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Duration: 120 Minutes
22th June 2024

Maximum Marks: 120

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. **No clarification on the Question paper can be sought. Answer the questions as they are.**
2. There are 120 multiple choice objective type questions. 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**

Many academic fields can be said to 'study morality'. Of these, the philosophical sub-discipline of normative ethics studies morality in what is arguably the least alienated way. Rather than focusing on how people and societies think and talk about morality, normative ethicists try to figure out which things are, simply, morally good or bad, and why. The philosophical sub-field of meta-ethics adopts, naturally, a 'meta-' perspective on the kinds of enquiry that normative ethicists engage in. It asks whether there are objectively correct answers to these questions about good or bad, or whether ethics is, rather, a realm of illusion or mere opinion. Most of my work in the past decade has been in meta-ethics. I believe that there are truths about what's morally right and wrong. I believe that some of these truths are objective or, as they say in the literature, 'stance-independent'. That is to say, it's not my or our disapproval that makes torture morally wrong; torture is wrong because, to put it simply, it hurts people a lot. I believe that these objective moral truths are knowable, and that some people are better than others are at coming to know them. You can even call them 'moral experts' if you wish.

Of course, not everyone agrees with all of that. Some are simply confused; they conflate 'objective' with 'culturally universal' or 'innate' or 'subsumable under a few exceptionless principles' or some such. But many people's misgivings about moral objectivity are more clear-headed and deeper. In particular, I find that some demur because they think that, for there to be moral truths, let alone objective, knowable ones, morality would have to have a kind of 'foundation' that, in their view, is nowhere to be found. Others, anxious to help, try to show that there's a firm foundation or ultimate ground for morality after all. It's my view that both sides of this conflict are off on the wrong foot. Morality is objective, but it neither requires nor admits of a foundation. It just kind of floats there, along with the evaluative realm more generally, unsupported by anything else. Parts of it can be explained by other parts, but the entirety of the web or network of good and evil is brute. Maybe you think that's weird and even worthy of outright dismissal. I once thought the same thing. The purpose of this essay, which is based on my book *Pragmatist Quietism: A Meta-Ethical System* (2022), is to encourage you to start seeing this aspect of the world as I now see it.

The question here we should ask is: what exactly is a 'foundation'? We can get clearer on what a foundation is by querying whether a moral theory like utilitarianism might count as one. Utilitarianism says that actions are right to the extent, and only to the extent, that they promote overall wellbeing. So, is utilitarianism in the running for being a foundation for morality? Well, it certainly purports to explain a lot when it comes to right and wrong. Why give to the poor? Promotes wellbeing. Why not punch your neighbour in the face? Doesn't promote wellbeing. Should the Bank of Canada raise interest rates this quarter? Not clear, because it's not clear whether it promotes wellbeing. And so on, and so on. Nonetheless, utilitarianism is not what I have in mind by a 'foundation'. This is not because utilitarianism is incorrect; it is because utilitarianism is a moral theory. But a foundation is not a moral theory. It's the kind of thing that's supposed to ground, or support, or justify, moral theories, and moral claims generally, without itself being a claim within the domain of morality.

Source- <https://aeon.co/essays/ethical-values-can-be-both->

1. Based on the information of the passage, what is the author's perspective on morality?

- (a) Morality is the normative ethics to understand what is right or wrong.
- (b) Morality is the realm of the illusion or the mere opinion.
- (c) Morality is objective and it depends on the understanding of different kinds of people.
- (d) Morality is the mere disapproval that makes torture morally wrong.

2. Why does the author believe that utilitarianism is not a foundation?

- (a) Utilitarianism and foundation do not support the same ground
- (b) Utilitarianism does not justify what is right and wrong.
- (c) Utilitarianism is virtuous and foundation does not necessarily support that
- (d) Foundation does not count utilitarianism as a moral theory.

3. Which of the following statements can be inferred from the given passage?

- (a) Utilitarianism is somehow similar to meta-ethics.
- (b) Author's views on morality is ultimately similar to those of the normative ethics.
- (c) Morality is based on the theories made by the moral experts.
- (d) People follow the morality as explained by the author in the passage.

4. Which of the following is true as per the views of the author except?
- (a) Utilitarianism is indifferent to the explanation of the foundation.
 - (b) The entirety of morality can be interpreted only by the evaluative realm.
 - (c) The foundation is not necessarily required to know the morality.
 - (d) Utilitarianism is a moral theory whereas foundation is not.
5. Based on the explanation given in the passage, which of the following does not refer to utilitarianism?
- (a) Evaluation of right and wrong
 - (b) A moral theory
 - (c) Promotes wellbeing
 - (d) Supports moral justification on a ground level
6. Which of the following captures the meaning of the conclusion best in the given passage?
- (a) Utilitarianism is not a moral theory whereas foundation is.
 - (b) Utilitarianism and foundation have different grounds in the domain of morality.
 - (c) Foundation differs itself from the utilitarianism as it promotes wellbeing.
 - (d) Utilitarianism is objective, it does not support or go against anything.

PASSAGE – II

Now they are ready to leave. Padre Bartolomeu Lourenço contemplates the clear blue expanse above, cloudless and with a sun as brilliant as a glittering monstrosity, then he looks at Baltasar, who is holding the rope with which they will close the sails, and then at Blimunda, and he dearly wishes that she could divine what the future holds for them, Let us commend ourselves to God, if there is a God, he murmured to himself, and then in strangled tones he said, Pull, Baltasar, but Baltasar did not react at once, for his hand was trembling, besides, this was like saying Fiat, no sooner said than done, one pull and we end up who knows where. Blimunda drew near and placed her two hands over that of Baltasar and, with a concerted gesture, as if this were the only way it could be done, both of them pulled the rope. The sail veered to one side, allowing the sun to shine directly on the amber balls, and now what will happen to us. The machine shuddered, then swayed as if trying to regain its balance, there was a loud creaking from the metal plates and the entwined canes, and suddenly, as if it were being sucked in by a luminous vortex, it went up making two complete turns, and no sooner had it risen above the walls of the coach-house than it recovered its balance, raised its head like a seagull, and soared like an arrow straight up into the sky. Shaken by those rapid spins, Baltasar and Blimunda found themselves lying on the wooden deck of the machine, but Padre Bartolomeu Lourenço had grabbed one of the plummets that supported the sails, which allowed him to see the earth shrink at the most incredible speed, the estate was now barely visible, then lost amid the hills, and what's that yonder in the distance, Lisbon, of course, and the river, ah, the sea, that sea which I, Bartolomeu Lourenço de Gusmão, sailed twice from Brazil, that sea which I sailed to Holland, to how many more continents on land and in the air will you transport me, Passarola, the wind roars in my ears, and no bird ever soared so high, if only the King could see me now, if only that Tomás Pinto Brandão who mocked me in verse could see me now, if only the Holy Office of the Inquisition could see me now, they would all recognise that I am the chosen son of God, yes, I, Padre Bartolomeu Lourenço, who am soaring through the skies aided by my genius, aided, too, by Blimunda's eyes, if there are such eyes in heaven, and also assisted by Baltasar's right hand, Here I bring you God, one who also has a left hand missing, Blimunda, Baltasar, come and look, get up from there, don't be afraid.

