic Reforms Vs ECI, 2012
- (c) Prashant Bhushan Vs ECI, 2016
- (d) Subramanian Swamy Vs ECI, 2013

37. Which constituency saw the first time deployment of VVPAT for election?

- (a) Avanigadda, Andhra Pradesh
- (b) Limbdi, Gujrat
- (c) Chalfil, Mizoram
- (d) Noksen, Nagaland

38. When did ECI adopt 100% VVPAT deployment in Elections?

- (a) 2013
- (b) 2015
- (c) 2017
- (d) 2019

39. Which of the following statements about VVPAT are true?

I. Random 5% of the votes are cross-checked with VVPAT.

II. Field trials for the VVPAT prototype were conducted in 2012.

III. In 2019, the Supreme Court increased the number of VVPAT verifications from 1 to 5 polling stations per Assembly Constituency.

IV. In 2013, amendments were made to Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 to accommodate VVPAT with printer and drop box option.

(a) II, III & IV are correct

(b) I, III & IV are correct

(c) I, II & III are correct

(d) All of the Above

Passage IV

The United Nations-linked GANHRI, which is “one of the largest human rights networks worldwide”, has deferred granting accreditation to India’s National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) for the second year in a row. According to The Hindu, this decision was taken on May 1 during the meeting of the Sub Committee on Accreditation and could affect India’s ability to vote at the Human Rights Council and some UN General Assembly bodies.

While this year’s report from the committee is not out yet, last year’s report had given reasons like the lack of transparency in appointments, lack of gender and minority representation, and the “conflict of interest” in the use of appointment of police officers to look into human rights abuses to not accredit the NHRC. It had said that the NHRC has failed to create conditions required to be “able to operate independent of government interference”.

The NHRC has reportedly been told of this deferral and asked to make certain changes. “GANHRI wanted us to make some structural changes and incorporate a few suggestions given by them. The same was not possible at this time due to the ongoing general elections,” an official told The Hindu.

(Extracted and Edited from: <https://thewire.in/rights/un-linked-body-defers-nhrc-indias-accreditation-for-second-year-running>)

40. What does GANHRI stand for?

(a) Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions

(b) Global Association of National Human Rights Institutions

(c) General Assembly of National Human Rights Institutions

(d) Group of Active National Human Rights Institutions

41. Which of the following statements regarding GANHRI is true?

I. GANHRI was established in 1993.

II. It is based out of Geneva, Switzerland.

III. It comprises 150 member countries.

IV. It's a body under the United Nations Human Rights Council

(a) I & II

(b) III & IV

- (c) I, II & IV
- (d) II, III & IV

42. Which of the following statements about the Paris Principles are correct?

- I. The Paris Principles are a set of international standards that outline and direct the activities of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs).**
- II. The globally recognized Paris Principles mandate that NHRIs should only focus on economic development issues.**
- III. These principles ensure that NHRIs operate with independence, transparency, and accountability to effectively protect and promote human rights within their respective countries.**

- (a) I & II
- (b) I & III
- (c) II & III
- (d) I, II, & III

43. Who is the current Chairperson of NHRC?

- (a) Justice G P Mathur
- (b) Justice H L Dattu
- (c) Justice Arun Kumar Mishra
- (d) Justice Prafulla Chandra Pant

Passage V

A U.S. lobby group representing tech giants Google, Amazon and Apple has asked India to rethink its proposed EU-like competition law, arguing regulations against data use and preferential treatment of partners could raise user costs, a letter shows.

Citing increasing market power of a few big digital companies in India, a government panel in February proposed imposing obligations on them under a new antitrust law which will complement existing regulations whose enforcement the panel said is "time-consuming".

India's "Digital Competition Bill" is on the lines of EU's landmark Digital Markets Act 2022. It will apply to big firms, including those with a global turnover of over \$30 billion and whose digital services have at least 10 million users locally, bringing some of the world's biggest tech firms under its ambit.

It proposes to prohibit companies from exploiting non-public data of its users and promoting their own services over rivals, and also abolish restrictions on downloading of third-party apps.

Companies deploy these strategies to launch new product features and boost security for users, and curbing them will hit their plans, the U.S.-India Business Council (USIBC), part of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, said in a May 15 letter to India's Corporate Affairs Ministry, which is working on the law.

The draft Indian law is "much further in scope" than the EU's, says the letter, which has not been made public but was seen by Reuters.

(Extracted and Edited from: <https://www.reuters.com/technology/google-amazon-apple-lobby-group-opposes-indias-eu-like-antitrust-proposal-2024-05-28/>)

44. Which Ministry is the nodal ministry for the Digital Competition Bill, 2024?

- (a) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- (b) Ministry of Consumer Affairs
- (c) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- (d) Ministry of Home Affairs

45. The European Union under the DMA Act has designated how many “Gatekeepers”?

- (a) 4
- (b) 5
- (c) 6
- (d) 7

46. What is the primary difference between the Digital Competition Bill, 2024 and the Competition Act, 2002?

- (a) The Digital Competition Bill, 2024 is an Ex-Ante framework and the Competition Act, 2002 is an Ex-Post framework.
- (b) The Digital Competition Bill, 2024 is an Ex-Post framework and the Competition Act, 2002 is an Ex-Ante framework.
- (c) Both the Digital Competition Bill, 2024 and Competition Act, 2002 have Ex-Ante framework
- (d) Both the Digital Competition Bill, 2024 and the Competition Act, 2002 have an Ex-Post framework

47. Which of the following Tech giants was slapped with a heavy fine of Rs. 1.337 Crores in 2023 by the Competition Commission of India?

- (a) Google
- (b) Microsoft
- (c) Facebook
- (d) Twitter

Passage VI

Influential Ladakhi organisations, Leh Apex Body (LAB) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), are considering against participating in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls over their demand for bringing the region under the ambit of provisions of the Sixth Schedule

The groups are demanding constitutional safeguards to protect the region’s demography, land and jobs. In September 2020, these groups had also called for boycott of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) elections over the same demands.

The 6th Schedule guarantees protections to land and a nominal autonomy for the country’s tribal areas. The meeting, however, is yet to take a final decision. There were reports that the two bodies might consult stakeholders and meet again before taking the call.

Lone Lok Sabha seat in Ladakh is scheduled to go to polls in the fifth phase on May 20. The seat was won by the BJP in 2014 and 2019 elections when Ladakh was part of undivided State of Jammu and Kashmir. Renowned Ladakh-based environmental activist and Ramon Magsasay award winner (A) had started his “21-day climate fast” on March 6 to highlight the region’s vulnerability to climate change, and its link to

rights accorded in the Sixth Schedule.

On every passing day of his fast, hundreds of people gather to join him to express their solidarity and support. (A)'s Climate Fast has received support by citizens, politicians, social-environmental activists from different parts of the country.

(Extracted and Edited from: <https://www.deccanherald.com/elections/india/sixth-schedule-demand-ladakh-groups-considering-lok-sabha-polls-boycott-2948111>)

48. Who among the following will replace (A) in the above passage?

- (a) Tenzin Wangyal
- (b) Lobsang Wangyal
- (c) Ngawang Sangdrol
- (d) Sonam Wangchuk

49. India's first dark sky reserve is situated in which village of Ladakh?

- (a) Nubra Valley
- (b) Hanle
- (c) Tso Moriri
- (d) Pangong Lake

50. Which of the following statements about Ladakh is/are correct?

I. Ladakh is the largest and second least populated Union Territory.

II. B D Mishra is the LG for UT of Ladakh.

III. Ladakh has been a point of contention from both the neighbours i.e., Pakistan and China.

IV. Demand for Ladakh as a UT was first raised by parliamentarian Kushok Bakula Rinpoche

- (a) I, II, III
- (b) II & IV
- (c) I, II, IV
- (d) All of the above

51. Which of the following states has not been provided special provisions under the Sixth Schedule?

- (a) Manipur
- (b) Assam
- (c) Mizoram
- (d) Tripura

52. Under the Sixth Schedule, who is empowered to organise and reorganise autonomous districts?

- (a) Chief Minister of the respective state
- (b) Ministry of Home Affairs
- (c) Governor of the respective state
- (d) President of India

Legal Reasoning

Passage I

Coercion and undue influence hold significance within the framework of the Indian Contracts Act, 1872. These concepts are intricately linked to the aspect of consent, a pivotal element for validating a contract. Legally, consent implies that the involved parties must willingly and independently agree to the terms of the contract. Coercion and undue influence represent circumstances wherein consent might be compromised, potentially rendering the contract voidable or unenforceable.

The term coercion has been explained under Section 15 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872. The provision states that- Coercion is the committing, or threatening to commit, any act forbidden by the Indian Penal Code, 1860 or the unlawful detaining, or threatening to detain, any property, to the prejudice of any person whatsoever, with the intention of causing any person to enter into an agreement.” In simple language, coercion can be defined as an act which uses threat or physical force to force a will of a person into entering into a contract. If consent is obtained through coercion, the contract is voidable at the option of the party whose consent was obtained by coercion.

The term undue influence has been explained under Section 16 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872. The provision provides that undue influence can be said to take place in situations wherein a contracting party is in a dominating position with the other party. It is important that the dominating position gives an unfair advantage to obtain consent from the other party. This Section is based on the Doctrine of Equity. The provision has also stated situations wherein a person is said to dominate the will of the other. They are as under: –

- When one contracting party has real or apparent authority over the other.
- When one contracting party has a fiduciary relationship with the other.
- When one contracting party enters into a contract with the other in case of temporary or permanent damage to mental capacity.

