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VMTC-2525

Duration: 120 Minutes

Maximum Marks: 120

 1st June 2024

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

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

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

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

Right Method

Wrong Methods


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

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

Section A – English**PASSAGE -I**

Social robots are new tools in the care of older adults. Some provide health-related services such as medication reminders, but most try to make up for the absence of human and animal companionship. These robots have artificial intelligence that is designed to interact with and provide comfort to the user.

For example, ElliQ is a small table-mounted device that interacts with a screen to enable “family members to easily check in.” It also interacts with the user, suggesting activities, responding to their voice or touch or look. ElliQ is always on, collecting data on the user that is transmitted to the manufacturer. Jennie is a robot dog controlled by voice commands and through a smartphone app. Robot pets, like other social robots, are designed to respond to the user’s emotions and, to do so, it engages in constant surveillance.

The responsiveness of social robots and robot pets relies on sensors to detect emotional responses, record emotions and forward this information to be analysed by algorithms that inform the robot’s response. The results of the data analysis prompt the robot to smile or purr or snuggle. In the case where a health response is required, some robots can inform the caregiver of elevated blood pressure.

Every step of this data process involves personal and sensitive information about an individual. For example, user identification data might be leaked at the sensing layer or in the cloud where the data is analysed to determine the right response. User profiles contain not only identifying information such as name and address, but also data gathered on user moods, behaviours and habits.

Between the potential for data exploitation and “the ubiquitous use of cameras and voice monitoring equipment in a home environment, there are privacy concerns that can affect human mental health.” Older adults are not always aware of the extent of the monitoring, which can lead to feelings of shame and humiliation if, for example, a person is caught on camera singing, dancing, engaging in sexual acts or crying. It is not that older adults don’t realise that there is monitoring equipment, it is the 24×7 always-on aspects that may be unfamiliar to them. While enabling older adults to live with less human or animal contact, these monitoring systems and robots can increase their exposure and vulnerability. After all, patting a robot dog is not the same as cuddling with a beloved pet. The increasing number of surveillance based options for providing care and companionship to older adults also ignores the reality that there are often other older adults who want to contribute meaningfully to their community.

[Extracted (with edits and revisions) an excerpt on “Robot pets” published at ‘<https://scroll.in/>’]

1. Which of the following is the primary purpose of the passage?

- (a) Robot pets have become tools of elderly care but they raise crucial privacy concerns.
- (b) Social robots collect personal information to create user profiles and generate the right response.
- (c) Using robots to take care of the elderly is a good use of technology.
- (d) To show the usefulness of social robots in taking care of the elderly.

2. Which of the following can be true as per the passage EXCEPT?

- (a) Jennie is a robot dog controlled through a smartphone app.
- (b) Older adults are not always aware of the extent of the monitoring.
- (c) Robot pets are designed to respond to the user’s emotions.
- (d) None of the above

3. Which of the following is implied by the passage?

- (a) If information about the person’s whereabouts is leaked it could also jeopardise the security of the individual.
- (b) Thefts in houses of the elderly are on the rise because of social robots.
- (c) Sensitive information about a person’s habits can be misused and can pose a risk to the elderly.
- (d) None of the above.

4. Suggest a suitable title for the above passage.

- (a) Technology and Us
- (b) Risks of artificial intelligence
- (c) Social Robots: Boon or Bane
- (d) Are the elderly safe?

5. Which of the following is similar in meaning to the word ‘ubiquitous’?

- (a) Unidirectional
- (b) Omnipresent
- (c) Doubtful
- (d) Rare

PASSAGE -II

It has been 20 years since a mother has been filing applications and petitions in different courts to ensure smooth and speedy trial against police officers who allegedly killed her son Khwaja Yunus in police custody on January 6, 2003. Asiya Begum, 74, has filed her latest application before the Bombay High Court challenging an order passed by the trial court on September 7, 2022, allowing the withdrawal of an application by the fourth Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) in the case, Pradeep Gharat. Mr. Gharat on August 4, 2022, had withdrawn the application filed by the previous SPP Dhiraj Mirajkar under Section 319 (power to proceed against other persons appearing to be guilty of offence) of the CrPC. 'Beaten to death' The third SPP, Mr. Mirajkar had filed an application under Section 319 of CrPC to add retired Assistant Commissioner of Police Praful Bhosale and senior inspectors Rajaram Vhanmane, Ashok Khot, and Hemant Desai as accused in the on going trial. This application was made after the eyewitness, Dr. Abdul Ma teen, had deposed in court on January 17, 2018, that he saw these four police officers beat Yunus in police custody. As soon as Mr. Mirajkar filed the application, he was removed from the case. He said in an email, "I got a call from someone in mantralaya who inquired about who had instructed me to file the application. I replied that no instructions were received from anyone, nor any instructions were needed in view of the clear provision of law. Shortly, I got a call to meet the Additional Chief Secretary (Home Department) at mantralaya who wanted to discuss the issue with me and that I would be free in 10 minutes. After I waited for two hours, I went to meet the Principal Secretary, who said there was no need to have called me there. Then, on the day of the trial, the Chief Public Prosecutor appeared and informed the court that I had been removed." The recent revision application, filed by Ms. Asiya in December 2022, urged the HC for a direction to reject the application filed by Mr. Gharat. The trial is currently being held against former Assistant Police Inspector Sachin Vaze and three policemen — Rajendra Tiwari, Rajaram Nikam and Sunil Desai — as accused. They are charged with conspiracy, destruction of evidence and murder. Sayed Khwaja Yunus ayed Ayub, or Khwaja Yunus, was a software engineer working in Dubai. The 27 year old was visiting his family in India in December 2002. He was holidaying at his hometown in Parbhani when a bomb ripped through a BEST bus in Ghatkopar killing two and injuring over 50 people. He was picked up by the Ghatkopar police and was remanded to police custody in January 2003. In their statements, witnesses said Yunus vomited blood for three days and then died in custody on January 6, 2003. The police have maintained that he ran away when he was being taken from Mumbai to Aurangabad in a jeep. Among the 10 petitions filed by Ms Asiya, one of them sought compensation after her son's body was not given to her even after seven years of his death. Advocate Chetan Mali, appearing for Ms. Asiya, said, "Look at the state of the victim."

6. What is the central idea of the passage?

- (a) The problems with the judgments of our judiciary system.
- (b) The struggle of a mother to bring the accused to the books even after 20 years of her son's death.
- (c) The people are bound to take the wrong ways to achieve something in the judiciary.
- (d) There are too many hurdles on the way of attaining justice for a crime as old as 20 years.

7. What can be deduced from the email written by Mr. Mirajkar on the application of the case?

- (a) The promptness of the Mantralaya for their quick actions against the case.
- (b) The loopholes in the working classes of the Mantralaya for the Khwaja Yusuf murder case.
- (c) The attempts of Mantralaya to keep Mr. Mirajkar away from the Khwaja Yusuf murder case.
- (d) None of the above.

8. Which of the following statements accurately reflects the recent revision application filed by Ms. Asiya?

- (a) Ms. Asiya has filed an application in front of Bombay High Court to challenge the order of withdrawal of the application filed by Mr. Gharat.
- (b) Ms. Asiya has been trying to challenge the application filed by Mr. Gharat.
- (c) Ms. Asiya has filed an application to withdraw the application of Mr. Gharat.
- (d) Ms. Asiya is helpless as the application filed by Mr. Gharat has been passed in front of the Bombay High Court.

9. According to the passage, what are the charges imposed on the accused in the murder case of Khwaja Yusuf?

- (a) Section 319 CrPC
- (b) Beaten to death
- (c) Conspiracy, destruction of evidence and murder
- (d) Physical assault and murder

10. The writing style of the passage can be described as-

- (a) Objective
- (b) Narrative
- (c) Analytical
- (d) Descriptive

PASSAGE -III

The just-concluded election in neighbouring Bangladesh, notable for yet another boycott by the Opposition, saw the Awami League emerging victorious and Sheikh Hasina securing a landmark fourth term as the Prime Minister. The poll, however, remains embroiled in controversy over allegations of lack in fairness levelled by the Khaleda Zia-led main Opposition, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). The election was held against the backdrop of violence during the campaign. Though the Awami League secured 222 of the 300 seats, it is interesting to note that no party came second; the 'independents' --- Awami League's own candidates who were allowed to contest the poll to give it the semblance of a "competition" --- finished as runners-up. While 63 such 'independents' made it to the House, the third largest party in the country, the Jatiya Party, could win just 11 seats. It will be interesting to see who is anointed the official Opposition in Parliament. The fate of the poll was decided the day the BNP, the arch-rival of the Awami league, announced its decision to boycott the election.

In her win, Hasina has defeated not only the Opposition but also democracy. However, it goes to her credit that Bangladesh has emerged as a strong economy and the abject poverty it once had has been considerably reduced. However, her Government has faced criticism for alleged human rights abuses and its crackdown on the Opposition. Hasina's career has been characterised by a mix of economic development initiatives and political dominance, and the Awami League has been in power since 2009. A robust democratic system relies on a healthy Opposition to ensure checks and balances. The absence of a formidable Opposition can potentially impact the democratic fabric of Bangladesh, leading to concerns about the concentration of power in the hands of one political party.

Hasina's supporters argue that her leadership has been pivotal in driving economic growth and social progress, justifying the measures taken to secure her victory. International observers and human rights organisations have, however, raised concerns about the fairness of the electoral proceedings. The Government's control over key institutions and the media has also been criticised for limiting the space for dissent. Back home, the victory of Hasina is good news as she is a known supporter of India and enjoys good rapport with the Indian Prime Minister. Bangladesh holds strategic importance for India due to shared historical, cultural and economic ties. The bilateral relationship has seen positive developments in recent years in areas such as trade, security and connectivity. Hasina's continued leadership is likely to maintain stability and foster cooperative endeavours between India and Bangladesh. For its part, convince her to allow space to the Opposition and let the democratic institution independently. It would be good for her and Bangladesh in the long run.

11. What are the views of the author on the victory of Hasina as the Prime Minister of Bangladesh?

- (a) The author criticized Hasina's last reign as PM to be a massive fail.
- (b) The author supports Hasina acknowledging her consecutive victories in elections.
- (c) The author expresses ambivalence about Hasina's victory, recognizing her positive impact but emphasizing the need to work on democracy.
- (d) The author suggests Hasina to maintain fairness in the country as Bangladesh is a democratic country.

12. According to the passage, how has Hasina's career been characterized as the Prime Minister of Bangladesh?

- (a) Hasina has been winning the elections majorly on the basis of political dominance over the oppositions.
- (b) Hasina's career has been characterized as a blend of political dominance and economic development initiatives.
- (c) Hasina's career has been characterized as the epitome of the democratic system having a strong opposition.
- (d) Hasina's career has been characterized as the sole power to control a nation in the best way.