They were not afraid, they were simply astounded at their own daring. The priest laughed and shouted. He had already abandoned the safety of the handrail and was running back and forth across the deck of the machine in order to catch a glimpse of the land below, north, south, east, and west, the earth looked so vast, now that they were so far away from it, Baltasar and Blimunda finally scrambled to their feet, nervously holding on to the cords, then to the handrail, dazed by the light and the wind, suddenly no longer frightened, Ah, and Baltasar shouted, We've done it, he embraced Blimunda and burst into tears, he was like a lost child, this soldier who had been to war, who had killed a man in Pegões with his spike, and was now weeping for joy as he clung to Blimunda, who kissed his dirty face.

Source : Translated from the Portuguese by Giovanni Pontiero Original title: Memorial do Convento Copyright © José Saramago

7. In the light of the above passage, who is primarily responsible for operating the flying machine?
- (a) Padre Bartolomeu Lourenco
 - (b) Baltasar
 - (c) Blimunda
 - (d) Tomas Pinto Brandao

8. Based on the inference from the passage, what can be concluded about Baltasar's emotional state during the flying machine's ascent?

- (a) Baltasar was terrified and reluctant to participate.
- (b) Baltasar was excited and joyful about the flying experience.
- (c) Baltasar was indifferent and unaffected by the flight.
- (d) Baltasar was confused and uncertain about the machine's operation.

9. How is the term "monstrance" used in the passage?

- (a) Referring to a mythical creature.
- (b) Describing the appearance of the sun.
- (c) Characterizing a sparkling object.
- (d) Representing a type of religious ritual.

10. What does the simile "raised its head like a seagull" in the passage imply?

- (a) The machine had a seagull-like appearance.
- (b) The machine moved gracefully, akin to a seagull.
- (c) The machine resonated seagull sounds.
- (d) The machine resembled a seagull in shape.

11. What is the primary focus of the passage?

- (a) Padre Bartolomeu Lourenco's contemplation of nature.
- (b) Baltasar's reluctance to operate the flying machine.
- (c) Blimunda's emotional response to the flight.
- (d) The character's experience with a flying machine.

12. How can the writing style of the passage be best described as?

- (a) Melancholic and introspective
- (b) Flowery and rhetoric
- (c) Informative and straightforward
- (d) Dramatic and poetic

PASSAGE – III

Radically changing monsoon patterns. Reduction in the winter rice harvest and a quantum increase in respiratory diseases all part of the environmental doomsday scenario which is reportedly playing out in South Asia. According to a United Nations Environment Programme report, a deadly three deep blanket of pollution comprising a fearsome cocktail of ash, acids, aerosols and other particles has enveloped this region. For India, already struggling to cope with a drought, the implications of this are devastating and further crop failure will amount to a life and death question for many Indians. The increase in premature deaths will have adverse social and economic consequences and a rise in morbidities will place an unbearable burden on our crumbling health system. And there is no one to blame but ourselves. Both official and corporate India has always been allergic to any mention, of clean technology. Most mechanical two wheelers roll off the assembly line without proper pollution control system. Little effort is made for R&D on simple technologies, which could make a vital difference to people's lives and the environment. However, while there is no denying that, South Asia must clean up its act, skeptics might question the timing of the haze report. The Johannesburg meet on Rio+10 is just two weeks away and the stage is, set for the usual battle between the developing world and the West, particularly the U.S. President Mr. Bush has adamantly refused to sign any protocol, which would mean a change in American consumption level. U.N. environment report will likely to find a place in the U.S. arsenal as it plants an accusing finger towards controls like India and China. Yet the U.S. can hardly deny its own dubious role in the matter of erasing trading quotas. Richer countries can simply buy up excess credits from poorer countries and continue to pollute. Rather than try to get the better of developing countries, who undoubtedly have taken up environmental shortcuts in their bid to catch up with the West, the U.S. should take a look at the environmental profligacy, which is going on within. From opening up virgin territories for oil exploration to relaxing the standards for drinking water, Mr Bush's policies are not exactly beneficial, not even to America's interests. We realize that we are all in this together and that pollution anywhere should be a global concern otherwise only be more tunnels at the end of the tunnel.

13. Which is the word similar in meaning of "Profligacy" as used in the passage?

- (a) Wastefulness
- (b) Conservation
- (c) Upliftment
- (d) Benefit

14. What could be a reason behind timing of the haze report just before the Johannesburg meet, as indicated in the passage?

- (a) United Nations is working on handling appreciation it got for environment friendly procedures
- (b) To teach a lesson to U.S. and South Asia about friendship and collaboration among countries
- (c) U.S. wants to use it as a handle against the developing countries in the forthcoming meet.
- (d) All of the above

15. Which of the following is the indication of environmental degradation in South Asia?
(a) Social and economic inequality (b) Inadequate pollution control system
(c) Overemphasis on technology (d) Radically changing monsoon pattern
16. What must we realize, according to the passage?
(a) No country should show inferiority over other Countries.
(b) U.N. is putting in hard efforts, in the direction of pollution control.
(c) All countries must join hands in fighting pollution.
(d) We all must strive hard to increase rain.
17. Which of the following is the tone of the author?
(a) Informative (b) Descriptive
(c) Analytical (d) None of the above
18. Which of the following is not a reason of the rise in morbidity in India?
(a) Travelling without a proper pollution system
(b) Corporates exploiting the technology
(c) Taking up environmental shortcuts for matching with the West
(d) R&D on simple technologies

PASSAGE – IV

Archaeologists in Iraq have unearthed twin temples built on top of each other. The newer, Hellenistic temple dates to the fourth century B.C. and may have a link to Alexander the Great.

The temple contained a fired brick with an Aramaic and Greek inscription that references "the giver of two brothers" — a possible reference to the Macedonian king, who conquered much of the known world during his 13-year-reign from 336 B.C. to 323 B.C. Archaeologists from the British Museum in London discovered the older temple while conducting excavations at Girsu, a Sumerian city now known as Tello in southeastern Iraq. The excavations are part of an ongoing venture conducted by the museum known as The Girsu Project that focuses on learning more about the city's storied history. Remnants of the older, Sumerian temple were found buried "on the exact same spot" as the newer construction, which was dedicated to the "Greek god Hercules and his Sumerian equivalent, the hero god Ningirsu," Sebastien Rey, an archaeologist and curator of Ancient Mesopotamia at the British Museum who led the excavation, told Live Science in an email. The fact that a temple was raised on the same site where one stood 1,500 years earlier was no coincidence, and the site must have held some significance to the people of Mesopotamia, the researchers said.

"It shows that the inhabitants of Babylonia in the fourth century B.C. had a vast knowledge of their history," Rey said. "The legacy of the Sumerians was still very vibrant." While exploring the dual temple site, archaeologists discovered a silver drachm (an ancient Greek coin) buried beneath an altar or shrine, as well as a brick with the two brothers inscription. "The inscription is very interesting because it mentions an enigmatic Babylonian name written in Greek and Aramaic," Rey said. "The name 'Adadnadinakhe,' which means 'Adad, the giver of brothers,' was clearly chosen as a ceremonial title on account of its archaizing tone and symbolic connotations. All the evidence points to the fact that the name was extraordinarily rare."