To prove undue influence, the following conditions must be met:

- There must be a special relationship between the parties, such as a fiduciary relationship or a relationship of trust and confidence.
- The dominant party must have used his position to obtain an unfair advantage over the other party
- The other party must have been under the influence of the dominant party and must not have exercised his free will in entering into the contract
- If undue influence is proved, the contract is voidable at the option of the party who was under the influence of the dominant party. It is important to note that the burden of proof in cases of coercion and undue influence lies with the party seeking to avoid the contract. The party must prove that there was coercion or undue influence and that his consent was not free and voluntary.

Source- <https://blog.iplayers.in/difference-between-coercion-and-undue-influence/>

53. X and Y are close associates, and X is the proprietor of a prominent business. P and Q are children of X and Y, respectively. Y proposes that X appoint Q as the next CEO of the company, citing Q's impressive qualifications. However, X intends to designate his own offspring as the next CEO. On a particular day, Q takes P for a drive, and Y informs X that P has been kidnapped. Y asserts that P will only be released if X appoints Q as the CEO of the company. Succumbing to the pressure, X agrees to make Q the CEO, only to later discover that P was never actually abducted. Can X claim coercion and seek a court declaration to nullify the agreement with Y?

- (a) Yes, X can assert coercion since his agreement was secured through Y's use of threats.
- (b) No, X cannot claim coercion as he had the choice to reject Y's demands.
- (c) No, X cannot claim coercion as he willingly appointed Q as the CEO.
- (d) Yes, X can claim coercion, but he may also be held responsible for any damages suffered by Y due to the breach of the agreement.

54. Alex, a prosperous entrepreneur, approaches his elderly and financially struggling neighbour, Mr. Patel, with an offer to purchase a valuable sculpture owned by Mr. Patel. Alex is aware that Mr. Patel is facing significant financial challenges to cover his escalating expenses as he is suffering from cancer. Alex proposes a sum well below the sculpture's market value, emphasising the urgency due to his imminent departure from the country for a period of at least 3 years. Feeling pressured and urgently needing funds, Mr. Patel agrees to sell the sculpture to Alex. Can Mr. Patel contest the validity of the agreement based on undue influence?

- (a) Yes, as Alex utilized his financial standing and awareness of Mr. Patel's vulnerable situation to compel him into selling the sculpture at a substantially reduced price, constituting undue influence under the applicable legal framework.
- (b) No, because although Alex's offer was below the market value, it promptly provided Mr. Patel with funds to cover his medical expenses, making it not subject to undue influence.
- (c) Yes, but only if it can be demonstrated that Alex and Mr. Patel shared a fiduciary relationship or a relationship of trust and confidence, as undue influence typically arises from special connections between the parties.
- (d) No, as undue influence, as per the relevant legal provisions, is generally applicable to contracts where one party holds a position of authority or power over the other party, and such a dynamic did not exist between Alex and Mr. Patel.

55. Lisa, a successful entrepreneur, is approached by her former colleague, James, who insists that she sign a contract giving him exclusive rights to distribute her newly developed product at a commission rate well above industry standards. James threatens to expose confidential information about Lisa if she does not agree to his terms. Concerned about the potential harm to her professional reputation, Lisa reluctantly agrees to sign the contract. Can Lisa challenge the validity of the contract on the grounds of coercion? Decide.

- (a) Yes, as James threatened to engage in an act prohibited by relevant legal statutes (disclosure of confidential information) with the intention of compelling Lisa to enter into the agreement, constituting coercion under the applicable legal provisions.
- (b) No, because the threat of revealing confidential information may not meet the criteria for coercion under the relevant legal framework, as it does not involve an unlawful act or the withholding of property.
- (c) Yes, but only if Lisa can prove that the commission rate demanded by James was unreasonably high and posed a significant detriment to her financial interests.

(d)No, as coercion under the relevant legal provisions typically pertains to contracts where one party physically coerces the other party into entering the agreement, and such a circumstance did not occur between Lisa and James.

56. Professor Anderson, a respected academic, provides tutoring services to Ms. Thompson, a successful businesswoman, for an advanced research project. Over time, they develop a close mentor-mentee relationship, and Ms. Thompson places complete trust in Professor Anderson. Professor Anderson convinces Ms. Thompson to invest a significant amount in his groundbreaking educational initiative, assuring her of its guaranteed success. However, he neglects to disclose the considerable risks associated with the project and the fact that experts have questioned its feasibility. Relying on Professor Anderson's assurances, Ms. Thompson invests her funds in the initiative. Subsequently, the initiative encounters challenges, and Ms. Thompson faces substantial financial losses. Can Ms. Thompson challenge the validity of the investment contract on the grounds of undue influence?

(a)Yes, as Professor Anderson exploited his trusted position with Ms. Thompson to influence her into entering the investment contract without disclosing the risks, constituting undue influence under Section 16 of the applicable legal framework.

(b)No, because Ms. Thompson willingly entered into the investment contract based on Professor Anderson's assurances, and there was no inappropriate use of power or position by Professor Anderson.

(c)Yes, but only if Ms. Thompson can demonstrate that Professor Anderson deliberately withheld crucial information about the initiative's risks and feasibility to deceive her into making the investment.

(d)No, as undue influence under Section 16 of the relevant legal provisions typically applies to contracts where one party holds a position of authority or power over the other party, and such a dynamic did not exist between Professor Anderson and Ms. Thompson.

57. Given the scenario where Mr. Thompson consulted a financial advisory service about Professor Anderson's proposal and, after receiving thorough guidance from the advisory service, chose to invest his funds in the educational initiative. Later, the initiative faces setbacks, resulting in Mr. Thompson experiencing financial losses. Can Mr. Thompson challenge the validity of the investment contract on the grounds of undue influence?

(a)No, as Mr. Thompson based his decision to invest on independent advice from the financial advisory service, which diminishes the potential impact of any undue influence exerted by Professor Anderson.

(b)Yes, as the fact that Mr. Thompson sought advice from a financial advisory service does not eliminate the possibility of undue influence by Professor Anderson, who failed to disclose the risks associated with the initiative.

(c)No, because the advice from the financial advisory service does not act as a safeguard, breaking the chain of influence from Professor Anderson and making it challenging to establish undue influence under the applicable legal framework.

(d)Yes, but only if Mr. Thompson can demonstrate that Professor Anderson deliberately influenced the advice provided by the financial advisory service to deceive him into investing in the educational initiative.

Passage II

Patent grants exclusive monopoly rights to the patent holder or inventor for twenty years. After the expiry of such a period, the innovation falls into the public domain. In 1995, the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights Agreement (TRIPS Agreement) mandated developing countries to protect product patents. The TRIPS Agreement sets out minimum standards of patent protection and its

implementation, and the same brought a radical shift in the pharmaceutical industry. Since its formulation, the intellectual property (IP) regime of member nations of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) witnessed a change. And so did India.

Article 21 of the Constitution guarantees protection of life and personal liberty to every citizen. Since the right to health is integral to the right to life, the government must ensure that the patent holders do not exercise their exclusive right over their patented products for a long time, giving them unfair exploitation of the patent.

Section 3(d) of the Patents Act, 1970 was amended to ensure that patented products do not stay patented for a long time by making minor or insignificant modifications. This Amendment had aimed to prevent 'patent evergreening'.

Evergreening refers to the practice whereby pharmaceutical firms extend the patent life of a drug by obtaining additional 20-year patents for minor reformulations or other iterations of the drug without necessarily increasing the therapeutic efficacy.

Compulsory licensing is "authorizations, permitting a third party to make, use or sell a patented invention without the patent owner's consent."

Section 84 of the Indian Patents Act, 1970 provides for the conditions under which a compulsory license can be granted regarding the invention. The conditions are, when:

- The reasonable requirements of the public concerning the patented invention have not been satisfied, or
- The patented invention is not available to the public at a reasonable price or
- The patented invention is not used in India.

When a patent holder hasn't made the necessary steps to provide the drugs at a reasonable price, the controller or any other person interested in the product can step in and offer or apply for a compulsory licence. This ensures that the patent-holding company doesn't have unmitigated power to manufacture and distribute the drug.

58. Pharmalife, an international pharmaceutical company, submitted a patent application for an anti-inflammatory drug named 'X.' Another pharmaceutical company had already been granted a patent for drug X. Pharmalife sought a new patent for X by asserting that they had introduced several innovations to its formulation, enhancing its efficacy through the use of a substance called 'Y Solvate.' However, during the investigation, the Patent Office determined that Y Solvate is merely a new form of a known substance already used in drug X. Additionally, the efficacy of the drug remained unchanged, with improvements only in its therapeutic nature. Should Pharmalife be granted the patent for X?

- (a) No, because it is not an instance of patent evergreening, as Pharmalife has not made significant innovations over X.
- (b) Yes, because Y Solvate is a new form of a known substance, even if it was already used in X.
- (c) No, because there was no increase in the efficacy of X or the substances used in its formulation.
- (d) Yes, because it is not an instance of patent evergreening, as Pharmalife has made significant innovations over X.