13. Which of the following statements is true about Hasina's career as a PM?

- (a) Hasina has gained popularity due to her strong democratic initiatives.
- (b) Hasina became the Prime Minister of Bangladesh solely on the basis of the social progress.
- (c) Hasina has worked as a great leader in terms of economic development of the country.
- (d) Hasina has respected a healthy opposition to ensure checks and balances.

14. Based on the passage, what can be inferred from the ties between India and Bangladesh?

- (a) Bangladesh is planning to expand its ties to the other neighboring countries as well.
- (b) Bangladesh is independently doing fairly well in terms of economy and security.
- (c) Bangladesh is inviting the danger of other neighboring countries due to its ties with India.
- (d) Bangladesh is doing well in the economic development partially because of the strategic ties with India.

15. Which of the following statements are the criticism faced by the government of Bangladesh except?

- (a) The government is being speculated of indulging in the unfair electoral proceedings.
- (b) The Bangladesh government is controlling the media institutions of the country.
- (c) The government has been critical in driving the economy of the country.
- (d) The Bangladesh government has violated human rights abuses and its suppression over the opposition.

PASSAGE -IV

The reason my father's eyebrows were singed that morning, he told me, was because he and a friend had rescued a man from a burning building the night before. He had said it so calmly it took me a moment to hear it. He had saved a man's life. What did this mean for me? Suddenly, my empty breakfast bowl became filled with wonder. The day unravelled before me like a sacred scroll. All who saw me would become blinded by my second-hand glory. I wondered if the lucky ones might even touch the hem of my hand-me-down garment and be healed...My father had saved a man's life. Sunlight crowned his head with gold as Dad recounted the night's events in measured tones: The man had been drinking. He had fallen asleep with a lit cigarette. He had kept trying to go back inside to find his dog... There must have been fire trucks. And ambulances. Sirens, probably. I couldn't believe I slept through it all; couldn't believe they let me sleep through it! I couldn't believe my dad had done that. And he was still eating Weeties like he always did, just with shorter eyebrows.

Today, on the way home from work, I stopped at Jack's place. Sitting on the footpath as the fire trucks arrived, he told me he had been partway through *The Lion King* when my father saved his father's life. I was pretty sure the setting sun was crowning my head with gold, but I don't think he noticed. It was Jack's family who lived in the building across from the units. They'd had trouble from day one, both inside and outside the house. His stepdad threw Jack's mum around a lot and kept her on the usual leash. When Jack visited our house one Christmas afternoon, his head was bleeding from being thrown up against the aquarium by that man. His mother had gone without food to pay for presents. So, we invited Jack to mow our lawns. I'd suggested a ten dollar payment, but he'd shook his head. Too much. He insisted on being paid five dollars front and back, since he was convinced we needed the money. Ten years old, he used to ride past our house once a week to check if the lawns need mowing. He was always happy to get the mower out of the shed, start it up himself and get into it.

16. The lines: "Suddenly, my empty breakfast bowl became filled with wonder. The day unravelled before me like a sacred scroll...." suggest that the narrator was –

- (a) amazed at the events that happened a day ago.
- (b) euphoric at the idea of being the surrogate hero for his dad's heroics.
- (c) in awe of his dad's nonchalant fortitude.
- (d) mesmerised by the singed eyebrow which signified his dad's courage.

17. After hearing of his dad's heroics, what was the expectation of the author from the ensuing day?

- (a) He would revel in his glory and be feted as a hero by everyone.
- (b) He would be felicitated by others for being a member of the family of the town hero.
- (c) He will go around the town, meeting as many people as possible, enjoying their appreciation.
- (d) He would bask in the reflected glory of his father and be an object of wonder for all those who meet him.

18. As per the passage, which of the following is a reason for the fire?

- (a) The man fell asleep and the dog did something which set the house alight.
- (b) The man fell asleep with a lit cigarette, which probably fell off and set the nearby items on fire.
- (c) The faulty electrical wirings which led to a short circuit in the decrepit house.
- (d) None of the above.

19. "The day unravelled before me like a sacred scroll" is an example of which of the following?

- (a) Personification (b) Simile (c) Metaphor (d) Antithesis.

20. The expression 'Too much' used in relation to the payment refers to which of the following?

- (a) A negotiation. (b) A consensual transaction.
- (c) A fair deal. (d) A splurging of money.

PASSAGE -V

At this juncture it is perhaps useful to point out that ecologism is different from other ideologies in several ways, besides its comparative youth. First, though, a caveat. In practice there is often a marked gap between the policies of parties which profess a particular ideology and the principles of the ideology itself. Differences arise from the exigencies of functioning as a political party in a given constitutional, social and cultural context, such as the simple need to win as many votes as possible. As we shall see later, that certainly applies to Green parties in Britain and continental Europe. Moreover, greens themselves tend to confuse issues by implying that they are somehow beyond ideology: for instance, 'neither right nor left but forward' is the slogan of the German Green Party. This is true in the sense that, unlike other ideologies, ecologism puts the animate and inanimate world centre stage, rather than regarding it simply as a resource for human exploitation. Indeed, some thinkers have attempted to construct complete ethical systems in which humankind is *not* the central concern. Instead, 'Life' itself is.

One can pursue this theme further. Green political allegiance tends to impose certain lifestyle obligations, ranging from utilising bottle banks for recycling to vegetarianism. Ecologism can thus resemble a *religious*, rather than *political* creed. There is nothing new in that. All political movements have strong elements of faith and ‘pseudo-religious’ beliefs in them.

Both the British and the German Green parties have been racked by conflict between ‘dark’ (or ‘deep’) ‘greens’, who favour the most radical approach, and ‘light’ (or ‘shallow’) ‘greens’ who are much more moderate, pragmatic and, above all, prepared to operate within the existing systems. Dark greens believe that humans should interfere in nature as little as possible, that all species – and not just humans – have moral value (and, potentially, moral *values*). Most dark greens would encourage direct action against polluters and environmental destroyers, and support a move away from the consumerist, industrialist values of modern society. Light greens think that change must come from within the present system, through regulations, tax changes and slower, more sensitive economic growth.

Underlying these differences is a question of fundamental importance: for whom or what is the environment being preserved? The obvious answer is ‘for humankind’; we cannot live on ‘spaceship earth’ without taking into account the well-being of all non-human passengers. The dark green answer, however, is ‘*not* for the benefit of humans, but for the benefit of *all* creatures’. If one takes this stance man is dethroned from his position at the centre of all things and drastically new ethical structures must be generated.

Like all ideologies, ecologism incorporates a view of human nature. Unusually, though, *human* nature is firmly situated in the context of nature in general. Other ideologies, notably liberalism, tend to present the natural world as simply a backdrop for human activities or, as in Marxism, a resource to be exploited for the fulfilment of human aspirations, aspirations assumed to be unlimited. For ecologists, human beings are merely part of a much wider natural order. This order is characterised by interdependence: the well-being of one living species depending on that of others and, in turn, contributing to the well-being of the whole biosphere.

21. What is the main focus of ecologism as discussed in the passage?

- (a) Ecologism primarily concerns human exploitation of natural resources.
- (b) The passage discusses the religious aspects of ecologism.
- (c) The main idea of ecologism is to preserve the environment for the benefit of all creatures, not just humans.
- (d) The passage emphasizes the differences between dark and light greens in ecologism.

22. Based on the passage, what is a key characteristic that distinguishes ecologism from other ideologies?

- (a) Ecologism prioritizes the animate and inanimate world as a resource for human exploitation.
- (b) Ecologism considers life itself as the central concern, beyond human-centric ideologies.
- (c) Ecologism is solely focused on winning votes in a given constitutional context.
- (d) Ecologism aligns with both left and right political ideologies without a clear stance.

23. What is the primary difference between “dark” greens and “light” greens in ecologism?

- (a) Dark greens prefer radical approaches, while light greens prefer moderate solutions.
- (b) Dark greens prioritize human-centric ethical structures, while light greens prioritize nature.
- (c) Both dark and light greens support economic growth and industrial values.
- (d) Dark greens encourage direct action against environmental issues, while light greens favor slower economic growth.

24. Which of the following is not true based on the passage?

- (a) Ecologism places the animate and inanimate world at the center stage.
- (b) Green political allegiance imposes certain lifestyle obligations.
- (c) The German-Green party advocates a right-wing political stance.
- (d) Dark greens favor a radical approach, while light greens are more moderate and pragmatic.

Section B-Current Affairs with GK

PASSAGE -VI

The administration in Leh took a significant step by rescinding the restrictions imposed under Section 144 regarding public gatherings. This decision came shortly after notable climate activist Sonam Wangchuk and the Leh Apex Body (LAB) decided to call off their planned border march, which aimed to draw attention to the encroachment of pastures by China. The District Magistrate of Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve, issued an order stating that the restrictions were lifted based on information from the Senior Superintendent of Police, indicating no immediate threat to public peace and order. The events leading up to this decision involved a notable security crackdown on Sonam Wangchuk and LAB activists in anticipation of the border march scheduled for April 7. Despite the cancellation of the march, Sonam Wangchuk expressed satisfaction with the outcome, emphasizing

that their objective surpassed mere physical demonstration. He criticized what he perceived as an excessive reaction and eagerness on the part of the government to conceal certain truths. He also praised the capabilities of the Indian Army in handling border intrusions along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), urging politicians to allow the military to perform its duties effectively. Sonam Wangchuk's recent 21-day protest fast further underscored the depth of his commitment to these issues.

- 25.** Which constitutional provision is Sonam Wangchuk advocating for Ladakh's protection and autonomy?
 (a) Article 370 (b) Article 35A (c) Fifth Schedule (d) Sixth Schedule
- 26.** Which Article of the Indian Constitution provides for the formation of Autonomous District Councils (ADCs)?
 (a) Article 244 (b) Article 370 (c) Article 356 (d) Article 32
- 27.** The Pashmina border march, cancelled by Sonam Wangchuk and LAB, was intended to draw attention to the challenges faced by which nomadic groups?
 (a) Changpa nomadic tribes (b) Bedouin nomadic tribes
 (c) Berber nomadic tribes (d) Tuareg nomadic tribes
- 28.** Which states are currently governed by the specific Schedule's special provisions, for which Ladakh is seeking inclusion?
 (a) Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh (b) Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram
 (c) Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh (d) Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram
- 29.** At what time did the tribe for which Sonam Wangchuk and the Leh Apex Body (LAB) called off the Pashmina border march receive Scheduled Tribe (ST) status in India?
 (a) 1976 (b) 1989 (c) 1995 (d) 2002

PASSAGE -VII

The new President of a South American nation has opted to withdraw the country from its planned entry into the expanding Brics club of nations. In a letter addressed to the leaders of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, the President highlighted a revision of decisions made by the preceding government. The Brics countries are often viewed as a counterweight to the Western-led world order. This change in approach underscores the delicate economic and political situation of the nation as it grapples with longstanding economic challenges. These challenges include soaring inflation rates, with prices rising approximately 150% in the past year. Moreover, the nation faces significant hurdles such as low cash reserves, high government debt, and a substantial portion of its population living below the poverty line. The new administration has already implemented measures such as a substantial devaluation of the national currency, signalling the beginning of economic shock therapy efforts.