The inscription itself is a nod to Zeus, the Greek sky god, who is often symbolized by a lightning bolt and an eagle. Both of these symbols can be found on the coin, which would've been struck in Babylon "under Alexander the Great's authority," Rey said. "It shows Hercules in a youthful, clean-shaven portrait that strongly recalls conventional representations of Alexander on one side, with Zeus on the other." Zeus also "famously acknowledged Alexander as his son through the agency of the Ammon oracle," Rey said. "He became quite literally the 'giver of brothers' because he affirmed a fraternal bond between Alexander and Heracles." However, researchers don't yet know whether the Macedonian king actually visited the site. "But he might have had the opportunity to go there, either during his stay in Babylon, or by taking a detour on the way to [the city of] Susa," he said. "Significantly, he was able to pay his soldiers after taking Babylon because the city's coffers were surrendered to him. This meant that Alexander and his generals had control of the region's wealth, and they presumably used Babylonian silver to mint the many coins that were struck in the city." In addition to the artifacts, researchers also found offerings normally given after a battle, including clay figurines of soldiers. "The recovered figurines, which originated in a range of places in the Hellenistic world, must in many instances have been carried to the temple by visitors," he said. "Among these are the Macedonian riders on horseback, which have strong associations with Alexander. However, they could also be associated with a cult of warlike heroism.

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/temple-linked-to-hercules-and-alexander-the-great->

19. According to the archaeologists what significance do the twin temples in Girsu hold?
- The temples were constructed independently and have no historical connection.
 - The older Sumerian temple's remnants were deliberately buried beneath the newer Hellenistic temple.
 - The historical importance of the site is demonstrated by the deliberate construction of a new temple on the exact spot of an older one.
 - The temples were accidentally built at the same location due to limited space in the city.
20. What inference can be drawn from the discovery of the inscription mentioning "the giver of two brothers" in the Hellenistic temple in Girsu?
- The inscription refers to a historical event that involved two brothers in the region.
 - The inhabitants of Babylonia in the fourth century B.C had a deep knowledge of their history and cultural heritage.
 - The inscription indicates that Alexander the Great had a direct connection to the temple.
 - The inscription suggests a symbolic connotation related to the dual heritage of Greek and Sumerian Gods.
21. What does the discovery of a silver drachm beneath an altar shrine in Girsu suggest?
- The coin was intentionally placed as an offering during a religious ceremony.
 - The coin indicates the site's association with a Hellenistic marketplace.
 - The coin was accidentally dropped and lost during an ancient ritual.
 - The coin has no historical significance in relation to the temple.
22. Based on the passage, what term describes the nature of the relationship between Alexander the Great and Hercules?
- Filial
 - Ambiguous
 - Amicable
 - Precarious
23. According to the passage, what do the recovered clay figurines of soldiers likely suggest, as discussed in the last paragraph?
- They were crafted for religious ceremonies.
 - They specifically represent Macedonian riders.
 - They symbolize a cult of warlike heroism.
 - They were used as offerings after battles.
24. Which of the following styles is reflected in the passage?
- Descriptive
 - Narrative
 - Abstract
 - Analytical

Section B-Current Affairs with GK

PASSAGE - V

In a landmark ruling, the Supreme Court has taken a significant step to safeguard private property against arbitrary state acquisition for public purposes. The right to property, which is protected as a [X] and often regarded as a human right, has been reaffirmed in this decision. This ruling highlights the critical balance between the state's power and individual property rights. Traditionally, it has been assumed that the exercise of eminent domain—the inherent power of the state to acquire private property for public use without the owner's consent—is justified as long as fair and reasonable compensation is provided to the property owner. Eminent domain is a well-established legal principle that allows the government to facilitate projects that benefit the public, such as infrastructure development, by acquiring necessary private land. However, the Supreme Court's verdict, authored by Justice, emphasizes that the process of compulsory acquisition must adhere to stringent procedural safeguards to be constitutionally valid. Justice in this case observed that compulsory acquisition is unconstitutional if it does not follow proper procedure, even if the state provides adequate compensation. This means that the state must not only justify the public purpose of the acquisition and ensure fair compensation but also comply with legal procedures designed to protect the property owner's rights. The ruling elaborates that due process is an essential component of lawful property acquisition. This involves notifying the property owner, providing a fair hearing, and following transparent and established legal procedures. The state must demonstrate that the acquisition is genuinely for a public purpose and not arbitrary or unjust. The requirement for due process ensures that the rights of property owners are not trampled upon and that the state does not misuse its power of eminent domain. This decision by the Supreme Court serves as a reminder of the judiciary's role in protecting individual rights against potential overreach by the state. It reinforces the principle that while the state has the authority to acquire private property for public purposes, this power is not absolute and must be exercised within the bounds of the law. The ruling underscores that the right to property is a fundamental right that requires rigorous protection, ensuring that individuals are not deprived of their property without due process and fair treatment.

25. Under the current constitutional framework, which Article primarily governs the Right to Property in India?

- (a) Article 19 (b) Article 200-A
(c) Article 300-A (d) Article 302

26. Which Constitutional Amendment Act deleted the right to property from the list of Fundamental Rights?

- (a) 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act (b) 43rd Constitutional Amendment Act
(c) 44th Constitutional Amendment Act (d) 45th Constitutional Amendment Act

27. What has been redacted by [X] in the passage?

- (a) Constitutional right (b) Fundamental right
(c) Both a and b (d) Neither a nor b

28. Consider the following statements:

Statement 1: The Right to Property was initially recognized as a fundamental right under Article 19(1)(f) and Article 31 of the Constitution of India.

Statement 2: The Right to Property is a constitutional right but cannot be directly enforced through Article 32 or Article 226.

Statement 3: The 1st Amendment (1951) allowed property rights restrictions for public interest, addressing social inequalities and agrarian reform.

Which of the following statements is/are true?

- (a) Statement 1 (b) Statement 2
(c) Statement 3 (d) All of the Above

29. Which part of the Constitution now addresses the Right to Property?

- (a) Part I (b) Part IV
(c) Part IX (d) Part XII

PASSAGE – VI

The Election Commission of India (ECI) recently released a report addressing the enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC). In this report, the ECI emphasized its expectations from star campaigners, urging them to set a positive example and refrain from actions that could harm the social fabric. This statement has sparked a debate regarding the powers of the ECI to curb violations of the MCC. The Model Code of Conduct (MCC) is a set of guidelines that political parties, candidates, and government officials are expected to follow during elections. It aims to ensure free and fair elections by prohibiting activities that could unduly influence voters or compromise the integrity of the electoral process. Key provisions of the MCC include the prohibition of using caste and communal feelings to secure votes, as well as the prohibition of bribing or intimidating voters. Despite these regulations, recognized political parties have been found guilty of violating the MCC on several occasions. Such violations may include making divisive statements based on caste or religion, offering inducements to voters, or engaging in behaviour that undermines the electoral process's fairness. The ECI's report highlights the importance of upholding the principles of the MCC, especially by prominent figures such as star campaigners. These individuals wield significant influence and visibility during election campaigns, making their conduct crucial in maintaining a healthy electoral environment. By urging them to lead by example and avoid actions that could polarize society or undermine voter confidence, the ECI aims to strengthen the integrity of the electoral process.

30. What is required for a political party to register with the Election Commission of India (ECI) under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951?

- (a) Submission of a copy of its manifesto
(b) Submission of a copy of its memorandum/constitution
(c) Submission of a list of donors
(d) Submission of election campaign plans

31. What benefits do registered political parties in India enjoy?

- (a) Tax exemption for donations received under Section 13A of the Income Tax Act, 1961
(b) Common symbol for contesting general elections
(c) Twenty 'star campaigners' during election campaigns
(d) All of the above

32. What are some actions that could potentially lead to the de-registration of a political party?

- (a) Obtaining registration through fraud
(b) Declaration of illegality by the Central Government
(c) Amendment of internal constitution conflicting with the Indian Constitution
(d) All of the above

33. Consider the following statements:

Statement 1: The current rulebook allows the Election Commission (EC) to register parties but does not allow for deregistration.