59. MediCo, a pharmaceutical company, held the patent rights for a critical ingredient 'M' used in the treatment of liver and rectum cancer. The patent for 'M' was granted in 2010 after extensive research and development efforts by MediCo. However, despite being in the market for a decade, MediCo struggled to meet the demand for the medicine and priced 'M' exorbitantly due to manufacturing in a high-cost location, such as Japan. Zenith Pharma is a new entrant in the pharmaceutical industry. Can it seek a compulsory licence to produce 'M'?

- (a) Yes, as all the conditions outlined in Section 84 of the Indian Patent Act of 1970, which allows the granting of compulsory licences for inventions, are satisfied.
- (b) No, because MediCo has taken necessary measures to provide 'M' at a reasonable price by establishing a manufacturing facility in a cost-effective location.
- (c) Yes, as interested parties like Zenith Pharma can apply for a compulsory licence when the exclusive monopoly rights granted by the patent to MediCo are at odds with public interest.
- (d) No, as MediCo holds undisputed authority to manufacture and distribute 'M,' having been granted exclusive monopoly rights.

60. Zenith Pharma filed an application for a compulsory licence for 'M' on January 1, 2021. Meanwhile, MediCo had initiated the import of equipment from Germany in December 2020 to establish a drug manufacturing plant in Gujarat. MediCo took these measures to reduce the price of 'M' from Rs. 4,50,000 to Rs. 3,00,000. With these developments, can Zenith Pharma be granted a compulsory licence for 'M'?

- (a) Yes, as all the conditions outlined in Section 84 of the Indian Patents Act of 1970, which allows the granting of compulsory licences for inventions, are still satisfied.
- (b) Yes, because a price of Rs. 3,00,000 remains unaffordable or unreasonable for consumers in the market, hindering their right to health.
- (c) No, because MediCo has taken the necessary measures to provide 'M' to consumers at a reasonable price.
- (d) None of the above

61. SunPharm, a well-known pharmaceutical company, produced and supplied various medications for diverse health conditions. They marketed a drug 'A' to manage high blood pressure and another drug 'B' to reduce cholesterol levels. Many patients opted to buy both A and B as hypertension and elevated cholesterol often coexist. Following extensive research and development, SunPharm introduced a new medication 'C,' a 2-in-1 solution for managing both high blood pressure and cholesterol. C utilised various components already present in A and B. Can SunPharm apply for a new patent for C?

- (a) No, because C is essentially a minor reformulation aiming to create another version of drug's A and B.
- (b) No, because C appears to be an attempt at patent evergreening by SunPharm, lacking innovation in formulation or therapeutic efficacy.
- (c) Yes, because C represents an entirely new medication, offering same benefits compared to the separate use of A and B.
- (d) Yes, because C does not constitute patent evergreening; the modification is novel, substantial, and addresses both high blood pressure and cholesterol.

62. MediCare Pharmaceuticals, a leading company, holds an exclusive patent for a crucial medication, "Vitalix," used in the treatment of a life-threatening condition. The patent grants exclusive rights for twenty years. However, as the patent expiry date approaches, MediCare Pharmaceuticals introduces a slightly modified version of Vitalix, claiming it to be a significant innovation. This has raised concerns about potential

patent evergreening practices. In the context of preventing patent evergreening, which legal provision under the Indian Patents Act, 1970, empowers the controller or any interested person to apply for a compulsory license when certain conditions are not met by the patent holder? Decide.

- (a) Section 3(d)
- (b) Article 21 of the Constitution
- (c) Section 84
- (d) Section 21

Passage III

In tort law, a principle that allows plaintiffs to meet their burden of proof with what is, in effect, circumstantial evidence. The plaintiff can create a rebuttable presumption of negligence by the defendant by proving that the harm would not ordinarily have occurred without negligence, that the object that caused the harm was under the defendant's control, and that there are no other plausible explanations.

To prove *res ipsa loquitur* negligence, the plaintiff must prove 3 things:

1. The incident was of a type that does not generally happen without negligence
2. It was caused by an instrumentality solely in defendant's control
3. The plaintiff did not contribute to the cause

While *res ipsa loquitur* serves as a valuable doctrine in tort law, there exist exceptions to its application. One such exception arises when the injury or harm stems from an event widely recognized as a common occurrence in a specific activity or field. For instance, if a surgical procedure results in an injury known to be a standard risk of the procedure, *res ipsa loquitur* might not be relevant.

Another exception occurs when the plaintiff fails to rule out other potential causes of the injury or harm. In cases with multiple plausible causes, the plaintiff must demonstrate that the defendant's negligence is the most probable cause.

Furthermore, *res ipsa loquitur* may not be applicable when the plaintiff's own actions contribute to the injury or harm. If the plaintiff's conduct plays a role, the defendant may argue that the plaintiff shares responsibility for the injury and that *res ipsa loquitur* should not be invoked.

Res ipsa loquitur is a useful doctrine in tort law that allows a plaintiff to prove negligence on the part of the defendant without direct evidence of the defendant's conduct. It is applicable in situations where the plaintiff can show that the injury or harm was caused by an instrumentality or condition that was under the exclusive control of the defendant at the time of the injury. As with any legal doctrine, the applicability of *res ipsa loquitur* will depend on the specific circumstances of each case.

Source- https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/res_ipsa_loquitur

63. Emily visits a grocery store and is examining produce when a large display stand collapses, hitting her on the shoulder. The display stand had been used to showcase fruits and vegetables and was not properly secured. Emily suffers a sprained shoulder and incurs medical expenses. She initiates a legal action against the grocery store, alleging that they were negligent in maintaining a safe shopping environment. Can Emily use *res ipsa loquitur* to establish the grocery store's negligence?

- (a) No, Emily cannot use *res ipsa loquitur* as the grocery store did not have exclusive control over the display stand.
- (b) Yes, Emily can use *res ipsa loquitur* as the display stand was under the exclusive control of the grocery store.
- (c) No, Emily cannot use *res ipsa loquitur* as she cannot prove that the display stand was the sole cause of her injury.
- (d) Yes, Emily can use *res ipsa loquitur* as the grocery store is strictly liable for any harm caused by their merchandise.

64. Sarah is participating in a basketball game and is bumped by an opposing player. As a consequence of the collision, Sarah's arm is injured. Sarah initiates legal proceedings against the opposing player, alleging that the player was negligent in their actions. Can Sarah use *res ipsa loquitur* to establish the opposing player's negligence?

- (a) No, Sarah cannot use *res ipsa loquitur* as the injury was caused by a common occurrence in basketball.
- (b) Yes, Sarah can use *res ipsa loquitur* as the opposing player had exclusive control over the bump.
- (c) No, Sarah cannot use *res ipsa loquitur* as she cannot prove that the opposing player's bump was the sole cause of her injured arm.
- (d) Yes, Sarah can use *res ipsa loquitur* as the opposing player had a duty to avoid causing injury during the basketball game.

65. Emma undergoes an innovative and intricate medical procedure to address a growth in her abdomen. The doctor assured that this groundbreaking surgery would contribute to her swift recovery. However, this experimental surgery was never previously conducted and was solely supported in theory. Following the procedure, Emma experiences intense abdominal pain and develops an infection. She initiates legal action against the medical professional, alleging that the doctor was negligent in carrying out the surgery. Can Emma use *res ipsa loquitur* to establish the doctor's negligence?

- (a) Yes, Emma can use *res ipsa loquitur* as the surgeon had exclusive control over the surgery.
- (b) No, Emma cannot use *res ipsa loquitur* as the injury was caused by a known risk of the procedure.
- (c) Yes, Emma can use *res ipsa loquitur* as the surgery was performed by a doctor who promised a novel surgical approach that had not been previously executed.
- (d) No, Emma cannot use *res ipsa loquitur* as the surgery was an unusual and intricate procedure only conceivable theoretically.

66. Daniel is driving his vehicle on a busy road when unexpectedly, his car collides with another automobile. Daniel sustains severe injuries due to the collision and initiates legal action against the other driver, alleging that the other driver was negligent in driving recklessly. Can Daniel use *res ipsa loquitur* to establish the other driver's negligence?

- (a) Yes, Daniel can use *res ipsa loquitur* as the other driver had exclusive control over their vehicle.
- (b) No, Daniel cannot use *res ipsa loquitur* as the injury was caused by a known risk of driving on the road.
- (c) No, Daniel cannot use *res ipsa loquitur* as he cannot prove that the other driver's conduct was the sole cause of his injuries.
- (d) Yes, Daniel can use *res ipsa loquitur* as the other driver had a duty to drive with reasonable care and caution.

67. Emily undergoes a medical procedure to address a lung issue and remove a growth. She had other pre-existing respiratory concerns along with the tumour, which frequently caused discomfort in her chest. Following the procedure, Emily encounters severe chest pain and difficulty breathing, which was routine and expected. She initiates a legal claim against the medical professional, alleging that the surgeon was negligent in performing the surgery. Can Emily use res ipsa loquitur to establish the surgeon's negligence?

Yes, Emily can use res ipsa loquitur as the surgeon had exclusive control over the medical procedure.

No, Emily cannot use res ipsa loquitur as the injury was caused by a known risk of the medical procedure.

Yes, Emily can use res ipsa loquitur as the surgeon should have been aware of her pre-existing respiratory problems.

No, Emily cannot use res ipsa loquitur as she cannot prove that the surgeon's conduct was the sole cause of her chest pain and difficulty breathing.