- 30.** Which country, led by President Javier Milei, recently decided not to join the BRICS bloc of developing economies, despite being scheduled to join?
 (a) Brazil (b) Argentina (c) Colombia (d) Chile
- 31.** What percentage of global trade do BRICS countries represent?
 (a) 8% (b) 16% (c) 25% (d) 40%
- 32.** Which declaration extended an invitation for the country that recently decided not to join the BRICS bloc to become a full member of BRICS?
 (a) Shanghai Declaration (b) Johannesburg Declaration
 (c) Rio Declaration (d) Delhi Declaration
- 33.** Which of the following countries was NOT invited to become a full member of BRICS from January 1, 2024, according to the Declaration of 2023?
 (a) Saudi Arabia (b) Egypt (c) Ethiopia (d) Cambodia
- 34.** What is the aim of the latest expansion of BRICS membership?
 (a) To focus on the interests of developed countries (b) To shift the world agenda towards the Global South
 (c) To prioritize the voices of the Global North (d) None of the Above

PASSAGE -VIII

In a significant wildlife discovery, a leopard cat, scientifically classified as *Prionailurus bengalensis* and belonging to the Felidae family, has been sighted in Reserve for the first time, as reported by a senior forest official. This elusive species, known for its striking leopard-like coat, was captured on camera traps, marking its inaugural appearance in central India. Deputy Director Prabhu Nath Shukla confirmed this breakthrough, highlighting that the sighting occurred within a seasonal stream, marking a historic first for central India's fauna documentation. The revelation of the leopard cat's presence opens avenues for extensive research and conservation initiatives. Emphasizing the importance of such findings, the statement underscores the necessity of comprehensive studies

to understand and protect under-studied felid populations effectively. This milestone not only enriches our understanding of regional biodiversity but also underscores the vital role of meticulous distribution studies in formulating holistic conservation strategies.

35. Where was the leopard cat spotted for the first time?

- (a) Pench Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra (b) Bandhavgarh National Park, Madhya Pradesh
 (c) Kaziranga National Park, Assam (d) Ranthambore National Park, Rajasthan

36. What is the conservation status of Leopard according to the IUCN Red List?

- (a) Critically Endangered (b) Endangered (c) Vulnerable (d) Least Concern

37. Which state in India has the largest population of leopards (2022 Status)?

- (a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Maharashtra (c) Karnataka (d) Tamil Nadu

38. When is International Leopard Day celebrated every year?

- (a) March 3 (b) April 3 (c) May 3 (d) June 3

39. How many big cats range countries are part of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) coalition?

- (a) 50 (b) 75 (c) 96 (d) 120

PASSAGE -IX

The Smart Cities Mission (SCM), a prominent initiative of the previous NDA-1 government, has somewhat receded from the limelight in this year's electoral discourse and progress reports. The concept of smart cities, as articulated by urban experts, envisions modern urban centers akin to new Silicon Valleys, seamlessly integrating robust networks of airports, highways, and cutting-edge communication systems—a vision often described as an intellectual city propelled by advanced Information and Communication Technology (ICT). Under the stewardship of the NDA-1 government, there was a strategic shift towards embracing these global trends, building upon the foundations laid by the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM). However, it's worth noting that the notion of a Smart City can vary significantly from one city to another and even from country to country. This variance hinges on several factors such as the city's current developmental stage, its willingness to embrace change and reform, the availability of resources, and the aspirations of its residents. A recent parliamentary committee has underscored the imperative of initiating the next phase of the central government's Smart Cities Mission, with a specific emphasis on tier-2 cities. The Standing Committee on Housing and Urban Affairs has also sounded a note of caution, highlighting potential challenges related to the digital infrastructure established under the Smart Cities Mission. The committee raised concerns about potential misuse of this digital infrastructure and stressed the importance of safeguarding the right to privacy and fortifying digital platforms against cyber threats. One significant aspect noted by the committee is that the digital infrastructure created under the Smart Cities Mission is anticipated to generate and handle substantial volumes of data from diverse digital sources. This underscores the critical need for robust data governance mechanisms, privacy protections, and cybersecurity measures to ensure the responsible and secure utilization of digital assets in the Smart Cities ecosystem.

40. When was the Smart Cities Mission launched by the Union government?

- (a) June 2014 (b) June 2015 (c) June 2016 (d) June 2017

41. What are the components of area-based development under the Smart Cities Mission in India?

- (a) City improvement (retrofitting), city enhancement (rejuvenation), and city expansion (new development)
 (b) City renovation (remodeling), urban regeneration (redevelopment), and urban extension (expansion)
 (c) City improvement (retrofitting), city renewal (redevelopment), and city extension (greenfield development), along with a pan-city initiative
 (d) City modernization (upgrading), urban revival (regeneration), and city expansion (new construction)

42. Who heads the Apex Committee at the national level in the Smart Cities Mission?

- (a) Minister of Urban Development
 (b) Secretary of the Ministry of Urban Development
 (c) Chief Secretary of the State
 (d) District Collector

43. What percentage of Smart Cities Mission (SCM) projects align with United Nations' SDGs related to cities, clean water, clean energy, and economic growth?

- (a) 40% (b) 50% (c) 60% (d) 70%

44. According to data from November 10, 2023, which city was identified as the top-performing city within the Smart Cities Mission?

- (a) Indore (M.P.) (b) Surat (Gujarat) (c) Ahmedabad (Gujarat) (d) Varanasi (UP)

PASSAGE -X

The Blue Leaders High-Level Event on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction recently convened in [1], focusing on advocating for nations to ratify a new treaty safeguarding the high seas against pollution, climate change, and overfishing. This gathering serves as a crucial platform for spotlighting the treaty politically, fostering energy and momentum among countries for rapid ratification, effective implementation, and entry into force of the treaty. Nathalie Rey, representing the Alliance, emphasized the significance of such international meetings in driving attention and commitment towards the treaty's objectives. The goal is to establish robust mechanisms for protecting and ensuring the resilience of the ocean, vital for global sustainability and biodiversity preservation. In a draft statement, Dr. Jitendra Singh articulated the urgent need for a global agreement that guarantees the protection and resilience of the ocean. He expressed full support for expediting the ongoing BBNJ (Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction) negotiations and advocated for the swift entry into force of a comprehensive framework. This framework would address key aspects such as conservation, sustainable utilization, and equitable sharing of benefits derived from ocean resources, aligning with broader international efforts towards environmental stewardship and marine conservation.

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

- (a) Switzerland (b) Belgium (c) France (d) Netherlands

46. What is another name for the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Treaty?

- (a) Treaty of the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) (b) Rivers Conservation Treaty
(c) UNCLOS Framework Treaty (d) Treaty of the High Seas

47. The Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Treaty aims to ensure fair and equitable sharing of profits from marine genetic resources (MGR) and establish rules for conducting Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA). This aligns with the 30x30 target. Which one of the following includes the 30x30 target?

- (a) Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
(b) Paris Climate Agreement
(c) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
(d) Kyoto Protocol

48. BBNJ encompasses the high seas, beyond the exclusive economic zones or national waters of countries. How far does the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) typically extend beyond a nation's territorial sea?

- (a) 100 nautical miles (b) 200 nautical miles (c) 300 nautical miles (d) 400 nautical miles

PASSAGE -XI

World Intellectual Property Day, observed globally on [1] each year, stands as a testament to the crucial role of intellectual property (IP) in fostering innovation, creativity, and overall human advancement. This occasion serves as a platform to enhance public understanding regarding the significance of IP rights, including copyright protections, and their role in both safeguarding creators' interests and serving the broader public good. At the forefront of this effort is the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), a specialized agency under the United Nations dedicated to promoting and advancing intellectual property on a global scale. Through its initiatives and programs, WIPO endeavours to create a conducive environment for the protection and development of intellectual property across diverse sectors and industries. Central to WIPO's mission is the WIPO Convention, which provides a comprehensive framework for collaboration among member states in the realm of intellectual property law and rights protection. By fostering international cooperation and harmonization of IP standards, WIPO plays a pivotal role in ensuring equitable access to innovations and fostering an environment conducive to creativity and progress. World Intellectual Property Day serves as an annual reminder of the critical importance of intellectual property rights in driving innovation, encouraging creativity, and ultimately contributing to the betterment of society as a whole. Through awareness-raising activities and advocacy efforts, this day underscores the need for robust IP protection mechanisms to nurture a thriving global innovation ecosystem.

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

- (a) April 24 (b) April 26 (c) April 28 (d) April 30

50. Where is World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) headquartered?

- (a) New York, USA (b) Geneva, Switzerland (c) Paris, France (d) London, UK

51. When was the National Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy adopted in India?

- (a) 2010 (b) 2014 (c) 2016 (d) 2018

52. Which conventions first recognized the importance of intellectual property?

- (a) Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property (1883)
- (b) Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works (1886)
- (c) Both (a) and (b)
- (d) Only a

Section C-Legal Reasoning

PASSAGE -XII

In a dowry death case, the Supreme Court recently allowed a witness cited by prosecution to be examined by the defence, considering that he was discharged by the former without being called to depose. The prosecution has consequentially chosen to discharge the said witness and, therefore, he has not been put in the witness box to depose on behalf of the prosecution. In such view of the matter, there is no bar in the law for examining the said witness as defence witness. The law would have barred it if the witness was examined by the prosecution. ", said the Bench.

The Court relied on Rohtash Kumar v. State of Haryana, where it was held that "the prosecution is not bound to examine all the cited witnesses, and it can drop witnesses to avoid multiplicity or plurality of witnesses. The accused can also examine the cited, but not examined witnesses, if he so desires, in his defence".

Where the accused is not acquitted he shall be called upon to enter on his defence and adduce his evidence. If the accused applies for the issue of any process for compelling the attendance of any witness or the production of any document or thing, the Judge shall issue such process unless he considers, for reasons to be recorded, that such application should be refused on the ground that it is made for the purpose of vexation or delay or for defeating the ends of justice.