Statement 2: There are six 'national' parties and sixty-one 'State' parties currently recognized by the Election Commission.

Statement 3: Once a political party is deregistered, it cannot contest election

Which statement is false?

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| (a) Statement 1 | (b) Statement 2 |
| (c) Statement 3 | (d) None of the Above |
- 34.** Which was the first state in India to adopt a code of conduct for elections?
- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| (a) Tamil Nadu | (b) West Bengal |
| (c) Kerala | (d) Maharashtra |

PASSAGE – VII

The Indian Army has commenced the reception of the AK-203 assault rifles, following multiple delays in the Indo-[X] agreement. These setbacks were partly attributed to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and payment-related issues. According to official sources, the Army has so far received 27,000 rifles, with more expected to follow shortly. The Indo-[X] joint venture, located in [Y], is responsible for the production and delivery of these rifles. The delays have been significant, but recent developments indicate that the project is now on track. A further 8,000 rifles are expected to be handed over to the Army within the next two weeks. Of the rifles already delivered, over 10,000 have been distributed to various Army units, with additional ones undergoing inspection and quality assurance checks. The agreement for the production of the AK-203 assault rifles is a substantial one, valued at over ₹5,000 crores. Signed in July 2021, the contract stipulates the manufacture of more than 6.1 lakh (610,000) AK-203 rifles in India. This includes a comprehensive technology transfer from [X], ensuring that the production capabilities and technical expertise are localized within India. This Indo-[X] collaboration aims not only to supply the Indian Army with state-of-the-art weaponry but also to bolster India's defense manufacturing capabilities. By producing the rifles domestically, the project aligns with the government's "Make in India" initiative, which seeks to reduce dependency on foreign imports and enhance self-reliance in defense production.

35. Which of the following will replace [X] in the passage?

- | | | | |
|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| (a) United States | (b) Russia | (c) France | (d) Israel |
|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|

36. Which of the following will replace [Y] in the passage?

- | | | | |
|-------------------|------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| (a) Uttar Pradesh | (b) Gujrat | (c) Himachal Pradesh | (d) Maharashtra |
|-------------------|------------|----------------------|-----------------|

37. What is the name of the Tri-Services exercise regularly conducted between India and country redacted by [X] in the passage?

- | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| (a) INDUS | (b) INDRA | (c) RuSIn | (d) Vyom |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|

38. Which Indian entities are part of the Indo-[X] Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL) joint venture?

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| (a) Indian Army and HAL | (b) DRDO and BHEL |
| (c) Ordnance Factory Board | (d) Bharat Dynamics and Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders |

39. What percentage of India's arms imports is accounted from the country redacted by [X] in the passage, as per the recent SIPRI report?

- | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| (a) 25% | (b) 36% | (c) 52% | (d) 40% |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|

PASSAGE – VIII

Raman Gangakhedkar, a former scientist at the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), has clarified that a minority of individuals may face potential risks associated with the Covishield Covid-19 vaccine. Gangakhedkar mentioned that only a small fraction, approximately seven to eight individuals per one million recipients of the Covishield vaccine, might experience a rare side effect known as Thrombosis Thrombocytopenia Syndrome (TTS). He emphasized that the risk is highest after the initial dose, gradually decreasing with subsequent doses. Gangakhedkar also stated that adverse reactions are likely to appear within the first two to three months post-vaccination. However, despite these risks, he highlighted that the benefits of the vaccine for millions of recipients far outweigh the associated minimal risk. Recently, in UK court documents, the pharmaceutical company responsible for Covishield acknowledged the potential for TTS. Additionally, the parents of a woman who passed away after receiving the Covishield vaccine are planning to file a case against the Serum Institute of India (SII), following the company's acknowledgment in court regarding the vaccine's rare side effect.

- 40.** What company manufactures the Covishield vaccine for the Covid-19 pandemic?
 (a) Pfizer (b) AstraZeneca (c) Moderna (d) Johnson & Johnson
- 41.** Where is the Serum Institute of India (SII) located, which manufactures the Covishield vaccine?
 (a) Mumbai (b) New Delhi (c) Pune (d) Hyderabad
- 42.** When was the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) originally established?
 (a) 1911 (b) 1920 (c) 1935 (d) 1949
- 43.** After approval for restricted clinical trial use, the firm must fortnightly inform Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) about Covaxin's adverse effects for the initial two months post-rollout. Under which ministry does CDSCO operate?
 (a) Ministry of Finance (b) Ministry of Education
 (c) Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (d) Ministry of Science and Technology
- 44.** Who is the head of Serum Institute of India (SII), the developer of Covishield?
 (a) Adar Poonawalla (b) Yusuf Hamied
 (c) Shehzaad Poonawalla (d) None of the Above

PASSAGE - IX

The government's plan to introduce the draft Explosives Bill, 2024, as a replacement for the outdated Explosives Act of [X] is a significant step towards modernizing regulatory frameworks and ensuring safety and efficiency in the handling of explosives within the country. The proposal, as reported in The Economic Times (ET), highlights key changes aimed at enhancing regulatory compliance, streamlining licensing procedures, and imposing stricter penalties for violations. The draft Explosives Bill, 2024, signifies a departure from the archaic Explosives Act, [X] which has become outdated and insufficient to address contemporary challenges and advancements in the explosives industry. By revoking the old Act, the government intends to introduce a more comprehensive and robust regulatory framework that aligns with current industry standards and best practices. Overall, the proposed introduction of the draft Explosives Bill, 2024, reflects the government's commitment to modernizing regulatory frameworks, fostering a safer working environment, and promoting responsible practices in the explosives industry. Through public consultation and stakeholder feedback, the government aims to refine and finalize the bill to address industry needs comprehensively while ensuring national security, public safety, and environmental protection remain top priorities.

- 45.** Which of the following will replace [X] in the passage?
 (a) 1884 (b) 1895
 (c) 1920 (d) 1943
- 46.** What is the current fine amount under the Explosives Act for violations related to manufacturing, importing, or exporting explosives?
 (a) Rs 25,000 (b) Rs 50,000
 (c) Rs 75,000 (d) Rs 1,00,000
- 47.** Under the proposed Explosives Bill 2024, which authority will be responsible for granting, suspending, or revoking licenses related to explosive materials?
 (a) Federation of Indian Petroleum Industry (FIPI)
 (b) Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO)
 (c) Cairn India
 (d) Union Ministry of Defence
- 48.** Where is the headquarters of the authority which will be responsible for granting, suspending, or revoking licenses related to explosive materials located?
 (a) New Delhi (b) Mumbai
 (c) Nagpur (d) Kolkata

PASSAGE - X

The Serum Institute of India (SII) has embarked on a significant milestone in global healthcare by commencing the export of the 'R21/Matrix-M' malaria vaccine to [1]. This initiative is part of a concerted global effort to combat the devastating impact of malaria, particularly in endemic regions. Developed through a collaborative effort involving the University of Oxford and Novavax, the R21/Matrix-M vaccine represents a groundbreaking advancement in malaria prevention, especially for children in high-risk areas. SII's commitment to global health is underscored by the allocation of 1,63,800 doses of the vaccine, highlighting a proactive approach to addressing the challenges posed by malaria. As of now, 43,200 doses have been dispatched from SII's state-of-the-art facility, marking a

tangible step towards reaching those in need. Umesh Shaligram, the Executive Director of Research and Development at SII, lauded this achievement as a testament to the power of collaboration and the dedication of the institute's workforce. The partnership between SII, University of Oxford and Novavax exemplifies the potential for impactful outcomes when organizations and institutions come together with a shared goal of improving global health outcomes. This milestone not only signifies a significant advancement in malaria prevention but also reflects the collective efforts of the global health community in addressing infectious diseases that disproportionately affect vulnerable populations. It reinforces the importance of innovation, collaboration, and dedication in tackling global health challenges and underscores SII's role as a leader in vaccine development and distribution on a global scale.