Passage IV

The principle of strict liability was evolved in the case of Ryland V Fletcher in the year 1868. It states that anyone who keeps any hazardous substances on his property will be held liable if those substances escape and cause damage.

Generally, a person is liable for his own wrongful acts and one does not incur any liability for the acts done by others. In certain cases, like vicarious liability, the liability of one person for the act done by another person may arise. Liability can further be classified as strict and absolute liability.

Strict liability is a legal principle that holds a person or entity responsible for any harm caused by their actions, regardless of intent or negligence. In India, the principle of strict liability has evolved over time through a series of landmark judgments that have expanded its scope, clarified its essential ingredients, and defined its applicability. In India, Public authorities are equally responsible for preventing environmental harm and must bear the costs of remediation when they fail to do so.

The scope of strict liability extends to cases where a person engages in hazardous activities or keeps dangerous substances on their premises, which subsequently cause harm to others.

To determine whether liability is strict or not, certain criteria were established in the case. Only once these requirements have been met can liability be classified as strict liability. They are:

- **Dangerous thing-** In simple terms, this means that the defendant will be held accountable if something dangerous escaped from his premises. The word dangerous here implies that, if the dangerous thing escapes it is likely to cause havoc.
- **Escape-** The thing that is causing the harm must also escape from the defendant's premises, and it must not be within the defendant's reach once it has escaped.
- **Non-natural use of land-** For usage to be considered non-natural, there must be a unique use that poses a greater risk to others. It cannot be normal use of land or use that is appropriate for the community's overall benefit.

Strict liability finds application across various domains, encompassing environmental pollution, product liability, and workplace accidents. Within the Indian legal framework, it has been employed to establish accountability for individuals and companies responsible for harm arising from industrial accidents, faulty products, and other perilous activities. Moreover, the judiciary has broadened the reach of strict liability,

affirming its applicability not only to direct participants in hazardous activities but also to individuals or entities involved in financing, supporting, or facilitating such activities.

Source- <https://blog.ipleaders.in/misapplications-associated-strict-liability-india-stance-indian-judiciary/>

68. Raj, a materials scientist, operates a small laboratory in a commercial building. He stores a variety of chemicals required for his research, including some with potential hazards. To maintain safety, Raj strictly follows all necessary precautions, guidelines, and safety measures. One day, an electrical malfunction leads to a fire in another part of the building, causing an explosion in Raj's laboratory. This results in significant damage to neighbouring units and injuries to several individuals. The affected parties initiate legal action against Raj for damages. Is Raj liable for the harm caused by the explosion?

- (a) Yes, Raj is liable because he stored hazardous chemicals on his premises, which ultimately caused harm.
- (b) No, Raj is not liable because he took all necessary precautions to ensure safety.
- (c) Yes, Raj is liable as the explosion occurred in his laboratory.
- (d) No, Raj is not liable because the fire originated elsewhere in the building and was beyond his control.

69. Anita owns a vast expanse of land near a residential area, which she leases to Rahul for establishing a recycling facility. Rahul's facility deals with various materials, and during the process, some waste is generated, which he disposes of in strict adherence to environmental regulations. However, a local environmental activist group raises concerns, alleging that the disposal process is negatively impacting the nearby ecosystem. They demand compensation for the perceived environmental harm and decide to file a lawsuit against both Rahul and Anita. Is Anita liable for the damage caused by Rahul's facility?

- (a) Yes, Anita is liable because she provided the land for Rahul's facility, thus enabling the waste disposal activity.
- (b) No, Anita is not liable because she is not directly involved in the day-to-day operations of Rahul's facility.
- (c) Yes, Anita is liable because she should have been aware of the potential environmental risks associated with Rahul's facility.
- (d) No, Anita is not liable because Rahul is solely responsible for complying with environmental regulations.

70. The town of Riverside has witnessed an increase in noise pollution due to the construction of a new privately-funded entertainment venue. A group of local residents, the Riverside Noise Control Advocates (RNCA), has filed a petition against the entertainment venue, asserting that the private entity is responsible for the noise-related disturbances caused by the venue's activities. The private entity argues that it is not accountable for any noise-related issues, as the entertainment venue was constructed following all noise regulations. Is the private entity responsible for preventing noise disturbances and bearing the costs of remediation in this case? Decide.

- (a) Yes, the private entity is responsible for preventing noise disturbances, as private entities are equally accountable for such prevention and must bear the costs of remediation when they fail to do so.
- (b) No, the private entity is not responsible for preventing noise disturbances, as the entertainment venue was built following all noise regulations.
- (c) Yes, the private entity is responsible for the noise disturbances caused by the venue's activities, as the private entity funded the construction of the entertainment venue and should bear the cost.

(d)No, the private entity is not responsible for the noise disturbances caused by the entertainment venue, as the RNCA has not provided sufficient evidence to prove the private entity's liability.

71. Aditi, a customer, purchased a state-of-the-art smartwatch from Tech Wonders, a reputable electronics company. After a week of usage, the smartwatch started experiencing malfunctions and eventually sparked, causing Aditi minor injuries. Upon investigation, it was revealed that Aditi had installed a third-party fitness tracking app that was not authorised or recommended by Tech Wonders. Aditi decides to take legal action against Tech Wonders for her injuries. Is Tech Wonders strictly liable for the harm caused to Aditi?

(a)Yes, Tech Wonders is liable because they manufactured the smartwatch that caused harm.

(b)No, Tech Wonders is not liable as the harm resulted from Aditi's own action of installing a third-party app.

(c)Yes, Tech Wonders is liable because the smartwatch should not have malfunctioned, regardless of the apps installed.

(d)No, Tech Wonders is not liable as they had not clearly warned against the use of third-party apps in their user manual.

72. Saman, a business owner, operates a small-scale pyrotechnics workshop in a remote rural area. He diligently adheres to all safety regulations and precautions while manufacturing and storing fireworks. One day, a group of local adolescents' trespass onto Saman's property and begin to mishandle the stored fireworks. Despite visible warning signs, the teenagers in close proximity ignite some fireworks, leading to a substantial explosion that causes significant damage to nearby properties and injuries to several individuals. The affected parties decide to take legal action against Saman for damages. Is Saman liable for the harm caused by the explosion?

(a)Yes, Saman is liable because he was involved in a potentially hazardous activity and possessed dangerous substances.

(b)No, Saman is not liable because the harm caused was not a direct consequence of his activity or the substances he possessed.

(c)Yes, Saman is liable because the explosion occurred on his property, and he should have implemented better security measures.

(d)No, Saman is not liable because the harm resulted from the teenagers' own actions or negligence, which led to the explosion.

Passage V

Assault and battery are related but distinct crimes, battery being the unlawful application of physical force to another and assault being an attempt to commit battery or an act that causes another reasonably to fear an imminent battery. No minimum degree of force is necessary to constitute a battery.

A mere touch is sufficient. And force need not be applied directly. It is battery if one strikes a person's cane, administers poison or drugs, or communicates a disease. An accident or ordinary negligence that results in injury is not criminally punishable as battery unless it occurred during the commission of another unlawful offense.

Generally, one does not commit battery unless one acts with intent to harm or with gross criminal negligence involving a high degree of carelessness. Even then such action may be justified if it is for the purpose of the defence of others or of property, or if it is in self-defence. Reasonable force may be used

in the performance of duty, as, for example, by a police officer, without constituting battery. Assault is a crime of attempt, the purpose of the law being to deter a possible battery by punishing conduct that comes dangerously close to achieving a battery.

As with most crimes of attempt, a clear line cannot be drawn between a criminal assault and conduct that is merely preparatory to an assault. There must be intent to harm, but the intent is not sufficient if it produces the mere possibility of harm or the threat of battery in the distant future. Rather, the intent must be evidenced by an imminent danger, some overt act that threatens battery. Thus, words or intentions alone do not constitute assault. England, the civil-law countries, and some American states define certain types of assault (such as assault with a deadly weapon or with the intent to commit robbery or rape) as “aggravated assault.” The resulting battery is also called aggravated, and both crimes are assigned higher penalties than regular assault and battery.

Source- <https://www.britannica.com/topic/assault-and-battery>

73. P and Q were strolling together in a park when P began sharing a funny story from their past. While laughing uncontrollably, Q playfully nudged P, unaware of a small hole in the ground nearby. P lost balance and tripped into the hole. Annoyed by the incident, P decided to file a lawsuit against Q for negligence. What is your evaluation of P's decision?

- (a) P should file a complaint against Q, as the playful nudge was intentional to make P fall into the hole.
- (b) P may not file a complaint against Q since there was no deliberate use of criminal force.
- (c) P should register a complaint against Q based on the negligence displayed.
- (d) P may not file a complaint against Q as the incident was an unintended accident.

74. M, a prominent individual, sought to facilitate a union between his daughter and Z's son. However, Z strongly objected as his daughter was already romantically involved with a friend's son. Growing desperate, M persistently pressured Z to agree, but with no success. Eventually, M resorted to sending associates to Z's residence, threatening harm unless they consented to the marriage within a month. Assess whether an assault occurred in this situation.

- (a) Since the threat induces fear into the distant future, it does not constitute an assault.
- (b) As Z and his family did not endure physical harm, there is no assault.
- (c) M's words created a credible threat of danger in Z's mind, constituting an assault.
- (d) There is insufficient information in the passage to determine if an assault took place.