Section 313(1) of CrPC provides that for enabling the accused personally to explain any circumstances appearing in the evidence against him, the Court - (a) may at any stage, put such questions to him as the Court considers necessary; (b) shall, after the witnesses for the prosecution have been examined and before he is called on for his defence, question him generally on the case. Sub-section (2) and (3) of the provisions says that "No oath shall be administered to the accused when he is examined under sub-section (1). Hence, the accused shall not render himself liable to punishment by refusing to answer such questions, or by giving false answers to them."

As per section 3 (1) of Dowry Prohibition Act (DP Act), if any person, after the commencement of this Act, gives or takes or abets the giving or taking of dowry, he shall be punished. Nothing in sub-section (1) of section 3 of Dowry Prohibition Act shall apply to, or in relation to,—presents which are given at the time of a marriage to the bride or bridegroom (without any demand having been made in that behalf).

The DP Act defines dowry as any property given or agreed to be given either directly or indirectly (a) by one party to a marriage to the other party to the marriage; or (b) by the parents of either party to a marriage or by other person, to either party to the marriage or to any other person, at or before or any time after the marriage in connection with the marriage of the said parties.

Source: Extracted (with edits and revisions) from an article titled "Witness Who Was Shown in Prosecution List but Not Examined by Prosecution Can Be Summoned as Defence Witness: Supreme Court, published in the Live Law.

53. Vidhan and Vidhi were a happily married couple. They married in 2015. After 3 years of marriage, one day Vidhi consumed poisonous substance and died by suicide. Sometime after the incident, a complaint was filed by Vidhi's relatives, alleging that Vidhan and his relatives used to physically harass Vidhi over non-fulfilment of demand for dowry. Vishal, Vidhi's brother was named as a prosecution witness as he was present in the hospital where Vidhi was declared dead. He was duly examined by prosecution where he disclosed that there were no injury marks on Vidhi's body. Consequently, Vidhan filed an application in the Court to examine Vishal as defense witness. In the light of the passage, select the most appropriate option.

- (a) Vishal can be examined as the defense witness as he was present in the hospital where Vidhi was declared dead.
- (b) Vishal can be examined as the defense witness as he is a material witness, who ought to be confronted with the Inquest Report.
- (c) Vishal cannot be examined as the defense witness as his statements show that he was under the influence of Vidhan.
- (d) Vishal cannot be examined as the defense witness as he is already been examined by the prosecution.

54. In the previous question, assume that a fact is substituted. Suppose that Vishal, during his examination as the prosecution witness actually admitted to the fact that there were injury marks all over the body of the deceased. What would be the impact of substituted fact on Vidhan's application that Vishal shall be examined as a defense witness?

- (a) The substituted fact would weaken Vidhan's application as Vishal has deposed in favour of prosecution.
- (b) The substituted fact would strengthen Vidhan's application as the nature of the statement calls for deeper inquiry as he is a material witness.
- (c) The substituted fact would have no effect on Vidhan's application as he has already been examined.
- (d) The substituted fact would strengthen Vidhan's application as he is a related witness.

55. Vidhyut was charged for committing a murder. During the trial, the Court called him to explain circumstances appearing in the evidences against him and was asked some general questions about the case. The Court asked him about his whereabouts at the time when the incident took place. He disclosed that he had went to attend a friend's wedding at that time. This statement was proven to be untrue after other evidences emerged such as the video footage of Vidhyut near the place of incident. The prosecution claims that Vidhyut must be punished for making false statements in the Court. In the light of the passage, decide whether Vidhyut can be punished for making false statements in the Court?

- (a) Yes, as he has committed contempt of Court by making false statements in the Court.
- (b) Yes, as witnesses are under oath to make correct statements during examination.
- (c) No, Vidhyut cannot be punished because no oath is administered to him during his examination.
- (d) No, Vidhyut cannot be punished because he is an accused and has all the rights to defend himself even by lying in the court.

56. Vikram, the accused was called upon to enter on his defence and adduce any evidence he may have in support. He applied in court for issue of process for production of a certain evidences which he claims would absolve him from conviction. The judge after considering his application, denies the permission for the issue of process for production of such evidence. In the light of the passage, which of the following statements, if true, would bring the act of the Judge in consonance with the provisions of Cr.P.C.?

- (a) That in the oral opinion of the Judge, the application filed by Vikram was vexatious.
- (b) That in the opinion of the Judge, the application was filed to defeat the end of Justice, and such reason was recorded in writing.
- (c) That in the opinion of the Judge, allowing such application would defeat the purpose of the investigation, and such reason was recorded in writing.
- (d) That in the opinion of the Judge, the application would lead to acquittal, and such reason was recorded in writing.

57. Vidhan and Vanshika were about to get married. Vanshika belonged to a very rich family while Vidhan was a poor guy. Vanshika's father was not in favour of the marriage but ultimately gave up on daughter's demand as she loved him so much. Vidhan's father saw this as an opportunity. He told Vidhan to convince Vanshika to tell her father to gift them a house worth 1 crore. Vidhan makes such a demand through Vanshika. Vanshika's father happily fulfils her demand and gifts her a house at the time of the wedding. In the light of the passage, decide whether Vidhan can be held for violation of Dowry Prohibition Act.

- (a) No, as he has not made any direct demand for dowry and it was merely a present given to the bride at the time of wedding.
- (b) Yes, as he trapped Vanshika to fall in love with him to get his demand fulfilled.
- (c) No, as he has demanded the house only for Vanshika and her father happily fulfilled the demand without any compulsion.
- (d) Yes, as he has taken dowry from Vanshika's father.

58. Which of the following statements can be concluded from the passage?

- (i) The prosecution is bound to examine all the cited witnesses.
- (ii) The accused can examine any cited witness of the prosecution in his defence.
- (iii) Any presents which are given at the time of a marriage to the bride or bridegroom are absolutely immune from applicability of Section 3(1) of Dowry prohibition Act.
- (a) (i) and (iii) only
- (b) (ii) and (iii) only
- (c) (ii) only
- (d) None of the above.

59. Based on the passage, decide:

Assertion (A): The prosecution is not bound to examine all his cited witnesses.

Reason (R): The prosecution can drop witnesses to avoid multiplicity or plurality of witnesses.

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

PASSAGE -XIII

A Tort, stemming from the Latin term "Tortum" meaning "wrong" or "crooked," is an act or omission that results in injury or harm, and is a fundamental concept in civil law distinct from contract breaches. The remedy for torts typically involves damages or injunctions. Torts are broadly classified into three categories: negligence, intentional torts, and strict liability.

Negligence, a primary category of torts, requires the establishment of a duty of care based on the reasonable person principle. This duty, once recognized, obligates an individual to avoid acts or omissions that could foreseeably harm others. A breach of this duty occurs when the standard of care, as determined by this principle, is not met. Furthermore, establishing negligence requires proving causation – both proximate and actual – to link the breach directly to the harm caused. This connection is vital for a successful negligence claim.

Intentional torts, unlike negligence, involve deliberate actions that cause harm. These torts encompass a range of wrongful acts such as assault, battery, defamation, and others, many of which can also be classified as criminal offenses. The defining characteristic of intentional torts is the purposeful nature of the act that leads to the injury or damage of another.

Strict liability, the third category, differs significantly from negligence and intentional torts. It imposes liability without fault in cases where activities are inherently dangerous or involve abnormally dangerous conditions. Strict liability is applied regardless of the degree of care exercised, focusing instead on the nature of the activity itself.

General defences in tort law, offer defendants opportunities to absolve themselves of liability. These defences include Vis Major or Act of God, a defence that applies when a superior or inevitable force of nature causes the harm. This concept signifies that certain natural events, beyond human control or prediction, sever liability for damages caused. Such events must be unforeseeable and unavoidable, making any human intervention ineffective. However, the application of Act of God as a defence has evolved. Modern advancements in technology and forecasting have limited its scope. In the Indian context, the Supreme Court's judgment in The Divisional Controller, KSRTC v. Mahadava Shetty, implies that an Act of God encompasses natural events free from human intervention but does not automatically exempt all such events from liability. The courts assess whether these events were reasonably foreseeable, given the advancements in predictive technologies. The principle of Vis Major or Act of God has significant implications in contract law as well. In circumstances where natural forces cause unavoidable harm, this principle can be invoked to relieve parties from contractual obligations. This aspect is particularly relevant in scenarios where performance becomes impossible due to unforeseeable natural events.

Source: Extracted (with edits and revisions) from an article titled "Introduction to 'Vis Major' (Act of God) as a Defence to Torts, Law Bhoomi".

60. Vandana was a resident of Indore. During a usual rainy day in rainy season, a drain near her house got clogged and the water started seeping into her newly constructed house. At one point, her house was completely under the water. The municipal corporation had failed to conduct regular maintenance of the drain which they are obligated to do and especially in rainy season where it is very essential for proper flow of rain water. This caused immense damage to the expensive furniture she has installed in her house. She decided to sue the municipal corporation of Indore for negligence. In the light of the passage, select the most appropriate option.

- (a) Vandana's claim will succeed as she has suffered injury due to negligence of the municipal corporation of Indore.
- (b) Vandana's claim will not succeed as she has suffered injury due to Act of God.
- (c) Vandana's claim will not succeed as she has failed to take reasonable measure to protect her house.
- (d) Vandana's claim will succeed as her newly constructed house has been damaged which made her sad about her condition.

61. Vinay, a resident of Indore, was involved in an accident while driving through a busy intersection. The accident occurred as an enormous tree standing beside a public road and under the management of the City Council suddenly fell onto the road during a mild rainstorm due to its weakened branches and roots. It hit Vinay's car and caused him serious injuries. Vinay sues the city council, alleging negligence for not maintaining the trees alongside

the road and proves that the council had notice of such trees in the city and still they have not acted upon it. The city council argues that the tree falling was an Act of God, an unforeseeable natural event for which they cannot be held liable. In the light of the passage, which of the following is the most appropriate option?

- (a) Vinay's claim will succeed as he has suffered injury due to negligence of the city council.
- (b) Vinay's claim will not succeed as the tree fell due to the Act of God.
- (c) Vinay's claim will not succeed as he should have been more careful while driving at a busy intersection.
- (d) Vinay's claim will succeed as sufferance due to an act gives him right to get damages.

62. Assume that certain fact has been substituted in the previous question. Suppose that prior to the accident, the city council had contracted with an independent body who regularly inspected all the trees in the city. The independent body, after thorough examination has reported that, despite its age, the tree was in good condition and not at risk of falling. But then also it fell due to sudden crack in the soil. Considering the introduction of the new fact how does this impact the city council's defence against Vinay's claim of negligence?

- (a) The introduction of additional fact would weaken the city council's defence.
- (b) The introduction of additional fact would weaken the city council's defence as the report could be seen as inadequate or negligent in accurately assessing the tree's condition.
- (c) The introduction of additional fact would have no effect on the city council's defence.
- (d) The introduction of additional fact would strengthen the city council's defence, as the report shows due diligence and reason for fall is sudden crack of soil.