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

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| (a) Pacific Islands | (b) Indonesia |
| (c) Africa | (d) South America |

50. Which organizations provided support for the development of the 'R21/Matrix-M' malaria vaccine?

- | | |
|---|--|
| (a) Asian Development Bank and World Bank | (b) Welcome Trust and European Investment Bank (EIB) |
| (c) International Monetary Fund and Red Cross | (d) United Nations and World Health Organization |

51. Which countries have licensed the R21/Matrix-M malaria vaccine for use?

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| (a) Ghana, Kenya, and Uganda | (b) Nigeria, Ghana, and Burkina Faso |
| (c) India, Brazil, and Ghana | (d) United States, United Kingdom, and France |

52. What is the vision of the Government of India regarding malaria elimination?

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| (a) Elimination by 2025 | (b) Malaria-free country by 2027, elimination by 2030 |
| (c) Elimination by 2035 | (d) No vision specified |

Section C-Legal Reasoning

PASSAGE - XI

Gangster Goldy Brar, the mastermind behind the murder of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala, was declared a designated terrorist by the Centre under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). Amendments introduced in 2019 brought in provisions by which the Centre can declare individuals — not only organisations — as designated terrorists. Here is how this works. The words “terror” or “terrorist” are not defined, but the UAPA defines a “terrorist act” as any act committed with intent to threaten or likely to threaten the unity, integrity, security, economic security, or sovereignty of India or with intent to strike terror or likely to strike terror in the people or any section of the people in India or in any foreign country. The 2019 Amendment empowers the central government to designate an individual a “terrorist” if they are found committing, preparing for, promoting, or involved in a terror act. A similar provision already existed in Part 4 and 6 of UAPA for organisations that can be designated as a “terrorist organisation”.

The central government may designate an individual as a terrorist through a notification in the official gazette, and add his name to the Fourth Schedule to the UAPA. The government is not required to give any individual an opportunity to be heard before such a designation. At present, in line with the legal presumption of an individual being innocent until proven guilty, an individual who is convicted in a terror case is legally referred to as a terrorist, while those suspected of being involved in terrorist activities are referred to as terror accused. The 2019 amendment did not clarify the standard of proof required to establish that an individual is involved, or is likely to be involved, in terrorist activities. The designation of an individual as a global terrorist by the United Nations is associated with sanctions including travel bans, freezing of assets and an embargo against procuring arms. The 2019 amendment, however, did not provide any such detail. The amendment also gave the Centre the power to remove a name from the schedule when an individual makes an application. If an application filed by an individual declared a terrorist is rejected by the government, they have the right to seek a review within one month after the application is rejected. Under the amendment, the central government set up a review committee comprising a chairperson (a retired or sitting judge of a High Court) and three other members. The review committee will be empowered to order the government to delete the name of the individual from the schedule that lists “terrorists”, if it considers the order to be flawed. Apart from these two avenues, the individual can also move the courts challenging the government's order.

Source: Extracted (with edits and revisions) from an article titled “Gangster Goldy Brar declared designated terrorist under UAPA: What this means”, published in the Indian Express.

53. Vidhan, a social activist, was involved in organizing large-scale protests against a controversial government policy in Delhi. His actions and speeches during the protests induced lakhs of people to take up arms against the state authorities posing a threat to national security. He was declared a designated terrorist by the Central Government through a notification under the UAPA. Vidhan challenges this designation directly before the Supreme Court, claiming that his actions are a form of peaceful protest and fall within his right to freedom of expression. He argues that the designation is an unjustified restriction on his fundamental rights. In the light of the passage, what would be the likely decision of the court?

- (a) The court will uphold the government's designation of Vidhan as a terrorist, because his actions have posed threats to the national security.
- (b) The court will rule in favour of Vidhan, stressing the importance of protecting fundamental rights of individuals in a democracy.
- (c) The court will direct the government to strengthen its law and order machinery to deal with such challenges in future.
- (d) The court will rule in favour and accordingly will direct the review committee set up under the UAPA for removal of his name from the list.

54. A journalist, Vidhyut, known for his investigative reporting on government corruption, was designated as a terrorist under the UAPA by the Central Government. The government's notification claims that Vidhyut's articles are critical to the current government. During the trial, the court has discovered that Vidhyut's articles criticized the policies of the current government to provide the real scenario to the public and it was in the interest of the people and country. In the light of the passage, what would be the likely decision of the court?

- (a) The court will uphold the government's designation of Vidhyut as a terrorist, acknowledging the government's authority to make such decisions in the interest of national security.
- (b) The court will rule in favour of Vidhyut, as his action does not amount to act of terror.
- (c) The court will suspend the designation temporarily and order a detailed enquiry of Vidhyut's articles.
- (d) The court will advise Vidhyut to write articles which are appreciative of the policies of the government.

55. In Indore, the students union of a university called a meeting to discuss about the celebrations of the upcoming Gandhi Jayanti. Some of the students, who were critical of Gandhiji started protesting and they demanded that the Student Union should not organise any celebrations on Gandhi Jayanti as he was responsible for partition of India. This led to scuffle between two group, and some of the students were injured. The All India Student Union (AISU) planned a massive rally in Indore in solidarity of the Students. They also planned an attack on Indian army to weaken India's security. For this, they procured AK-47, AMG, and hand grenades. Before they could execute their plan, they were arrested by the police. In the light of the passage, decide whether AISU can be declared as a terrorist organisation?

- (a) No, as they could not execute their attack on the Indian Army.
- (b) Yes, as they were preparing for an attack on Indian Army to threaten India's security.
- (c) No, as they were planning a rally in solidarity of the students injured.
- (d) Yes, as Mahatma Gandhi was a promoter of peace and the students were promoting violence on Gandhi Jayanti.

56. In the previous question assume that a fact is substituted. Suppose that when AISU members were executing the attack, they found that the bombs and guns were fake. They are later arrested. What would be the effect of substituted fact on grounds to declare AISU as a terrorist organisation?

- (a) The substituted facts would strengthen the grounds for declaring AISU as a terrorist organisation.
- (b) The substituted facts would weaken the grounds for declaring AISU as a terrorist organisation.
- (c) The substituted facts would weaken the grounds for declaring AISU as a terrorist organisation as the guns and bomb were fake.
- (d) The substituted facts would have no effect on the grounds for declaring AISU as a terrorist organisation.

57. Which of the following statements accurately reflects the provisions and processes outlined in the UAPA as amended in 2019 for designating an individual as a terrorist?

- (a) The UAPA requires the central government to provide an individual with an opportunity to be heard before designating them as a terrorist.
- (b) The UAPA amendment of 2019 specifies detailed sanctions, including travel bans and freezing of assets, for individuals designated as terrorists.
- (c) The UAPA allows the central government to designate an individual as a terrorist through a notification in the official gazette, without a prior hearing for the individual.
- (d) Under the UAPA, only individuals who have been convicted for completing commission of act can be legally designated as terrorists.