75. A took a subway to reach the workplace. The station was bustling with people, and the subway was packed. When a significant portion of the passengers alighted, B, another commuter, began shouting at A to make room. As A shifted position after the brakes were applied, B, in a fit of rage, forcefully pushed A, causing A to collide with the subway window, resulting in injuries. Analyse the situation to draw conclusions about the battery. Decide.

- (a) Since B had no intention of harming A, there is no occurrence of battery.
- (b) The conditions for battery have not been met, indicating that no battery has taken place.
- (c) Given that B purposefully pushed A to cause harm, battery can be established.
- (d) As B yelled at A to make way, the act cannot be considered battery.

76. After enjoying an evening with acquaintances, L was heading home. Due to her parents' absence that night, a friend dropped her off at her apartment. Upon entering, they heard a commotion and went to investigate. Encountering three armed intruders attempting to harm L, her friend stepped in to protect her. Facing imminent danger from one of the assailants, L took swift action, stabbing the intruder, who fortunately survived. Subsequently, the perpetrators lodged a complaint against L for battery. Decide.

- (a) L is liable for battery as she physically wounded the intruder by stabbing him.
- (b) L is not accountable for battery since the intruder survived the stab and only suffered injuries.
- (c) L will be charged with battery as all the necessary elements are present.
- (d) L is not guilty of battery since she stabbed the intruder to protect her friend.

Passage VI

Before we begin it is important to understand what amounts to medical negligence. Ordinarily negligence can be defined as a breach of duty caused by omission to do something which a reasonable man guided by those considerations which ordinarily regulate the conduct of human affairs would do, or doing something which a prudent and reasonable man would not do.

Negligence in the context of the medical profession necessarily calls for a different definition. Being a professional, a doctor may be held liable for negligence on one of the two findings: either he was not possessed of the requisite skill which he professed to have or he did not exercise, with reasonable competence in a given case, the skill which he did possess.

The basic principle relating to medical negligence is known as the BOLAM Rule and has been accepted by the Supreme Court as the standard test for medical negligence. This was laid down in the judgment in Bolam v. Friern Hospital Management Committee (1957) 1 WLR 582 as under: Where you get a situation which involves the use of some special skill or competence, then the test as to whether there has been negligence or not is not the test of the man on the top of a Clapham omnibus, because he has not got this special skill. The test is the standard of the ordinary skilled man exercising and profession to have that special skill.

A man need not possess the highest expert skill. It is well established law that it is sufficient if he exercises the ordinary skill of an ordinary competent man exercising that particular art". Thus, to put it simply, medical negligence arises from an act or omission by a medical practitioner, which no reasonably competent and careful medical practitioner would have committed. Therefore, a medical practitioner while attending to the patient is expected to adopt a reasonably skilful behaviour and follow the ordinary skills and practices of the medical profession with ordinary care.

A claim for compensation based on medical negligence is primarily based on the following:

- The doctor owed a duty of care to the patient,
- There has been a breach in the performance of the duty and
- the breach of the duty has resulted in consequential loss or harm to the patient concerned

Source- <https://asiindia.org/medical-negligence-the-judicial-approach-by-indian-courts/>

77. Emily, a young woman, had been experiencing persistent fatigue and loss of appetite for several weeks. Concerned about her health, she decided to seek medical advice. She visited a local clinic where Dr. Harris, a general practitioner, attended to her. Dr. Harris briefly examined Emily and, without conducting thorough diagnostic tests, prescribed medication for a suspected vitamin deficiency. However, Emily's condition worsened over the next few weeks, and she developed unusual rashes on her skin. Frustrated with the lack of improvement, she sought a second opinion from a dermatologist, Dr. Rodriguez. After thorough examinations, Dr. Rodriguez discovered that Emily was suffering from a rare skin condition exacerbated by specific medications. It turned out that Emily had an allergy to one of the components in the initial prescription. Comment on the situation with reference to medical negligence.

- (a) Dr. Harris may be held accountable for medical negligence as he prescribed medication without proper diagnostic tests.
- (b) Dr. Harris cannot be held responsible as he made a reasonable assumption based on initial symptoms.
- (c) Given that Dr. Harris prescribed the medication with good intentions, he is not accountable for medical negligence.
- (d) Dr. Harris is not liable since Emily did not disclose her allergies during the initial consultation.

78. Aria was exploring a bustling market in Tokyo when she got caught in a sudden crowd surge. The congestion lasted for about 20 minutes, causing a delay in the movement of people. When the crowd finally dispersed, everyone hurriedly resumed their journey. Unfortunately, during this chaotic moment, a woman named Sakura fell off her skateboard and was accidentally hit by a passing bicycle, resulting in severe injuries. Witnessing the incident, Aria felt a sense of responsibility to help. Fortunately, she had a small emergency kit with her. Aria provided initial first aid to Sakura and quickly arranged for her to be taken to the nearby medical facility. Upon examination by the doctor, it was revealed that Sakura had sustained a significant injury, and the trauma had affected multiple areas of her body. Blaming Aria for not providing immediate medical attention, Sakura's friends argued that Aria was responsible for the incident. Comment.

- (a) Aria will be held accountable for negligence as she failed to provide Sakura with adequate medical care.
- (b) Aria will not be held accountable since she had no duty of care towards Sakura.
- (c) Aria will not be held accountable for negligence because she made an effort to assist Sakura.
- (d) The passage does not provide sufficient information to determine whether Aria should be held accountable for negligence.

79. Samantha was employed as a nutritionist at Coastal Wellness Centre. The wellness centre was the largest in Charleston and housed various healthcare professionals catering to diverse health needs. One day, Alex visited the centre with complaints of persistent fatigue. Samantha, on her way out after her shift, was approached by Alex's family seeking her assistance. Samantha explained that fatigue was not her area of expertise, and she couldn't provide the necessary help. Unfortunately, Alex had to wait for medical attention for thirteen hours, during which time his health deteriorated. Frustrated, his family filed a lawsuit against Samantha for professional negligence. Determine.

- (a) Samantha is not accountable for professional negligence as her working hours had concluded.
- (b) Samantha is not responsible for professional negligence since she had no duty of care toward Alex.
- (c) Samantha will be held accountable for professional negligence since she did not offer Alex a timely assessment.
- (b) Samantha will be held accountable for professional negligence because she breached her duty of care, leading to significant repercussions for Alex.

80. Dr. Johnson faced a critical situation where urgent surgery was required to address a life-threatening condition in the patient. Dr. Johnson decided to proceed with the operation and performed the necessary procedure. Unfortunately, the patient passed away during the surgery due to unforeseen complications. The family of the deceased patient filed a lawsuit against Dr. Johnson for professional negligence. Examine this passage attentively to determine Dr. Johnson's culpability. Support your response with appropriate reasoning from the passage.

- (a) Dr. Johnson will be held accountable for professional negligence since he failed to execute the procedure appropriately.
- (b) Dr. Johnson is not responsible for professional negligence because he did not intentionally cause the patient's death.
- (c) Dr. Johnson is not accountable for professional negligence since he breached his duty of care.
- (d) Dr. Johnson will be held accountable for professional negligence since all the requirements have been met.

Passage VII

In India a contract is governed by the Indian Contract Act, 1842. The Indian Contract Act establishes the framework for and validates contracts or agreements between parties. The Contract Act is one of the most important pieces of legislation that governs and oversees all business transactions including a deal or an agreement.

The ICA establishes the framework for and validates contracts or agreements between parties. Essentials of a valid contract

- a. **Offer and acceptance:** The ICA states that a proposal i.e. is an offer made by one interested party to another party willing to enter into an agreement. The acceptance of such a proposal is said to form an agreement. Acceptance however is defined under Section 2(b) of the ICA that states “when an offeror makes an offer to the offeree and the offeree provides his consent to this offer so made, then this consent is known as acceptance”.
- b. **Competent parties:** Section 11 of the ICA states “that every person is considered to be competent to enter into an agreement, provided the person is of majority age, sound mind and is not disqualified from contracting by any law to which he is subject”. People considered incompetent to enter into an agreement consist of people who are either minors (under 18 years of age) or are temporarily or permanently suffering with severe mental disabilities. However, people who enter into an agreement under the influence of a drug or alcohol per say are included in this group.
- c. **Lawful consideration:** Section 23 of the ICA states “that any consideration or the purpose of an agreement is considered lawful unless, it is forbidden by law, if allowed would defeat the sole purpose of the law or may amount to fraud, involving injury to body or property in any way, or is regarded as immoral by the court or is in opposition to public policy”.
- d. **Free consent:** Consent in simple terms means the ‘meeting of minds’ or ‘the agreement between two or more people’. A legally binding contract requires consent and the legal definition of consent under the Indian contract act, 1871 is “when two parties entered into the contract there should be agreement upon the same thing in the same manner”. The legal definition puts emphasis on ‘consensus ad idem’ which is nothing but meeting of minds.

Consent is said to be free in a contract when it is not influenced by fraud, misrepresentation, coercion, mistake and undue influence. If any of the essentials of a valid contract are not met, the contract is deemed to be null and void.

Source- <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/readersblog/lawyer-space/essentials-of-a-valid-contract-41818/>

81. Z, an avid collector, expressed a desire to obtain a vintage typewriter from the 1980s. As such typewriters were not readily available online, Z opted to explore the option of acquiring a second hand one temporarily. While discussing this with their friend X, Z inquired if X had any leads on someone willing to sell a typewriter from the specified era. Since X owned a similar typewriter, they proposed selling it to Z. However, when Z eventually bought a typewriter from a different source, X took legal action, alleging a breach of contract. Determine the veracity of X's claims based on the passage.