63. Varun was very fond of keeping rare animals as a pet. On his 18th birthday, he requested his father to get him a pink elephant with green trunk as a gift. This specie of elephant is very rare and naturally aggressive and not allowed to be kept as pets. His father was an influential businessman and wanted to make his son happy on his birthday. Varun was happy after receiving his gift and decided to go to school next day on the elephant. He takes his elephant with him and warned everyone not to come close to elephant as it is very aggressive. He also tied the elephants with a strong chain. Some students came near and threw a stone at the elephant. After this, the elephant got aggressive, breaks the chain and runs into the crowd, injuring many children. Their parents sued Varun for damages. In the light of the passage, select the most appropriate option.

- (a) Varun cannot be held liable as he has issued reasonable warning to everyone to not come near the elephant.
- (b) Varun cannot be held liable but the students who threw stones can be held liable for negligence.
- (c) Varun can be held liable as he was involved in an inherently dangerous act.
- (d) Varun's father can be held liable as he fulfilled the unreasonable wishes of his son.

64. Which of the following statements accurately reflects the principles of tort law as described in the passage?

- (a) In negligence torts, the absence of intent to cause harm absolves the individual from any liability.
- (b) Intentional torts require a breach of duty of care similar to negligence torts.
- (c) Strict liability applies only when the defendant has acted with deliberate intent to cause harm.
- (d) The defence of Vis Major or Act of God applies to natural events that are unforeseeable and unavoidable, severing liability for damages caused.

65. Which of the following cannot be inferred from the passage?

- (a) The Act of God defence in criminal law is applicable only when the natural event causing harm is completely unforeseeable with current technology.
- (b) In cases of strict liability, the defendant can be held liable even if they exercised reasonable care in their actions.
- (c) Intentional torts require a deliberate action that leads to injury or damage, unlike negligence which focuses on a breach of duty of care.
- (d) Negligence torts do not require the establishment of intent to harm, only a breach of a recognized duty of care and causation is must.

PASSAGE -XIV

The Supreme Court while allowing the criminal appeal of the accused-appellant, observed that during a trial, the prosecution could not seek to prove a fact that the witness has not stated in his/her statement under Section 161 (allows police officers to examine persons supposed to be acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the case) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (CrPC). "Prosecution cannot seek to prove a fact during trial through a witness which such witness had not stated to police during investigation. The evidence of that witness regarding the said improved fact is of no significance and cannot be relied upon," observed the Court.

The Court also expressed its dissatisfaction with the findings of the Punjab & Haryana High Court as it convicted one accused (appellant) for murder but acquitted the other co-accused. The crux of the prosecution's argument rested on circumstantial evidence, as the murder lacked any direct eye-witnesses.

The Supreme Court emphasized that for circumstantial evidence to be credible, it must be cogently and firmly established.

Significantly, the Court noted the defence's suggestion of suicide by the deceased, stressing that the burden of proof for the accused under Section 313 of the Code of Criminal Procedure does not extend to "beyond all reasonable doubt". The accused is only required to create a doubt, with the onus then shifting back to the prosecution to establish their guilt without reasonable doubt. Ultimately, the Supreme Court found that the circumstance of accused's presence in the house on the night of the murder was not convincingly proven beyond reasonable doubt. Hence, the Court found the accused not guilty. The judgment reinforced the principle that in cases reliant on circumstantial evidence, there must be a complete and unbroken chain of evidence. A gap or a "snap" in this chain entitles the accused to the benefit of the doubt.

An interested witness refers to someone having interest in the result of the litigation, expecting to gain some benefit out of it. Term 'interested witness' as having some direct or indirect 'interest' in the accused somehow or the other convicted due to animus or for some other oblique motive. It is an uncontested point of law that the sole testimony of an interested witness cannot lead to conviction and mandates corroboration to lead to conviction. Furthermore, it is well settled that interested witness desires conviction of the accused, therefore, due caution in judicial approach is a must while taking such testimony into consideration.

Source: Extracted (with edits and revisions) from an article titled "Prosecution Can't Seek To Prove In Trial A Fact Which Witness Hasn't Told Police During Investigation: Supreme Court", Live Law.

66. In Indore, a high-profile case involves the alleged murder of a businessman, Mr. Vinay. The primary suspect, Mr. Varun, is accused of committing the crime. During the police investigation, a key witness, Mr. Vivek, gives a statement under Section 161 of the Cr.P.C. but does not mention seeing Mr. Varun at the crime scene even when asked about the same. However, when asked about Mr. Varun's presence at the crime scene during the trial, he claimed that he saw Mr. Varun near the crime scene around the time of the murder. In the light of the passage, decide whether the Court can rely on such part of Mr. Vivek's testimony?

- (a) The Court can rely upon Mr. Vivek's revised testimony on this part, considering the possibility of recollection of information by him during the trial.
- (b) The Court cannot rely upon Mr. Vivek's revised testimony on this part as he supplemented his initial statement given during the police investigation.
- (c) The Court will order a re-examination of Mr. Vivek to understand the reasons for the change in his testimony and assess its credibility.
- (d) The Court can rely upon Mr. Vivek's revised testimony, but only as a supplementary piece of evidence.

67. In the previous question assume that an additional fact is added. Suppose that Mr. Vivek had received threats and intimidation from associates of Mr. Varun before he had given his statement to police under Section 161 of CrPC due to which he omitted the part with respect to Mr. Varun. Later, he gathered courage and gave testimony with respect to Mr. Varun in trial. What would be the effect of the new fact on Vivek's testimony?

- (a) The introduction of the additional fact would make Mr. Vivek's testimony reliable.
- (b) The introduction of the additional fact would make Mr. Vivek's testimony unreliable.
- (c) The introduction of the additional fact would have no effect on Mr. Vivek's testimony.
- (d) The introduction of the additional fact would make Mr. Vivek's testimony unreliable as it implies that Mr. Vivek's initial statement was made under duress.

68. In Delhi, a case arises where Vidhan is on trial for the alleged theft of valuable artefacts from a museum. The prosecution's case heavily relies on circumstantial evidence, including the fact that Vidhan was in the vicinity of the museum at the time of the theft. Prosecution also presented Vidhyut as a witness who testified that Vidhan and he had lunch at a restaurant near museum before the theft was committed. The defence council presents a video footage from the security camera installed at the museum's gate. The footage does not show Vidhan entering or leaving the museum through the gate, which is the only way to enter the museum. In the light of the passage, decide whether Vidhan can be convicted by Court based on prosecution's circumstantial evidence that Vidhan was in the vicinity of museum at the time of theft.

- (a) Yes, as presence of Vidhan near the museum at the time of theft is a conclusive proof that he has committed the theft.
- (b) Yes, as burden of proof on prosecution does not extend to proof beyond reasonable doubt.

- (c) No, as the defence has successfully created a doubt regarding Vidhan's presence at the museum during theft.
 (d) No, as Vidhyut, who is the prosecution witness is a related witness and his testimony cannot be relied upon.

69. In Ranchi, a controversial case unfolds where Vandana is accused of poisoning her husband. The prosecution's case is largely built on the testimony of Vidhi, the house help, and the only other person present at their house during the death of the husband. Vidhi and Vandana did not like each other. However, it is proved in court that Vidhi and the deceased had an illicit affair and Vidhi considered Vandana as her enemy. She wanted to marry the deceased and get share in his property. During the trial, Vidhi testifies that Vandana forcibly administered poison to her husband and had previously tried to kill him. In the light of the passage, decide whether Vidhi's testimony can be considered by the Court for Vandana's conviction?

- (a) Vidhi's testimony cannot be considered as she is a related witness.
 (b) Vidhi's testimony cannot be solely considered because she is an interested witness.
 (c) Vidhi's testimony cannot be considered even if it is analysed with caution to ensure its credibility.
 (d) Vidhi's testimony must be considered upon as she loved the deceased and wanted to marry him.

70. Based on the passage, which of the following statements can be concluded?

- (a) The prosecution can introduce new facts during the trial that were not mentioned in the witness's statement under Section 161 of the Cr.P.C.
 (b) The Supreme Court upheld the conviction of both accused in the murder case based on the circumstantial evidence presented.
 (c) The Supreme Court's judgement emphasized that circumstantial evidence must form a complete and unbroken chain to be credible in a criminal trial.
 (d) The burden of proof under Section 313 of the Cr.P.C. requires the accused to prove their innocence beyond all reasonable doubt.

71. Which of the following statements cannot be concluded from the passage?

- (a) The testimony of an interested witness can never lead to conviction of an accused.
 (b) If the accused successfully creates a doubt, the onus of proof shifts back to the prosecution to establish accused person's guilt.
 (c) In cases relying on circumstantial evidence, the Supreme Court requires the evidence to form a complete and unbroken chain.
 (d) The Supreme Court ruled that the presence of accused in the house on the night of the murder was not convincingly proven beyond reasonable doubt to create the liability.

PASSAGE -XV

A literal interpretation of Article – 20(1) of the Indian Constitution would mean that the safeguards provided under this article are given against conviction for an act or omission which was not an offense under the law that existed at the time of the commission and against any increased punishment for the same act for which the punishment was different at the time of the commission of the act. It is usually claimed that Article – 20(1) invalidates *ex post facto* law.

Article 20(1) is divided into two parts. According to the first part, no person is to be convicted for an offense except for an act that is illegal or prohibited by the already enacted law at the time of omission of that particular act. A person is to be punished and prosecuted for violating any law which is enforced when the act is committed thus justifying the words "law in force" which is used in Article 20(1). The second part of Article 20(1) protects any person from a penalty greater than what was prescribed for his act at the time of the commission. Any person should not be punished more than what he would have been subject to for the act done earlier at a particular time due to an *ex post facto* law.

In the case of *Rattan Lal v. State of Punjab*, the Supreme Court laid down the rule of beneficial construction required that an *ex-post facto* law could be applied only to reduce the punishment.

In *R.S. Joshi v. Ajit Mills Ltd*, Supreme Court held that Article 20(1) relates to the constitutional protection given to individuals who are charged with an offence, prohibited by law, before a criminal court. This immunity given in the Constitution extends only against punishment governed by the criminal code for a criminal offence which comes under *ex post facto* law, and cannot be claimed against preventive detention, or demanding some sort of security from any press house under a press law, for acts done before the new law has been passed.

Art. 20(1) does not grant any person a protection from any procedure law which is made to apply also on pending cases. Thus, even if a law which includes ordinance retrospectively changes the procedure or the place of trial of an offense from any particular court, for example, a criminal court to any tribunal like administrative tribunal is not hit by Article 20(1) as was held in the case of *Union of India v. Sukumar*.