58. Which of the following statements cannot be concluded from the passage regarding the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) as amended in 2019?

- (a) The Centre has the power to remove a name from the schedule on an application made by an individual.
- (b) Under the amendment, the central government set up a review committee comprising a chairperson and three other members.
- (c) An individual designated as a terrorist under the UAPA can seek a review of the government's decision through a review committee.
- (d) An individual who is convicted in a terror case is legally referred to as a terror accused.

PASSAGE – XII

A report mentions that the opponents of simultaneous elections argue that they are unconstitutional as they require premature dissolution of state Legislative Assemblies which would be “against the will of the people”. The opponents also claim that as the Constitution mandates fixed terms for Parliament and Assemblies, any changes made to the terms would be against the basic structure of the Constitution. In response to it, the report provides that there have been instances of Legislative Assemblies or Parliament being lawfully dissolved sooner than five years due to a lack of stable majorities or political instability despite the numbers. The law is settled that Articles 83 and 172 of the Constitution provides that the term shall be five years and no longer, but don't fix the minimum number of years of the term at five years. Further, the Constitution itself provides such measures which ends the term prior to the given years.

Another argument is that One Nation, One Election would hamper the electoral process. The scheme would also violate the rights of citizens and basic structure of Constitution. The report rejects the claim and says that simultaneous elections would rather ensure the best utilisation of time and resources of those involved in the electoral process. They would lead to a curtailment of “the role of financial resources, Simultaneous elections neither stop someone from voting or participating in elections nor dismantle the current system of free and fair elections. Free and fair elections and rule of law are the most important constitutional virtues, which are not hampered by it.

Further it argues that simultaneous elections would violate the rights of the states. The report counters the concern by mentioning Articles 327 and 328. Article 327 allows Parliament to “make provision with respect to all matters relating to, or in connection with, elections to either House of Parliament or to the House or either House of the Legislature of a State including the preparation of electoral rolls, the delimitation of constituencies and all other matters necessary for securing the due constitution of such House or Houses.” Meanwhile, Article 328 says that states can legislate in relation to elections to their Legislative Assembly but to the extent it is not covered by parliamentary legislation.

The report also mentions the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission, in case of no majority enjoyed by any party to form government, a pre-election coalition with a majority of seats should be preferred to be invited first to form the government. In its absence the largest party to stake the claim with the support of others, including independents should be preferred.

Source: Extract (with edits and revisions) from an article titled “Is One Nation, One Election unconstitutional? How Kovind report addresses concerns” published at the Indian Express.

59. Shreya, a political analyst, is researching the viability of simultaneous elections and explores the implications of shortening the tenure of legislative assemblies and Parliament. She specifically examines a hypothetical scenario where a political coalition called “Unity Bloc,” which holds a narrow majority in Parliament, disbands due to policy disagreements. As a result, the Prime Minister, Ramesh, lawfully advises the President to lawfully dissolve Parliament, which is done 2 years before its official term is due to end. Simultaneously, in a southern state, the ruling coalition government, headed by Chief Minister Arun, collapses amid allegations of corruption and infighting. Consequently, the Governor lawfully recommends dissolving the Legislative Assembly of the state 3 years before its scheduled term completion. Shreya's research further investigates the interpretation of Articles 83 and 172, questioning whether the early dissolution infringes on any constitutional principle related to the fixed terms. In the context of Articles 83 and 172, does the dissolution of Parliament and the state Legislative Assembly contravene constitutional principles?

- (a) Yes, the early dissolution violates constitutional principles as both Articles 83 and 172 mandate a fixed 5-year tenure, and any shortening of this term would infringe upon the basic structure.
- (b) Yes, both Parliament and state Legislative Assembly have fixed 5-year terms. The premature dissolutions indicate political instability, which threatens the constitutional balance in governance.

(c) No, Articles 83 and 172 do not set a mandatory 5-year term and allow for dissolution before completing the term, given appropriate circumstances like political instability or lack of majority.

(d) No, it upholds constitutional principles, as Articles 83 and 172 state that Parliament and Legislative Assemblies have a maximum term of 5 years, allowing flexibility for ending it earlier if required on any ground.

60. Nisha, a constitutional law expert, is analyzing the recent amendments to the Representation of the People Act, 1951, which were introduced by the Indian government under its mandate in Article 327 of the Constitution. The amendments involve changes in the delimitation of constituencies and restructuring of the electoral roll preparation system with respect to elections to the House or either House of the Legislature of a State. A public interest group, "Voice for Democracy," files a writ petition challenging the constitutionality of these changes, claiming that such provisions infringe upon the rights of the states to manage their own electoral affairs. The group argues that since provisions affect state-specific election systems, such changes should require state legislative consent. Nisha explores the legitimacy of these amendments considering Article 327. Does Article 327 justify Parliament's authority to make amendments to such election-related laws, despite affecting state-specific election systems?

(a) Yes, Article 327 grants Parliament the authority to amend election laws covering all election-related matters concerning either House of Parliament or state Legislative Assemblies.

(b) Yes, Parliament can amend election laws as Article 327 grants overriding powers, even if the changes interfere with the federal structure and states' rights.

(c) No, Article 327 only allows Parliament to address matters regarding elections exclusively for the Houses of Parliament and doesn't cover state legislative matters.

(d) No, Parliament lacks the authority to amend election laws affecting states without their explicit consent, violating the principle of federalism enshrined in the Constitution.

61. Raghav, the Governor of the state of Samyukt, faces a situation where the recent elections have resulted in a hung assembly, with no clear majority for any single party. The parties are as follows: A (40 seats), B (37 seats), C (25 seats), and several independents (8 seats). Party B has formed a pre-electoral alliance with Party C, while Party A is trying to garner the support of independents. Raghav considers inviting Party B and C's coalition, followed by Party A. Party A argues that as they are the single largest party, they should be given the first opportunity to form the government. Consider the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission referenced in the report. Who should Raghav invite first to form the government?

(a) Invite Party B and C Coalition, as they represent a pre-electoral alliance with the majority of seats combined.

(b) Invite Party A, as the single largest party, to prove its majority with the support of independents or other minor parties.

(c) Allow Party A to form the government as they have the highest number of seats, and inviting coalitions undermines the democratic process.

(d) Raghav should wait for further consensus among the parties before deciding whom to invite to form the government.

62. If the fact is introduced that Party A has secured a signed commitment from all independent members to support it in forming government, thus ensuring a stable majority and hence on this basis is seeking preference over Party B and C to form the government. Would it strengthen Party A's case, weaken it, or have no effect on Party A's claim to form the government?

(a) Strengthen Party A's case, as it now shows a clear path to forming a stable government.

(b) Weaken Party A's case, as the Sarkaria Commission's recommendation to prioritize pre-electoral alliances over post-electoral agreements still holds.

(c) Have no effect on Party A's case, as the pre-electoral coalition between Party B and C still holds a preference to form the government.

(d) Strengthen Party B and C's coalition's case, as it underscores the importance of pre-electoral alliances.

63. Based on the passage, which of the following statements is true?

(a) Simultaneous elections would fundamentally alter the basic structure of the Constitution by enforcing a fixed five-year term for all legislative bodies.

(b) The report acknowledges that simultaneous elections would infringe upon the rights of citizens and disrupt the balance of federalism.

(c) Articles 327 and 328 of the Constitution grant exclusive rights to the states over elections, making simultaneous elections unconstitutional.

(d) The report suggests that simultaneous elections would lead to better utilization of resources, reduce the influence of financial resources in elections, and contribute to better governance without violating the Constitution.