- (a) Z will be held accountable for breach of contract because they purchased the typewriter elsewhere after committing to X.
- (b) Z will not be held accountable for breach of contract if they acquired the typewriter for a lower price than what X was asking.
- (c) Z will not be held accountable for breach because they did not formally accept X's offer initially.
- (d) Z will be held accountable because their decision to buy from a third party caused X significant financial loss.

82. A recently acquired a high-end camera for his photography hobby. His father-in-law surprised him with a professional drone as a birthday gift. With the new drone at his disposal, A found his camera underutilized and decided to sell it. He approached his close friend, B, with an offer to purchase the camera, highlighting its outstanding features and claiming it to be the latest model. When B declined the offer, A resorted to playful banter, suggesting that he might reveal embarrassing childhood stories unless B agreed to buy the camera. Eventually, B agreed to purchase the camera, paying an additional amount for it. Determine the legality of the contract.

- (a) Since B willingly agreed to buy the camera, the contract will be considered legitimate.
- (b) Given the presence of a valid offer and acceptance, the contract will be deemed enforceable.
- (c) The agreement will not be considered legitimate as B's consent was obtained through playful banter.
- (d) Since all the necessary elements of a valid contract are met, the contract will be viewed as legitimate.

83. Z was interested in purchasing a house from M. M, who was moving to another city for a job, decided to sell his one-bedroom apartment for one crore rupees. Z, looking for a property in the same neighbourhood, approached M. M proposed to sell his home to Z for the specified amount, with 60% to be paid upfront and the remaining balance due after a month of ownership. The entire transaction was carried out accordingly, and Z also settled the remaining amount within the agreed-upon timeframe. Evaluate the legality of the contract.

- (a) Since the payment was made as per the agreed terms, the contract will be considered valid.
- (b) Given that Z and M mutually consented to the contract's terms, it will be regarded as non legitimate.
- (c) Considering one crore rupees for a single-bedroom apartment, the contract might be deemed inadequate.
- (d) Since the terms were agreed upon by both parties, the contract shall be viewed as valid.

Q84. K was forcibly made intoxicated while playing a board game with his friends. Since he had exhausted all his resources, he proposed to offer his assistance in the next game if he lost. Despite his confidence in his moves, the opposing player revealed a superior strategy, resulting in K losing his offer of assistance. Consequently, his legal representative argued that, owing to K's intoxication, the contract was invalid from the outset.

- (a) The contract was legally binding as K voluntarily agreed to provide assistance if he lost.
- (b) Considering K's state of intoxication, the contract will be considered null and void.
- (c) It was a valid contract as all the prerequisites for a legal contract were fulfilled.
- (d) The contract was legally binding since consenting under the influence of alcohol does not render it void.

Logical Reasoning

Passage I

There is a gap between the research supplied by academia and what policymakers actually want. I'm not about to argue that economists are useless. Nor will I argue that they should all be obviously useful. If some want to do research that might seem like vomiting out numbers but that is actually pushing forward the frontier of knowledge, good on them. But I do think that there is a gap between the supposedly policy-relevant research supplied by academia and what decision makers actually want. And that it could be smaller.

The fullest complaint is that too often researchers ask the wrong questions, then communicate the answers badly. Some of this isn't their fault. Academia rewards novelty rather than usefulness. It also can encourage precision ("did the dog tax affect spending on dog food over its first three months?") rather than breadth ("is taxing pets barking mad?"). And it offers the freedom to think about fixing a single problem with a perfect instrument.

Meanwhile, policy is more often tasked with fighting multiple distortions with limited legal tools. To take an example, economists have spent years trying to estimate the social cost of carbon, arguing that a carbon tax is the best way to fight climate change and criticising industrial policy as misguided. But when the Biden administration started asking how to deploy subsidies, the evidence base was lacking. "Economists don't know what to do when they just think something is a bad idea," says Betsey Stevenson of the University of Michigan, adding that on carbon taxes they "should figure out why they haven't sold the public."

One challenge is that the path to tenure isn't exactly littered with literature reviews. Academics are not rewarded if their work is cited by a government department or a regulator. Researchers might also better appreciate the constraints policymakers face if there were easier routes from academia to government and back again.

In Britain, it can be tricky to return to academia after a more practical gig. In the US, Martha Gimbel, who recently worked for the White House's Council of Economic Advisers, rightly calls it "insane" that in some cases a stint there seemed to hurt academics' promotion prospects. My final plea is for economists to write more clearly. I'm not asking for titles like "10 Amazing Consequences of Higher Interest Rates You Won't Believe Exist." I am asking for titles that reveal the question or the result. Less than 15 percent of National Bureau of Economic Research working paper titles include a question mark. As for the rest of the paper, please note that impenetrability is a poor signal of quality. Papers with abstracts that have higher readability scores — functions of word and sentence length — get more citations. Admittedly, a comparison of abstracts published in the American Economic Review and two other top journals in sociology and political science suggest that other subjects are worse.

I do not intend to do myself out of a job. Specialisation is important. Comparative advantage is real. Some work is for think-tanks, some is for journalists. But of all people, economists should appreciate that consumers of their research face constraints.

85. What is the central argument of the author?

- (a) Economists should align their research questions and style which better align with the needs of the public and the policymakers
- (b) Academic world needs to be redesigned such that a stint in the government does not stymie an economist's academic career
- (c) Economists should stop arguing for carbon taxes, acknowledging that it finds no purchase with the political leaders
- (d) There should be a serious rethink about scrapping the academy of economics

86. What is a likely consequence of Betsy Stevenson's statement?

- (a) Economists concede that some of their ideas may be infeasible and work to further alternative ideas and solutions
- (b) Economists find themselves unable to work out alternative ideas when one idea is found to be impractical by the political establishment
- (c) Economists collaborate with the government to find better solutions
- (d) Economists start engaging with the public to devise solutions which will appeal to a wider audience

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

I America should formulate a policy making it mandatory for economists to work with the government

II Economists factor in the messiness of the real world in their research

III The shorter the word and sentence length in a research paper, the more likely it is to be cited

IV Economic research favours a worm's eye view rather than a bird's eye view

- (a) I and III
- (b) II and IV
- (c) I and II
- (d) III and IV

88. Which of the following would weaken the author's argument?

- (a) A study found that sociology journal articles are more obtuse to read than economics
- (b) In a survey of the general public, it was revealed that people consider economics to be most irrelevant subject in the academic world
- (c) The community of academic economists is diverse, with some pursuing specialised research in field, while others pursuing accessible policy specific research
- (d) None of the above

Passage II

A case for forgetfulness- if living a happy, full life means having a fallible memory, that's not too steep a price to pay.

Phones, wallets, sunglasses, keys. A box of cornflakes, even a ukulele and, once, a gate valve. These are among the things that passengers have forgotten in cabs in 2023, according to Uber India's annual 'Lost and Found Index'. Further insights suggest that Delhi is the most forgetful city in India, that people are most prone to absentmindedness in the evening — from 7 pm to 9 pm — and that the festive days around Diwali tend to make people more distracted than any other time of the year. No doubt this information is amusing, and even useful — one could, for example, learn to be vigilant about one's belongings during the

weary, post-work cab ride home. But the real lesson here is that forgetfulness is inevitable.

In *Remember: The Science of Memory and the Art of Forgetting*, the American neuroscientist Lisa Genova explains that “a finely orchestrated balancing act between data storage and data disposal” is key to a well-functioning memory system. In other words, as much as remembering — to turn off the gas, your child’s smile when you return from work or that the deadline for filing tax returns is close — is necessary, so is forgetting — your score in Class X boards, the heartbreak of an early love or the time a colleague slighted you. In their own way, both help maintain sanity in an often overwhelming world. Consider the condition of the titular character in Jorge Luis Borges’s story ‘Funes the Memorious’ whose prodigious memory forced him to note the progress of decay, corruption, fatigue and death and doomed him to be “the solitary and lucid spectator of...an intolerably precise world”.

It is, of course, annoying — not to mention inconvenient and even expensive — to forget one’s keys or phone in the back of a taxi. But if living a happy, full life means having a fallible memory, that’s not too steep a price to pay.

89. What is the overall message of the author?

- (a) Forgetting a some things is acceptable for the greater good of our sanity
- (b) One should be forgetful in life
- (c) Forgetting some things is acceptable to retain our mental balance
- (d) Our brain finely balances memory storage and memory disposal

90. What weakens the author’s argument?

- (a) Forgetting memories is not sustainable, while remembering unpleasant memories can help us reconcile with them, and eventually move on to have a fulfilled life
- (b) Forgetting specific bad events help us stay sane by only focusing only on the good memories
- (c) Forgetting our belongings can prove to be a financial problem for some people
- (d) Our brain is not able to manage both being able to retain some memories while at the same time discarding some

91. Why did the author give the example of Class X marks?

- (a) She mentioned it as an innocuous thing which people forget like their car keys, or their gas bill
- (b) She mentioned Class X marks as a good memory which people yearn for, as a return to their early years
- (c) She mentioned Class X marks as a potential bad memory which people would like to get over.
- (d) None of the above

92. What did the author mention in the last paragraph?

- (a) The author observes how expensive it can be to be forgetful
- (b) The author in the last paragraph acknowledges that sometimes forgetting can be a costly trait to have. However, in the grand scheme of things, it is fair as it helps keep us sane overall.
- (c) The author concedes that since being forgetful can lead to financial losses, it might not be a good trait to have
- (d) The author has discussed how being forgetful is only available to financially sound people who can risk losing their belongings

Passage III

Despite its existence for decades, widespread familiarity with artificial intelligence (AI) is a relatively recent phenomenon, put into the limelight by events such as the launch of OpenAI's ChatGPT. However, amid the hype surrounding AI, the longstanding presence of this technology in everyday devices like mobile phones and ATMs often goes unnoticed.