Source: Extracted (with edits and revisions) an excerpt from an article titled “Ex Post facto laws in India”, published in iPleaders.

72. In 2020, Mr. Vidhan was accused for the offence of tax evasion where he had not deposited the requisite amount of Rs. 1,00,000 with the Income Tax Officials and was therefore the process was initiated against him before the court. In 2021, the government passed a notification saying that all the cases involving tax evasion since the year 2019 would be transferred to the respective Income Tax Appellate Tribunals within the jurisdiction. Mr. Vidhan filed a writ petition before the High Court saying that his fundamental right under Article 20(1) has been violated as Article 20 is a fundamental right and its violation gives a right to file writ before the Supreme Court or High Court. Would his petition be accepted by the High Court?

- (a) Yes, because he had committed the crime of tax evasion in 2020.
- (b) No, because Article 20(1) cannot be considered to have been infringed in this case.
- (c) Yes, because the transfer of cases to the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal is not required as the amount is only Rs. 1,00,000.
- (d) No, because only the process has been initiated and the trial needs to conclude first.

73. In Jan 2022, Ms. Vidhi had committed the offence of theft and was charged under the relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code. While she was in judicial custody after her arrest for the offence of theft the government passed an amendment to the Indian Penal Code and increased the punishment for theft to seven years from three years along with a fine. The judge while, pronouncing his judgment, sentenced Ms. Vidhi for a prison term of 7 years. Is Ms. Vidhi's sentence valid?

- (a) Yes, because the Amendment to the Indian Penal Code came before she was pronounced guilty.
- (b) No, because the case of Rattan Lal vs State of Punjab says that ex post facto law can be used to reduce the punishment.
- (c) No, because at the time of the commission of the offence, the prison term for theft was three years.
- (d) Yes, because women should not commit crime.

74. In December 2021, Mr. Vidur, a highly renowned government servant, was arrested for the offence of embezzling government money and was arrested for the same. In March 2022, the government passed an ordinance introducing a new procedure for ensuring the recovery of the said amount by stating that during the trial of the said offence, appropriate property of the accused person of the value of embezzled money has to be attached and kept under the custody of court so that if accused is found guilty, the money if not paid by accused can be recovered from such property. The ordinance was applicable retrospectively on all concerned case committed after 2020. Will Mr. Vidur's property be attached in accordance with the said law?

Note: Ordinance has the same force as a law enacted by the legislature.

- (a) No, because an ordinance is not a law.
- (b) No, because he embezzled the government funds before the ordinance was passed, and therefore is not liable.
- (c) Yes, because even though he committed the offence in 2021, he was held guilty in 2022 after the ordinance came in place.
- (d) Yes, because the ordinance only dictates about the procedure in the embezzlement cases and Article 20(1) does not apply on the same.

75. Imagine that in the situation mentioned in the last question, you are the prosecutor instrumental in getting a conviction of Mr Vidur. He has challenged the application of the ordinance in his case. You are required to present arguments defending it. Which of the following statements if considered true would weaken your argument?

- (a) The Ordinance brings about a change in the procedural law and therefore is not hit by Article 20(1) of the Constitution.
- (b) The Ordinance also provided the reduction in punishment in form of forfeiture of the property of the convict for the offence of embezzlement.
- (c) The Ordinance provided the increase in punishment in form of forfeiture of the property of the convict which was attached as security along with the recovery of the said amount.
- (d) The Ordinance is in consonance with the rule against self- incrimination as laid down by Article 20(1) of the Constitution and therefore applicable to Mr Vidhaan.

76. Which of the following statements is incorrect?

- (a) Article 20(1) exclusively protects citizens from a greater punishment than prescribed.
- (b) Art. 20(1) does not grant any person a protection from any procedure law which is made to apply also on pending cases.

- (c) The Rule of beneficial construction was laid down in Rattan Lal v. State of Punjab.
 (d) A person is only liable for the acts which have been criminalized by a law which has become applicable to him when the act was committed by him.
- 77.** With regards to Article 20(1), which of the following can be inferred from the above-mentioned passage?
- (a) Article 20(1) protects persons from ex post facto law.
 (b) Article 20(1) protects a person from double jeopardy.
 (c) The rule of beneficial construction is beneficial for the judge and not the accused.
 (d) All of the above.

PASSAGE -XVI

The Supreme Court recently, while affirming the life imprisonment of three accused/appellants for murder, modified the sentence of another accused (A3) to culpable homicide not amounting to murder from murder and sentenced him to ten years. The Supreme Court opined that the Trial and the High Court convicted A3 based on Section 34 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860. He was present near the scene of offence and had familial relations with the other accused. However, the Court noted that there is neither oral nor documentary evidence to attribute A-3 with the intent to murder. Thus, the Court opined that the inference was drawn mechanically under Section 34 merely based on his presence near the scene of offence and his familial relations with the other accused. Apex Court held that A-3 did not share a common intention to commit the murder. However, considering A3's participation in the assault, the Court held him liable for culpable homicide not amounting to murder.

Section 34 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) holds individuals equally responsible for the consequences of a criminal act when committed jointly with a common intention. Section 34 of the IPC states that when a criminal act is committed by several persons in furtherance of a common intention, each person is liable for that act in the same manner as if it were done by him alone.

A common intention is defined as a predetermined plan acting in concert in accordance with the plan. It must be proven that the criminal act was committed in coordination with a pre-planned scheme. It exists prior to the commission of the act in time, but it does not have to be a large gap. Sometimes common intentions can be created on the spot if the gap is not too long. The primary aspect is a pre-planned strategy to carry out the plan for the intended result.

Section 149, like Section 34, provides for constructive joint responsibility. Section 149 establishes a particular offence. The section states that if an offence is committed by any member of an unlawful assembly in prosecution of the common object of that assembly, or such as the members of that assembly understood to be likely to be committed in prosecution of that aim, every person who, at the time of the commission of that offence, is a member of that assembly, is guilty of that crime.

An assembly of five or more persons is designated an "unlawful assembly", if the common object of the persons composing that assembly is to overawe by criminal force, or show of criminal force, to the Central or any State Government, or any public servant including police personals in the exercise of the lawful power of such public servant.

Source: Extracted (with edits and revisions) from an article titled "Common Intention Cannot Be Inferred Mechanically Merely Based On Presence Of Accused Near Crime Scene: Supreme Court," published in Live Law.

78. A, B, C and D were accused of killing E. A's wife and E's wife were political rivals. They contested the Gram Panchayat elections where E's wife succeeded, resulting in animosity between the two groups. One night, when all the accused were drinking, A, B and C decided to settle the scores by assaulting E. D was not in favour of the assault. He was forced to accompany them. As per the evidences, A, B and C used an axe to kill E, while in this process, D used a nearby placed stone to threaten them and intervene the assault. The evidence also shows that D never held the axe while all others did. He also did not assault E. In the light of the passage, choose the most appropriate option.

- (a) A, B, C and D had the common intention to kill E as their combined assault resulted in E's murder.
 (b) D did not had the common intention to kill E as he tried to terminate the assault and did not hit E.
 (c) A, B, C and D had the common intention as they wanted to settle the scores with E.
 (d) D did not had the common intention as he intentionally accompanied others as they were drunk.

79. In the previous question, assume that certain facts are substituted. Suppose that when A, B and C were assaulting E with axe, D was standing there but not assaulting and C was wielding stone to stop others people from intervening in assault, E's family members arrived and started threatening them by pistol. Sensing danger, they all agreed to kill E soon and leave. Hearing this conclusion and as per the situation, D instantly took out the gun from

A's pocket and shot E in his head and he died immediately. What would be the effect of the substituted fact on D's responsibility for the criminal act of E's Murder?

- (a) D will be held equally responsible for E's murder as common intention was created on spot.
- (b) D cannot be held equally responsible for E's murder as he initially did not take part in the assault.
- (c) D will be held equally responsible for E's murder as there also was a common intention for the commission of the assault.
- (d) D cannot be held equally responsible for E's murder as there was no common intention prior to the commission of the act.

80. Vidhan, and 3 of his friends decide to meet outside Vishal's house to stop the police officer from arresting him. When they reached his house, Vidhan's took out a sword and threatened and prevented the police officer from arresting Vishal, while other friends merely witnessed it. Police arrested Vidhan and his 3 friends arguing that they should be held under section 149 of IPC. In the light of the passage, decide whether Vidhan and his friends can be held guilty for the crime under section 149 of IPC?

- (a) Yes, as it was an unlawful assembly to show criminal force to a public servant in the exercise of the lawful power.
- (b) Yes, as restricting a public servant from doing his duty is a heinous offense.
- (c) No, as there was no unlawful assembly formed by Vidhan and his friends.
- (d) No, as they merely wanted to help out their friend and stop him from getting arrested.

81. In the previous question, assume that an additional fact is added. Suppose that Vidhan used the sword to kill the policeman. What would be the effect of additional fact on the argument of the police personals to try Vidhan and his friends under Section 149 of IPC?

- (a) The introduction of additional fact would strengthen the argument of police personals.
- (b) The introduction of additional fact would weaken the argument of police personals.
- (c) The introduction of additional fact would have no impact on the argument of police personals.
- (d) The introduction of additional fact would strengthen the argument of police personals as the nature of offense has become grave.

82. Based on the passage, which of the following statements cannot be concluded.

- (i) An individuals can be held responsible for the consequences of a criminal act when committed jointly with others with a common intention.
 - (ii) The presence of a predetermined plan formed at a time long before the commission of the offence is mandatory to conclude the presence of common intention.
 - (iii) The fact of presence of a person near the crime scene is enough to conclude the fact of common intention.
- (a) (i) and (ii) only (b) (ii) and (iii) only (c) (i) and (iii) only (d) (ii) and (iv) only

83. Which of the following statement can be concluded from the passage regarding the Supreme Court's decision?

- (a) The Supreme Court upheld the decision of Trial Court and High Court by declaring A-3 liable for culpable homicide not amounting to murder.
- (b) The Supreme Court opined that the inference of common intention on part of A-3 was drawn on merits by Trial Court and High Court after application of judicial mind.
- (c) The Supreme Court reduced the life sentence given to all the accused to 10 years of imprisonment.
- (d) The Supreme Court found no oral or documentary evidence to attribute A-3 with the intent to murder.

84. Based on the passage, decide:

Assertion (A): If an offence is committed by any member of an unlawful assembly in prosecution of the common object of that assembly, every person who, at the time of the commission of that offence, is a member of that assembly, is guilty of that crime.

Reason (R): For an assembly to be designated as unlawful, there must be a presence of at least 5 members.