64. Based on the passage, which of the following statements cannot be inferred?

- (a) The Constitution does not explicitly mandate a minimum term of five years for legislatures, allowing for the possibility of their dissolution before this period.
- (b) The implementation of simultaneous elections would necessitate a complete overhaul of the current electoral system, including the abolition of free and fair elections.
- (c) The Sarkaria Commission's recommendations provide a framework for addressing scenarios where no single party achieves a majority.
- (d) Simultaneous elections are designed to enhance governance by minimizing the influence of financial resources in the electoral process.

65. Based on the passage, decide

Assertion (A): State's power to deal with election matter is not absolute.

Reason (R): Article 328 confers the power to Parliament and Article 327 gives a restrictive power to State subject to the extent it is not covered by parliamentary legislation.

- (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- (b) Both A and R are true, but R is NOT the correct explanation of A.
- (c) A is true, but R is false.
- (d) A is false, but R is true.

PASSAGE – XIII

The Sessions Court at Borivali dismissed an appeal filed by a 43-year-old woman seeking relief under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 (PWDV Act) observing that husband giving time and money to his mother could not be considered domestic violence.

As per Section 3 of the PWDV Act, any act, omission or commission or conduct of the respondent shall constitute domestic violence in case it-

- (a) harms or injures or endangers the health, safety, life, limb or well-being, of the aggrieved person or tends to do so and includes causing physical abuse, sexual abuse, verbal and economic abuse; or
- (b) harasses, harms, injures or endangers the aggrieved person with a view to coerce her or any other person related to her to meet any unlawful demand for any dowry or other property or valuable security; or
- (c) has the effect of threatening the aggrieved person or any person related to her by any conduct mentioned in clause (a) or clause (b); or
- (d) otherwise injures or causes harm, to the aggrieved person.

As per section 4 of the PWDV Act, any person who has reason to believe that an act of domestic violence has been, or is being, or is likely to be committed, may give information about it to the concerned Protection Officer.

If an aggrieved person or on her behalf a Protection Officer or a service provider requests the person in charge of a shelter home to provide shelter to her, such person in charge of the shelter home shall provide shelter to the aggrieved person in the shelter home. The PWDV Act provides similar provision for providing medical facilities to the aggrieved party at her request.

Section 17 of the PWDV Act mentions that every woman in a domestic relationship shall have the right to reside in the shared household, whether or not she has any right, title or beneficial interest in the same. The aggrieved person shall not be evicted or excluded from the shared household or any part of it by the respondent save in accordance with the procedure established by law. While disposing such application the court can order restraining the respondent from dispossessing her from the household. The Court can also direct the respondent to remove himself from the shared household if it is satisfied that domestic violence has taken place. Also, the court can restrain the respondent or any of his relatives from entering any portion of the shared household in which the aggrieved person resides on being satisfied that domestic violence has taken place.

Source: Extracted (with edits and revisions) from an article titled "Husband Giving Time And Money To His Mother Cannot Be Considered As Domestic Violence Upon Wife: Mumbai Court" published in Live Law.

66. Vidhi and Vidhan tied the knot in 2015 and settled in his parents' home in Indore. Vidhan and his parents loved her very much and took utmost care of her. However, after two years, Vidhan's younger brother married a wealthy bride, who was not trained to do house-chores. Consequently, Vidhan and his parents began to show greater respect and attention to the new bride, often fulfilling her every request and sparing her from any household

chores, while Vidhi assumed all domestic responsibilities along with her mother-in-law. Vidhi felt unhappy that her in-laws love the new bride more and filed a case under PWDV Act against her husband and his family/ for committing domestic violence against her. Decide whether her action would succeed?

- (a) Yes, as Vidhan and his family has committed domestic violence against her.
- (b) No, as Vidhan and his family has not committed domestic violence against her.
- (c) No, as the new bride deserves to be treated with greater respect.
- (d) Yes, as the act of Vidhan and his family shows that they have treated Vidhi unequally with new bride.

67. In the previous question, assume that an additional fact is added. After the marriage of Vidhan's brother, he and his family members started constantly taunting Vidhi for not bringing enough dowry as new bride has brought huge dowry. They also misbehaved with her and kept complaining that her parents didn't gave adequate dowry during their marriage. She was made to eat leftover food and was made to work day and night like a servant. They believed that treating Vidhi like this will force her parents to pay the dowry. Decide what would be the impact of the additional facts on Vidhi's case?

- (a) The introduction of the additional facts would strengthen Vidhi's case.
- (b) The introduction of the additional facts would weaken Vidhi's case.
- (c) The introduction of the additional facts would weaken Vidhi's case as Vidhi did not bring adequate dowry.
- (d) The introduction of the additional facts would have no effect on Vidhi's case.

68. Vidisha and Vidur are a married couple. They married in 2017 and have been living together in a shared household. Initially, they were living alone but after a couple of years Vidur's parents also moved in with the couple. The parents were demanding and started troubling Vidisha with their demands on a regular basis. The father used to shout at Vidisha if she did not provide him food or water at proper times. Eventually things went out of control and Vidisha and the parents started having arguments on daily basis. One day the father even slapped Vidisha. To alleviate the situation, Vidur purchased a new home besides the current house and suggested Vidisha to move in to the new house. Vidisha refused and demanded to stay in the current house. However, Vidur said that Vidisha cannot make such a demand as the house is in Vidur's name. Accordingly, Vidisha filed a case in the Court. As per the passage, select the most appropriate option?

- (a) The Court can direct Vidisha to stay at her parents' home as there is a possibility of Vidhan and his family harassing her in the new house.
- (b) The Court will direct the government to provide adequate shelter to Vidisha.
- (c) The Court will order to restrain Vidur from removing her as she has the right to reside in the shared household.
- (d) The Court will reject Vidisha's challenge as she does not have any right over Vidur's house.

69. Vidya, a 28-year-old married woman was subjected to continuous physical abuse by her husband and in-laws. She was an illiterate woman and her parents were poor. For this reason, she kept quiet and continued to go through all the hardships as she has nowhere else to go. One day, her neighbour, who had an old rivalry with Vidya's husband, informed the protection officer about the domestic violence being committed against Vidya, as he has witnessed the abusive behaviour towards Vidya. He was very concerned with Vidya's situation. Decide whether the neighbour's act is in consonance with the PWDV Act?

- (a) No, as he informed the protection officer to settle an old rivalry between him and Vidya's husband.
- (b) Yes, as he had reason to believe that Vidya has been a victim of domestic violence.
- (c) No, as his act would ruin Vidya's life as she has nowhere else to go.
- (d) Yes, as it is the duty of every citizen to inform the concerned authority about any crime being committed in the Country.

70. Based on the passage, decide

Assertion (A): Husband giving time and money to his mother could not be considered domestic violence.

Reason (R): Husband's acts to give time and money to his mother amounts to mental and physical cruelty.

- (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- (b) Both A and R are true, but R is NOT the correct explanation of A.
- (c) A is true, but R is false.
- (d) A is false, but R is true.

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

- (i) If an aggrieved person requests a person in charge of shelter home to provide shelter to her, such person shall provide shelter to the aggrieved person in the shelter home.
- (ii) Every woman in domestic relationship has the right to reside in shared household but court cannot dispossess the husband from his home.

(iii) The court can restrict the family members of the husband from entering a portion of the shared household in case of domestic violence.