This oversight is emblematic of a broader trend within India Inc, whose executives often exhibit a fixation with trending topics and buzzwords, akin to children gravitating towards shiny new toys. From strategy and sustainability to ESG and AI, from purpose and people to pivot and profit, from good-to-great to governance, the rush to adopt buzzworthy concepts reflects not only a desire to stay relevant, but also assume membership of a club that's 'with it.' Given the disproportionate representation of men in leadership roles and C-suite positions, it can aptly be called a phenomenon of 'boys and toys.'

Amid the AI buzz, it seems that India Inc has momentarily shifted focus away from critical issues such as environmental sustainability, social responsibility, climate action, the future of work (and work of the future) and board stewardship. Initiatives like ESG and climate commitments have been somewhat overshadowed by the AI frenzy. While AI holds undeniable potential, firms neglect these broader imperatives at their own peril. Boards must maintain a balanced perspective, ensuring that investments in AI are accompanied by steadfast commitments to ESG principles, net zero initiatives and sustainable business practices.

The challenge is even more pronounced for CEOs. In the past decade, they pursued digital transformation, often conflating it with technology. This confusion was evident in how chief digital officers were hired. It took considerable time and internal debates over the need for younger talent became organisational distractions. What's more, there was a failure to grasp that emerging technologies in the Fourth Industrial Revolution era transcend fixed physical infrastructure. Today, data resides in the cloud, rendering server rooms obsolete.

Additionally, companies chased the mirage of governance improvement, with many claiming to have enhanced their practices. Yet, board independence remains a question mark, while diversity (including gender) is below par. In corporate India, it's rare for a CEO to be relieved of duties due to poor performance or for a board to be dismissed for governance failures. This illustrates how Indian businesses grapple with the latest buzzwords. For a compensation hike, presenting a 'new strategy' centred around AI often suffices, leaving many in the dark about its intricacies. Consequently, the average tenure of CEOs and other CXOs is decreasing, leading to a surge in CEO pay as companies strive to retain leadership stability. Yet, many potential candidates exploit the current buzzwords to their advantage.

Boards often seem to forget that the Indian economy has been on a growth path for many years. Policy consistency and regulatory stability have played roles in this. These have been the wind beneath corporate wings for business growth. As companies ride the wave of Indian prosperity, they must recognize the indispensable role of capable leaders in steering them towards success.

93. Which of the following is one of the reasons why corporate executives adopt 'buzzwords' in their lexicon?

- (a) To be perceived as part of the mainstream corporate establishment and to be aligned with the wider industry
- (b) Signalling their desire to remain at the cutting edge of new ideas
- (c) A desire to pivot their business operations in step with the specific 'buzzword'
- (d) An appeal to the customer, to remain engaged with their business as try to keep up with a changing environment

94. Which of the following would the author agree with?

I Firms should focus on substantive issues of the future of businesses like climate change and sustainability, while acknowledging the potential of AI

II The stability of the policy apparatus is one of the unseen reasons behind corporate growth

III Adopting AI reflects the nimble nature of firms by adapting to changing technology

- (a) I and III
- (b) II and III
- (c) I and II
- (d) None of the above

95. What is a consequence of adopting a superficial blueprint related to Artificial Intelligence?

- (a) Tenure of CEOs and CXOs is decreasing while their pay is increasing
- (b) Clarity in the organisations regarding AI strategy
- (c) Lack of understanding of the firm's AI strategy among its customers
- (d) Steadfast dedication among the firm's executive to embed within the firm's operations

96. What describes the role of the passage?

- (a) The passage criticises the fixation of executives with buzzword, overlooking the real problems of corporate governance, climate change and overall diversity
- (b) The recent attention given to AI ignoring the myriad ways in which AI is already present in our lives
- (c) To advocate for the compensation of CEOs to be decreased
- (d) Both (a) and (b)

Passage IV

Election time prohibitory orders are seldom questioned, even if they amount to blanket restrictions that curb all gatherings. The clamping of prohibitory orders to prevent unauthorised meetings and processions in the run-up to the ongoing general election has been challenged in the Supreme Court of India by activists Aruna Roy and Nikhil Dey. While it is quite normal for political parties to approach the police or the executive magistrate concerned for permission to hold rallies, public meetings and road shows, it appears that civil society organisations and groups find that their applications are met with no response at all. Citing examples of such blanket orders, issued under Section 144 of the CrPC, from Rajasthan, Gujarat and Delhi, the petitioners have highlighted the fact that the practice appears to prevail in other States too. It is not difficult to guess that the police and revenue officers vested with magisterial powers do not want any disturbance to public order in the midst of election campaigns, but a legitimate question arises whether the passing of blanket prohibitory orders and studied inaction on applications for any gathering are constitutionally valid. In the petitioners' case, they were unable to hold any public programmes aimed at creating awareness among voters about the election, the candidates and the

disclosures they have made in their affidavits and nomination papers.

There are several Court judgments that limit the power under Section 144, which is essentially a power to direct anyone to act or refrain from acting in a particular way. Orders under these provisions typically restrict any assembly of people beyond a small number and require those seeking to hold any public activity to apply for permission. It is difficult to disagree with the argument that such restrictions ought not to apply to activities aimed at educating voters, as the ultimate consequence is that it limits public participation in the democratic process. The Bench that heard the submissions rightly raised the question how such blanket orders could be passed. Its interim order directs executive magistrates to decide applications for public meetings and yatras within three days. The case raises a legitimate concern whether an election, by itself, can provide sufficient reason for blanket restrictions on public participation and make it dependent on discretionary powers. It is true that the authorities can cite the fact that they are effectively under the superintendence and control of the Election Commission of India (ECI) during elections, but it also gives rise to yet another question whether the election body favours such a clampdown and whether statutory powers can be shifted from the designated authority to the ECI.

97. What is an assumption of the author in the passage?

- (a) Voter awareness is a valid enough reason for a public rally to be allowed
- (b) The Indian electorate is not aware enough, necessitating awareness rallies
- (c) Election Commission of India is deliberately withholding permission for rallies to be conducted, inviting allegations of bias
- (d) Both (a) and (b)

98. What is an excuse which can be cited by the district authorities to redirect accountability of not giving permission to rallies?

- (a) Political leaders are pressuring them to not grant permission as an informed public will hurt their electing chances
- (b) Security considerations are a factor because of which they have to refuse permission
- (c) Their hands are tied because a Court judgement according to which permission can be granted in very few cases
- (d) Final authority rests with the ECI to make a decision

99. What weakens the author's argument?

- (a) District magistrates are appointed by a committee involving the Leader of Opposition as well as the Prime Minister, so there's no question of bias on their part
- (b) There have been numerous incidents involving civil society groups inciting violence in public rallies and meetings
- (c) Large rallies hinder the freedom of movement of the normal public, necessitating measures to curb them
- (d) The Indian electorate is literate enough, and so they don't need voter awareness rallies

100. What is a course of action which the author would approve of?

- (a) A Supreme Court judgement which clearly lays out the criteria about when to give permission to rallies
- (b) ECI to be held accountable for the lack of approval given to civil society groups to hold rallies
- (c) Reasonable exercise of judgement before adjudicating upon an application to hold public rallies

- (d) Blanket approval to all civil society groups to organise large public rallies

Passage V

US Aid package for Ukraine, Israel, Taiwan, Joe Biden The large section of the Republicans who voted against the assistance to Ukraine could demand the Speaker's resignation.

Bipartisan support for a military assistance package worth \$94 billion was approved in Washington last week. The assistance to Ukraine, Israel, and Taiwan marks a major political victory for US President Joe Biden — he called Wednesday a “good day for world peace” as he signed the Bill into law. For months, Biden struggled to get the Republicans, who have a thin majority in the House of Representatives, to support military aid to Ukraine amid Kyiv's growing desperation to stabilise the front against Russia. The Republicans had no issue with aiding Israel and Taiwan, but a large section of them was dead set against greater support for Ukraine. Sections of the extreme right backed by Trump would not allow the Speaker of the House to bring the issue to vote. By persuading the Speaker, Mike Johnson, to recognise the gravity of the situation in Ukraine, the White House overcame that obstacle. Former President Donald Trump, distracted by his troubles in court, did not challenge the Administration on this issue and made it easy for Biden. But the divide within the Republican Party over Ukraine and Russian questions will continue.

The large section of the Republicans who voted against the assistance to Ukraine could demand the Speaker's resignation. The battle over Ukraine reflects a deep divide over foreign policy issues in America. The US students protesting against US policy on Israel and the rapidly diminished popular empathy for Israel in its war against Gaza is another element of the breakdown. But the political class has closed ranks around the question of China and there is strong support for containing Beijing's designs in the Indo-Pacific. This is reflected not only in the aid package for Taiwan but also in the formal decision to ban the Chinese social media app, TikTok — the app's immense popularity among young voters prevented the move so far. However, TikTok is all set to go to court to challenge the decision.