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

Section D-Logical Reasoning

PASSAGE -XVII

New York City, a sprawling metropolis teeming with diverse goods and services, paradoxically sees over 2.4 million packages delivered every weekday. This surge in daily household deliveries has been growing since 2009, and despite a brief dip during the pandemic, it shows no signs of slowing down. The city's infrastructure is ill-

equipped to handle this influx, resulting in increased traffic congestion, air pollution, and a decline in the quality of life for its residents. The pandemic initially justified the spike in online shopping, but as life returns to a semblance of normalcy, New Yorkers seem reluctant to revert to in-store shopping. The convenience of online buying has become a habit hard to break, even when the city offers a plethora of retail options that are just a subway ride away. Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine's report last fall highlighted the detrimental impact of this delivery surge, emphasizing the "last mile delivery" problem. This last leg of the package's journey is what congests the city streets with delivery vehicles, contributing to air pollution and traffic-related issues, particularly in underprivileged neighbourhoods.

The proposed solution of using extra-large commercial cargo e-bikes for deliveries is a step in the right direction but falls short of addressing the root problem. These e-bikes might be eco-friendlier than trucks, but they don't eliminate the environmental cost incurred during the manufacturing and shipping of the products. The real issue is the culture of convenience that has made online shopping the default choice for many. Psychologists point out the addictive nature of online shopping, which offers a quick mood lift without the "hassle" of human interaction or physical effort. But this convenience comes at a steep cost, not just to our wallets but also to our environment and community. New Yorkers, who have access to an extensive public transportation system, have the opportunity to make more sustainable choices. The city's very essence lies in its walkability and the richness of local experiences it offers, which are now being overshadowed by the convenience of e-commerce.

The solution isn't just in finding greener ways to deliver packages; it's in re-evaluating our shopping habits altogether. A shift in mind-set is required, one that distinguishes between wants and needs and values experiences over mere acquisition. It's time to rediscover the joys and benefits of local shopping and to consider the environmental impact of each click we make. The city offers a world of possibilities; it's high time we step out and explore them, rather than wait for them to be delivered to our doorstep.

Source: The City That Never Sleeps ... The New York Times, October 28, 2023

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

- (a) The pandemic was the primary cause for the surge in online shopping in New York City.
- (b) Extra-large commercial cargo e-bikes will completely solve the environmental and traffic issues caused by package delivery.
- (c) The culture of convenience has made online shopping the default choice for many New Yorkers.
- (d) Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine supports the surge in online shopping.

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

- (a) New Yorkers predominantly prefer in-store shopping over online shopping.
- (b) The use of extra-large commercial cargo e-bikes has significantly reduced air pollution in New York City.
- (c) The "last mile delivery" problem has been effectively solved, leading to a decrease in traffic congestion.
- (d) Online shopping is not as addictive as psychologists claim it to be.

87. How according to the author should the root problem of the delivery surge in New York City be addressed?

- (a) By implementing stricter regulations on delivery trucks.
- (b) By re-evaluating our shopping habits and valuing experiences over mere acquisition.
- (c) By expanding the public transportation system to encourage local shopping.
- (d) By promoting the use of extra-large commercial cargo e-bikes for all deliveries.

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

- (a) The pandemic has permanently changed the shopping habits of New Yorkers.
- (b) The environmental cost incurred during the manufacturing and shipping of products is negligible.
- (c) New Yorkers have the opportunity to make more sustainable choices due to the city's extensive public transportation system.
- (d) The "last mile delivery" problem is the sole contributor to the city's traffic congestion.

89. Which of the following would support the author's conclusion that a shift in mind-set is required for solving the delivery surge problem?

- (a) A study showing that online shopping is less time-consuming than in-store shopping.
- (b) A report indicating that local shopping experiences contribute to community well-being.
- (c) Data proving that extra-large commercial cargo e-bikes have reduced traffic congestion.
- (d) Evidence that online shopping is generally cheaper than in-store shopping.

PASSAGE –XVIII

The recent escalation of conflict between Hamas and Israel has had far-reaching consequences, not just in the immediate region but also globally. In the United Kingdom, there has been a troubling spike in incidents of Islamophobia and antisemitism, linked to the conflict. The Community Security Trust recorded 805 anti-Semitic incidents between October 7 and 27, the highest ever for a 21-day period. Similarly, Tell Mama recorded 291 incidents of anti-Muslim hate in the same timeframe, a six fold increase compared to last year. While it's crucial not to stoke fears unduly, these numbers are alarming. Some politicians, like Conservative mayoral candidate Susan Hall, have risked exacerbating tensions by making divisive statements, which have been refuted by community organizations like the Board of Deputies of British Jews. However, it's important to note that despite these incidents, the UK has generally become a more inclusive society over the years.

That said, the current climate is particularly intimidating for minority communities. Incidents range from verbal abuse to defacing of posters and graffiti featuring hate symbols. Protests in London against the bombardment of Gaza, while largely peaceful and a democratic right, have in some instances crossed the line into antisemitism and active support for Hamas. The CST has also recorded a rise in anti-Semitic incidents on British university campuses. The chief rabbi's warning that British Jews are more fearful for their safety now than at any time since World War II should serve as a wake-up call. Strong feelings about the conflict are understandable, but they can never justify Islamophobia or antisemitism. It should be possible to express one's views without resorting to hate speech or discrimination.

Source: The Observer view on antisemitism and Islamophobia, The Guardian, October 29, 2023

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

- (a) The UK has become less inclusive over the years.
- (b) Strong feelings about the conflict can justify Islamophobia or antisemitism.
- (c) The rise in anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim incidents is alarming.
- (d) Protests in London against the bombardment of Gaza have been universally violent and anti-Semitic.

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

- (a) The Community Security Trust and Tell Mama have been found to exaggerate the number of incidents.
- (b) The UK has seen an increase in incidents of Islamophobia and antisemitism in recent years.
- (c) Conservative mayoral candidate Susan Hall's divisive statements have been disproved by community organizations.
- (d) The chief rabbi has stated that British Jews are more afraid of their safety in the present times now.

92. Which of the following is a correct expression of the author's opinion, as stated in the passage?

- (a) The UK has regressed in terms of inclusivity and tolerance.
- (b) Protests against the bombardment of Gaza are inherently anti-Semitic.
- (c) Strong feelings about the conflict should not justify hate speech or discrimination.
- (d) Politicians like Susan Hall are solely responsible for the rise in hate incidents.

93. Which of the following would support the author's conclusion that the current climate is particularly intimidating for minority communities?

- (a) A decrease in the number of hate symbols featured in graffiti.
- (b) An endorsement from the chief rabbi stating that British Jews feel safe.
- (c) A report showing a rise in verbal abuse and defacing of posters targeting minority communities.
- (d) Data indicating that protests in London have been entirely peaceful with no instances of antisemitism.

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

- (a) The UK has always been an inclusive society with no room for hate crimes.
- (b) Divisive statements by politicians can exacerbate existing tensions.
- (c) Protests are the primary cause of the rise in anti-Semitic incidents.
- (d) Community organizations like the Board of Deputies of British Jews are ineffective in combating hate speech.

PASSAGE –XIX

As the world braces for another El Niño, the stakes are particularly high for developing nations. While the northern regions of the United States may experience milder winters, other parts of the globe are not so fortunate. South America is likely to face increased rainfall, while Australia, Indonesia, and southern Asia could suffer severe droughts. The human toll is immense and increasingly understood. This year's El Niño, predicted to be historically strong, could push up to 6.8 million children into severe hunger due to events like crop failures. El Niño is not an isolated phenomenon; it exacerbates the already dire consequences of climate change. The warming of the tropical

Pacific Ocean affects weather patterns globally, leading to higher average temperatures and altered rainfall. These changes have a domino effect, increasing the likelihood of higher food prices, infectious diseases, and even civil unrest. The last La Niña conditions brought devastating drought to the Horn of Africa, exacerbating conflicts in Ethiopia, Somalia, and Kenya. The current El Niño has already led to deadly flooding in Peru and India, and officials in Australia are warning of an especially dangerous fire season. The predictability of El Niño should be an asset. We have the forecasts and know the regions it will most likely affect. Yet, despite this knowledge, the international community has been slow to act. A few countries like Brazil, Indonesia, and Australia do use El Niño forecasts to prepare for flooding, wildfires, and agricultural damage. Organizations like the World Food Program monitor conditions and call for action. However, the scale of the problem demands more.

The 2023 El Niño threatens to undo a year's worth of progress toward the United Nations' goal of eliminating undernutrition by 2030. The 2015 El Niño drove nearly six million children into hunger, leaving a lasting impact on their health. To offset its impacts would have required providing 134 million children with micronutrient supplements or 72 million food-insecure children with food. The international community needs a paradigm shift in how it prepares for these weather patterns. Rich nations and global organizations must coordinate humanitarian aid before the crisis hits, targeting it with increasing precision. As the world convenes to discuss climate change, El Niño serves as both a warning and an opportunity to learn how to respond to climate extremes. The time to act is now; millions of children depend on us getting it right today, and millions more will depend on us learning to get it right for the future.

Source: El Niños Are Predictable. The New York Times, October 29, 2023

95. Which of the following is a correct expression of the author's opinion, as stated in the passage?

- (a) El Niño is a phenomenon that only affects developing nations.
- (b) The international community has been proactive in preparing for El Niño.
- (c) The United Nations' efforts made toward eliminating undernutrition by 2030 faces potential setbacks due to the 2023 El Niño.
- (d) El Niño is an isolated weather event that has no connection to climate change.

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

- (a) El Niño is the sole cause of climate change.
- (b) The predictability of El Niño should be an asset in preparing for its consequences.
- (c) The World Food Program is the only organization monitoring El Niño conditions.
- (d) The last La Niña conditions had no impact on the Horn of Africa.

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

- (a) El Niño has no impact on food prices globally.
- (b) The international community has been highly responsive in preparing for El Niño.
- (c) The 2015 El Niño had a minimal impact on child hunger.
- (d) The northern regions of the United States experience harsher winters during El Niño.

98. As per the passage, which one of the following is a consequence of El Niño exacerbating the already dire consequences of climate change?

- (a) El Niño leads to milder winters in the northern regions of the United States.
- (b) El Niño increases the likelihood of higher food prices, infectious diseases, and even civil unrest.
- (c) El Niño is responsible for the conflicts in Ethiopia, Somalia, and Kenya.
- (d) El Niño causes flooding only in South America.

99. How does the author suggest the international community should prepare for El Niño?

- (a) By ignoring the forecasts as they are often inaccurate.
- (b) By coordinating humanitarian aid before the crisis hits.
- (c) By focusing solely on the United States and Australia.
- (d) By leaving each country to prepare for El Niño individually.

PASSAGE –XX

The dual degree academic programme, a work-in progress, and the subject of much litigation for years, has finally been given legal sanctity by the University Grants Commission. The higher education regulatory body's notified guidelines will enable students to simultaneously pursue two academic programmes at multiple levels except for PhD courses. It has projected it as a logical extension of the National Education Policy 2020, with its emphasis on facilitating multiple pathways to learning using formal and non-formal modes. The UGC has proposed a three-way choice involving a combination of offline only, offline with distance mode; and distance/online only modes for dual

programmes. The UGC has done well to mandate that open/distance learning and online mode courses should be pursued only in higher education institutions recognised by statutory bodies. Granting students the liberty to enhance their skills and scope of employability through an additional degree is welcome. But the guidelines call for critical evaluation given the nature of competition, accessibility and academic-cum-physical infrastructure issues in colleges and universities. The UGC has said a student can also pursue two full-time programmes in physical mode. This is problematic as it might prompt students, who are academically proficient or with the economic wherewithal, to corner seats in two in-demand courses. Against this backdrop, the UGC may reconsider its guidelines for the physical mode option, while implementing the other two choices, strengthening and streamlining the open/distance learning courses in parallel. Alternatively, it may look at its 2004 document for initiation of double/multiple degree programme in engineering disciplines, where it had proposed a "gap" before an engineering degree holder could enrol for an additional or add-on degree course. That approach is pragmatic as it also sought to reduce the duration of the add-on degree by eliminating about 33% to 38% (52 to 60 course credits) of the "common curriculum" of the BE/B.Tech course (a total of 160 credits). This logic could be applied to allied courses in arts and science and reduce the duration of the second degree for students who desire pursuing dual programmes in physical mode. The more practical a policy, the better its results.

100. Vidhan a student of mathematics in class 12th has topped in CLAT and got admission in NLSIU Bengaluru for "BA.LLB" also wanted to study applied mathematics, so he wanted to enrol for "B.Sc. applied mathematics" course. As per the passage which of the following would be a problem in author's opinion?

- (a) Offline with physical mode for "BA.LLB" and offline with distance mode for "B.Sc. applied mathematics".
- (b) Offline with physical mode for "BA.LLB" and online mode for "B.Sc. applied mathematics".
- (c) Offline with physical mode for "BA.LLB" and offline with physical mode for "B.Sc. applied mathematics".
- (d) Offline with distance mode for "BA.LLB" and offline with physical mode for "B.Sc. applied mathematics".

101. Which of the following is true as per the passage?

I. National Education Policy 2020, emphasises on facilitating multiple pathways to learning using formal and non-formal modes.

II. The dual degree curriculum is often confusing and the pursuer ends up failing in both the courses.

- (a) Only I
- (b) Only II
- (c) Neither I nor II
- (d) Both I and II

102. Which of the following cannot be inferred from the passage?

- (a) A person can pursue post-graduation in two different courses at a same time.
- (b) A person can pursue PhD in two different courses at a same time.
- (c) A person can pursue graduation in two different courses at a same time.
- (d) Both (a) and (b)

103. Which of the following may weaken the conclusion of the author?

- (a) Students should focus on learning a particular academic subject and master the same.
- (b) Students who want to enhance their employability can pursue different courses at the same time in physical mode only to gain maximum output.
- (c) Students who want to enhance their employability can pursue one course in physical mode and the other one in either online or distance learning in offline mode.
- (d) Students who want to enhance their employability can pursue different courses at the same time in different modes.

104. Which of the following would likely strengthen the author's view in the statement "The UGC has said a student can also pursue two full-time programmes in physical mode. This is problematic as it might prompt students, who are academically proficient or with the economic wherewithal, to corner seats in two in-demand courses."

- (a) A student who is academically proficient should put his energy in pursuing only one full-time programme in physical mode to yield better learning outcome.
- (b) A student who is academically proficient should put his energy in pursuing only one full-time programme in physical mode and one in online mode to enhance his employability.
- (c) A student who is academically proficient should put his energy in pursuing two full-time programmes in physical mode to yield better learning outcome.
- (d) Both (a) and (b).

PASSAGE –XXI

Work is changing, both in the nature of tasks undertaken and in the way that activities are organised. The global drift of populations to cities, the increasing proportion of women in the workforce and the emergence of a 24/7 culture has disrupted traditional patterns of work life balance and social support mechanisms.

Technology can be used and viewed as a liberating force enabling workers to juggle increasingly complex demands or as an oppressive influence that removes discretion and denies the worker any respite from his labours. Recent research is suggesting that emails and other social media may actually be electronically overloading people as well as interfering with their non-work lives, adversely affecting not only the health of workers and their families but also undermining productive work. The ways that work is organised and the uses made of technology are therefore critical to the wellbeing of both individuals and societies.

New study conducted by Oxford University indicates that if average employee improves his physical health, then his productivity throughout the day also increases markedly. The American Broadcasting Company (ABC) is an American multinational commercial broadcast television network that is a flagship property of Walt Disney Television Company. ABC should therefore introduce mandatory exercise programs every morning in order to increase the productivity.

[Extracted (with edits and revisions) an excerpt from the article titled "Work and Wellbeing in the 21st Century" published at 'https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/']

105. Which of the following will not weaken the argument of the author about ABC in the passage?

- (a) Physical work out in the morning helps in active participation of the employees at work throughout the day.
- (b) Physical health and active participation of employee at work are not at all related.
- (c) Both (a) and (b)
- (d) Neither (a) nor (b)

106. Which of the following expresses the main idea of the last paragraph in the above passage?

- (a) In today's world it is not less than a herculean task to maintain a good physical health.
- (b) There is no connection between productivity and physical health of the employee.
- (c) If an average employee works on improving his physical health, his productivity throughout the day also increases.
- (d) None the above.

107. The traditional pattern of work life balance is disturbed by the increase of women in the workforce.

The above statement is:

- (a) Probably true.
- (b) Definitely false.
- (c) Definitely true.
- (d) Can't be determined.

108. Which of the following is an implicit assumption of the author in the third paragraph of the above passage?

- (a) Employees who exercise at work often complain of tiredness throughout the day.
- (b) Employees often resist mandatory exercise programs, as it's human nature to oppose the change.
- (c) The mandatory exercise programs at company ABC will successfully improve the physical health of the employees.
- (d) Employees who don't exercise often feel energetic at work.

Section E-Quantitative Techniques**PASSAGE –XXII**

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

There are two shops, A, and B, each with two lockers. One locker in each shop holds only Rs.100 and Rs.200 denominations, while the other locker holds only Rs.200 and Rs.500 denominations. -In shop A, the ratio of total number of Rs.100 notes to total number of Rs.200 notes is 6:7, while the ratio of the total number of Rs.200 notes to total number of Rs.500 notes is 4:3. Furthermore, the difference between the amount of Rs. 500 notes and Rs. 100 notes is Rs. 24300. In shop B, the ratio of the total number of Rs.100 notes to total number of Rs.200 notes is 5:8, while the ratio of total number of Rs.200 notes to total number of Rs.500 notes is 5:3. Additionally, the difference between the amount of Rs.500 notes and Rs.100 notes is Rs.9500.

109. What is the difference between the total number of notes of Rs. 100 in shop A and shop B, and total number of notes of Rs. 500 in shop A and shop B?

- (a) 25
- (b) 20
- (c) 15
- (d) 10

110. Find the average amount of money in each shop?

- (a) Rs. 39000
- (b) Rs. 29000
- (c) Rs. 25000
- (d) Rs. 32000

111. The number of Rs.500 notes in shop A is how much percent more or less than the number of Rs.200 notes in shop B?

- (a) 25 % (b) 57.5% (c) 37.5% (d) 16.66%

112. If Rs.200 notes are banned instantly then what will be the total percentage loss of shops A and B together?

- (a) 17.8% (b) 22.4% (c) 31.79% (d) 55.6%

PASSAGE –XXIII

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

There are two shopkeepers, Vidhi and Vidhan. Vidhi purchased two items, a Pen and a Book, at the same price and marked them up at 50% and 60% respectively above their cost price. She also gave a discount of 30% and 25% on the Pen and Book respectively. Similarly, Vidhan bought two items, a Pencil and a Notebook, at different prices and the cost of a Notebook was Rs. 1200. He marked the pencil at 40% and the notebook at 30% above its cost price. After that, he gave a discount of 10% on the pencil and 20% on the notebook.

113. If Vidhi makes a profit of Rs. 5 on selling a pen, what would be the selling price of a book?

- (a) Rs. 150 (b) Rs. 105 (c) Rs.120 (d) Rs. 160

114. If the profit earned by Vidhan on selling a pencil is Rs. 4 more than the profit earned by him on selling a notebook, then what is the cost price of a pencil?

- (a) Rs. 240 (b) Rs. 280 (c) Rs. 252 (d) Rs. 200

115. The cost price of a book is how much percent more or less than the selling price of a pen?

- (a) 4.76% (b) 5% (c) 6% (d) 6.66%

116. Find the respective ratio between the marked price and the selling price of pencil?

- (a) 9:10 (b) 10:9 (c) 8:9 (d) 9:8

PASSAGE –XXIV

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

There are two group of people, group A and group B. From group A, Vidhi, Vidhan and Vidya entered into a partnership with investment of Rs. 6000, Rs. 7500 and Rs. 7000 respectively. After one year, Vidhi invested Rs. 1000 more. After one more year, Vidya withdrew Rs. 2000. At the end of three years they earned a profit of Rs. 12300, while from group B, Vidushi, Vidyut and Vidhit entered into a partnership with investment of Rs. 5000, Rs. 2500 and Rs. 4000 respectively. After one year, Vidushi invested Rs.1000 more. After one more year, Vidhit withdrew Rs. 2000. At the end of three years they earned a profit of Rs.13800.

117. Who earned the second-highest profit share in their partnership from both of the groups?

- (a) Vidhi (b) Vidhan (c) Vidushi (d) Vidhit

118. What is the difference between the combined profit share of Vidhi and Vidhan and the combined profit share of Vidushi and Vidyut?

- (a) Rs.1700 (b) Rs.1500 (c) Rs.1600 (d) Rs.1300

119. What is the respective ratio of profit share of Vidhi, Vidhan and Vidya in their partnership after three year?

- (a) 42:45:38 (b) 40:42:38 (c) 40:45:38 (d) 40:45:39

120. Find the approximate average of initial investment of all six persons?

- (a) Rs.5333 (b) Rs.4666 (c) Rs.6333 (d) cannot be determined

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The concepts discussed in class as well as mocks, really helped with strengthening my fundamentals. I was in constant touch with my mentors, who helped me a lot with my strategy & gave mocks earnestly.

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