All this reveals the fragmented authority in the US — by constitutional design to limit the power of any branch of the state — and the difficulties it presents in building policy consensus on any issue. The political leadership has to constantly work hard to forge that consensus. It is also a useful reminder for the Indian elite, whose stakes in the engagement with the US have become very large, to pay attention to the complexity of US domestic politics and avoid jumping to hasty conclusions on the basis of the daily wrangling that goes on in Washington.

101. What would have been a likely consequence, if Democrats had the majority in the house?

- (a) The aid to Ukraine would have been passed earlier
- (b) The aid to Israel would have been hard to pass, because a large section of the Democratic voter base is protesting against it
- (c) There would have been no change in the scheduling of the passing of aid
- (d) None of the above

102. What could have been a theme of the next paragraph?

- (a) Advocating for the Indian government to be prepared for a Trump presidency
- (b) Listing instances where the Indian state has wrongly interpreted a policy stance from the numerous conflicts between the two parties, because of which the author sounded a warning to be cautious of this mistake in the preceding paragraph
- (c) A history of the conflicts between the Democrats and Republicans over aid to Ukraine
- (d) Explaining how refusing aid to Ukraine and conceding space to Russia is a stance which is antithetical to the ethos of Republican Party of yesteryear

103. What is the author's opinion of the American political structure?

- (a) The author has a neutral stance on the American political system, acknowledging the reason behind its design while also laying out how that is an impediment to consensus formation
- (b) The author has a negative opinion of the American political system, as he details how a lack of consensus makes it difficult for foreign countries like India to appropriately formulate a policy
- (c) The author has a positive opinion of the American political system, saying how this system leads to a fragmented nature of authority enabling no one branch to dominate decision making
- (d) The author gives no value judgement on their political system

104. What can be described as the role of the passage?

- (a) Describing the various pulls and pressures acting on the Democratic and the Republican parties, from Trump to anti-Israel protests
- (b) Describing recent events in America related to the passing of aid to various third countries, and criticising India for its past foreign policy mistakes with respect to India
- (c) Describing recent events in America related to the passing of aid to various third countries, and ultimately what foreign policy lesson India has to take away from this
- (d) To criticise the Republican Party for its various shenanigans to scuttle aid to Ukraine

Passage VI

President Joseph Biden's comments, made off the cuff at the White House this week, that his administration is "considering" a request by Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese to drop charges against WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, has sent a ripple of hope for his family and supporters. Mr. Assange, an Australian citizen, is in the U.K.'s Belmarsh Prison, and is awaiting a British court decision on whether he can appeal a 2022 extradition order that would send him to the U.S. to face serious charges for the publication of U.S. government and diplomatic cables in 2010. The court's order is due on May 20, and it has asked the U.S. for assurances that he will not face the death penalty. However, Mr. Albanese's appeal to Mr. Biden may make that decision redundant. Mr. Assange, 52, has been punished quite a lot already, while seeking asylum and under arrest, and, according to his family, is too ill and anxious about being extradited. Mr. Assange has faced a Swedish warrant for rape and assault, charges he denied, and the case was dropped. In the U.S. he faces 18 charges that could total 175 years in prison. The charges, 17 of which are under the U.S.'s century-old Espionage Act, pertain to the publication by WikiLeaks of thousands of classified U.S. documents related to the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, many of which showed the U.S. army's methods in a bad light, and revealed U.S. government strategy.

To be sure, Mr. Assange's decision to publish the trove of documents without check, and the revelation of names of specific U.S. officials, employees, soldiers and civilians, put many lives at risk. Governments are entitled to have their national security secrets, and confidentiality is respected for a reason. It is also true that, in several instances, WikiLeaks did partner with media organisations to do the scrutiny required when confronted with secret documents, to ensure that only those in public interest were revealed. But there was also some element of "data dumping" bypassing any careful journalistic effort that may have earned it more protections. However, it is hard for the U.S. to explain why it has thrown the book at Mr. Assange as the publisher, but not his source, U.S. Army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning. The Biden administration has made the protection of democracy worldwide a policy priority, and to continue to prosecute a transparency activist, while castigating governments worldwide for hounding whistle-blowers, free speech activists and public accountability NGOs, seems contradictory. More than ever, the U.S. can show by example, in the Assange case, that it believes in democratic freedoms, and not in "shooting the messenger" for shining a spotlight on the way its government works.

105. What can be inferred from the author's arguments?

- (a) To set an example, America should repeal the Espionage Act
- (b) Chelsea Manning being the source of the documents faces a greater share of culpability which is equal or greater than Julian Assange's
- (c) The Australian PM is a personal advocate of Julian Assange
- (d) Having faced charges of assault, Assange shouldn't be freed from the prison in UK

106. What is an assumption of the author in the passage?

- (a) Assange has gone through a lot of ordeals, and so shouldn't be punished
- (b) Anyone guilty of leaking government secrets should be held accountable
- (c) A country's policy stance and its action should have some semblance of alignment
- (d) Assange has done a public service by exposing the misdeeds of America, and so shouldn't be prosecuted

107. Which of the following would the author agree with?

- (a) Chelsea Manning and Julian Assange should have been prosecuted together
- (b) There should no blanket reprisal to whistleblowers and activists
- (c) The American government is correct in pursuing Julian Assange and extraditing him to face trial
- (d) None of the above

108. What is a possible weakness in the author's argument?

- (a) The author is overly sympathetic of Assange, and fails to see that he has a history of misconduct, as exemplified by his charges in Sweden
- (b) America lost the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan
- (c) The author in advocating for the charges against Assange to be dropped fails to acknowledge the harm he has done by releasing that information
- (d) The author on the one hands says that states have a right to protect their national secrets, while on the other hands says that the America government pursuing Julian Assange who leaked national security secrets is akin to 'shooting the messenger'

Quantitative Aptitude**Passage I**

In a survey about the distribution of smartphones across five different countries, data was collected on the ratio of smartphones operating on Android, iOS, and other operating systems. The total number of smartphones for which data was collected was 10,000. Country 1 had 10% of the total smartphones in the ratio of 3:6:1 (Android, iOS, and others); Country 2 had 20% of the total smartphones in the ratio of 5:3:2 (Android, iOS, and others); Country 3 had 30% of the total smartphones in the ratio of 4:5:1 (Android, iOS, and others); Country 4 had 25% of the total smartphones in the ratio of 7:2:1 (Android, iOS, and others), and; Country 5 had 15% of the total smartphones in the ratio of 6:3:1 (Android, iOS, and others).

109. What is the total number of Android smartphones across all the countries?

- (a) 4500
- (b) 4800
- (c) 5150
- (d) 5300

110. What is the ratio of iOS smartphones in Country 4 to Android smartphones in Country 2?

- (a) 1:2
- (b) 5:2
- (c) 3:5
- (d) 5:3

111. If 5% of the smartphones in Country 1 switch from other operating systems to Android, what will be the new ratio of Android, iOS, and other smartphones in Country 1?

- (a) 3.2:6:0.8
- (b) 3.5:6:0.5
- (c) 4:6:0
- (d) 3.8:6:0.2

112. What is the difference between the number of iOS smartphones in Country 3 and Android smartphones in Country 5?

- (a) 300
- (b) 450
- (c) 500
- (d) 600

113. What is the average number of smartphones operating on other operating systems across all the countries?

- (a) 200
- (b) 150
- (c) 250
- (d) 300

114. If 30% of the iOS smartphones in Country 2 are upgraded to the latest version, what is the number of iOS smartphones still running on the older version?

- (a) 420
- (b) 450
- (c) 480
- (d) 510

Passage II

A survey was conducted in a city with a total population of 500,000. The survey collected data on the distribution of people employed in three sectors: healthcare, education, and technology. The healthcare sector employed 30% of the total population, with 60% of these employees working in urban areas and 40% in rural areas. The education sector employed 40% of the population, with a 50-50 split between urban and rural areas. The technology sector employed the remaining 30% of the population, with 70% of these employees working in urban areas and 30% in rural areas. The urban population made up 59% of the city's total population.

115. If the urban population of the city increased from 59% to 65% and the percentage of people employed in the Education and Technology sector in the urban region remains the same, then the number of healthcare workers in urban areas is:

- (a) 1,10,500
- (b) 1,20,000
- (c) 1,00,000
- (d) 1,63,000

116. What is the total number of education sector employees in the city?

- (a) 180000
- (b) 190000
- (c) 200000
- (d) 210000

117. What is the percentage of technology sector employees in rural areas corresponding to the number of healthcare workers in urban areas?

- (a) 70%
- (b) 50%
- (c) 30%
- (d) 45%

118. If 55% of the total population of the city were employed in the education sector in rural areas and 45% of the total population were employed in the education sector in urban areas, then what is the ratio of rural education sector employees to urban education sector employees?

- (a) 11:9
- (b) 5:4
- (c) 2:3
- (d) 4:9

119. By what percentage the number of technology sector workers in urban areas is more than the number of technology sector workers in rural areas?

- (a) 80 %
- (b) 122.2 %
- (c) 133.3 %
- (d) 150 %

120. What is the ratio of urban and rural population?

- (a) 41:59
- (b) 59:41
- (c) 60:40
- (d) 40:60