- (a) (i) and (ii) only (b) (ii) and (iii) only. (c) (i) and (iii) only. (d) All of the above.

PASSAGE – XIV

Underlining that the restrictions on free speech by the electoral bonds scheme are not “proportional” to its goal, Supreme Court struck down the scheme.

What is the proportionality test? How does the Court decide whether the state action is proportional?

The test was formally laid down in Puttaswamy ruling. As per the principle, the state action to be upheld must show: (i) The action is sanctioned by law made by Parliament; (ii) The proposed action must be necessary in a democratic society for a legitimate aim such as public welfare and maintenance of law and order; (iii) The extent of such interference must be proportionate to the need for such interference; and (iv) There must be procedural guarantees, such as review by Court, against the restrictions imposed.

How the test was used in the Electoral Bonds Case?

Justice Khanna, applying the proportionality test in his separate opinion, said that donor anonymity cannot be a legitimate state aim. He also held that voters’ right to know supersedes anonymity in political party funding.

CJI Chandrachud, however, applied the “double proportionality” test. Since the case involves balancing facets of two competing fundamental rights — the right to information and the right to privacy, the proportionality test would not be enough.

Essentially, the court will have to examine the matter from the perspective of both rights and decide if the state has adopted the “least restrictive” methods to realize both rights.

The CJI summarized the test to be applied by courts while attempting to resolve a conflict between two fundamental rights (say, A and B) as follows: a. Does the Constitution create a hierarchy between the rights in conflict? If yes, then the right which has been granted a higher status will prevail over the other right involved. If not, the following standard must be employed from the perspective of both the conflicting rights.

b. Whether the measure is a suitable means for furthering right A and right B? It is not necessary that the measure should be the only means capable of realizing the rights. It is sufficient if the measure only partially gives effect to the right(s),

c. Whether the measure is least restrictive and equally effective to realize right A and right B? Court must determine if there are other possible measures which could have been adopted to realize the rights, and whether such alternative measures (a) realize the rights in a real and substantial manner; (b) impact the rights differently; and (c) are better suited on an overall comparison of the degree of realizing the rights and the impact on them.

Whether the measure has a disproportionate impact on right A and right B? In the last prong, it is analyzed if the cost of interference with one right is proportional to the extent of fulfilment of the other.

Source: Extracted (with edits and revisions) from an article titled “Electoral Bonds verdict: How the proportionality test was applied in the case” published in the Indian Express.

72. To give effect to fundamental right to free and compulsory education as provided by the Constitution, the Prime Minister in the Parliament’s session issued a verbal direction to all the states to take actions. As per the direction, the State governments had the freedom to decide the mode of such education. To comply with the said directions, the State Government took steps to ensure that free education is provided to the children. However, some of the states took certain informal steps resulted in creating a restriction on the right of some private school. They have challenged the concerned steps before the Supreme Court on the ground that their fundamental right to carry on occupation as protected by Constitution is being violated. Based on the legal principles mentioned in the passage, decide whether the decision by State Government in question are valid?

- (a) Yes, as the State Government is authorized by law to take such steps.
 (b) Yes, as the restrictions created on right to carry on occupation is proportionate to the need to give free and fair education to the children.
 (c) No, as the restrictions imposed are not sanctioned by law.
 (d) No, as the restrictions are not proportionate to the need to give free and fair education to the children.

73. The government is planning to launch a massive road construction drive. The area selected for construction of roads go through the homes of many people. Accordingly, these people have decided to peacefully organize a nationwide demonstration against the drive. However, the government is fearing that protest in some places will turn violent and accordingly decided to stop this by enacting a law to completely prohibit any demonstration against the Government. The law also provides for life imprisonment against anyone found guilty under the law.

To further increase the severity of the law, no appeal is allowed against the decision taken under the law. The law has been challenged on the ground that it violated the fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression. Choose the correct option.

Note: Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution of India provides all citizens with a freedom of speech and expression. This includes right of peaceful demonstration. However, this right is not absolute and proportionate restrictions can be imposed on such right.

- (a) The challenge is invalid as freedom of speech and expression is not absolute and proportionate restrictions can be imposed on it.
- (b) The challenge is valid as the government cannot silence the voice of the people through such laws.
- (c) The challenge is invalid as the law has been enacted for a legitimate state aim of maintenance of law and order.
- (d) The challenge is valid as the action taken by the government to restrict the right of the people are not proportionate.

74. To increase participation in democracy in India, the Government has decided to launch a scheme to increase political literacy. The scheme provides that Government will finance the courses for political education for voters in India. To fund such cost of finance, the scheme allows people in India to anonymously donate to the Government. To ensure anonymity, the scheme specifically provides that no right to information application will lie regarding the donations. Also, the courts are prohibited from hearing any matter pertaining to this scheme. Right to information is a fundamental right under the constitution. The Associate for democratic Reforms has decided to challenge the scheme. Based on the passage, which of the following will not be an appropriate ground of challenge against the Scheme?

- (a) Voters' right to know supersedes anonymity.
- (b) Restriction on right to information is not sanctioned by law.
- (c) Aim behind the scheme is not a legitimate state aim.
- (d) No procedural guarantee is provided against restrictions imposed on right to information.

75. The Constitution provides everyone with a fundamental right to equality. To give effect to such right, the State is authorized to provide reservation to notified weaker sections. Recently, the State decided to provide reservation to certain notified weaker sections. Even the private education institutions are mandated to provide reservation to these notified weaker sections. The association of private education institutions have challenged this reservation on the ground that such mandatory reservation restricts their fundamental right to carry on any occupation. Which of the following if proved true, would weaken the challenge on its own?

- (a) The State's action to mandate reservation is not sanctioned by any law.
- (b) The Constitution of India specifically provides that to give effect to right to equality the State can mandate even private education institutions to provide such reservation.
- (c) The action by the state is not done for any legitimate state aim.
- (d) The restriction imposed on the right to carry on any occupation is not proportionate.

76. If a law restricts the fundamental right as provided in the constitution, then which of the following is incorrect:

- (a) Such law should fulfill a legitimate state aim.
- (b) Such law should ensure that restrictions imposed are proportionate.
- (c) Such law should not be enacted by anyone other than the parliament
- (d) Such law need not provide any review mechanism by Courts.

77. Based on the double proportionality principle laid down in the passage, which of the following is not required?

- (a) Determining the constitutional hierarchy of the two fundamental rights in conflict.
- (b) Determining if the measure adopted is the only suitable means for realising rights in conflict.
- (c) Determining if the restriction over one right is proportional to the extent of fulfilment of the other right.
- (d) Determining if measures, other than one adopted by the State, exists for realization of the rights in conflict.

PASSAGE - XV

Terming their arrest an "abuse of power" carried out "without application of mind", the Bombay High Court recently said the arrests made by the CBI violated Section 41A of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC).

As per section 41 A of Cr.P.C., the police officer shall, in all cases where the arrest of a person is not required under the provisions of sub-section (1) of section 41, issue a notice directing the person who is alleged to have committed a cognizable offence, to appear before him as may be specified in the notice. It shall be the duty of that person to comply with notice. If the person concerned complies with the notice, he shall not be arrested unless there are specific reasons, which have to be recorded in writing by the police officer. Where such person, at any time, fails to comply with the notice, the police officer may, subject to arrest warrant being passed by the court,

arrest him for the offence mentioned in the notice. The reasons for arrest without the requirement of arrest warrant from court are provided under section 41.

Supreme Court held that all Police officers be provided with a check list as per section 41(1)(b)(ii). The sub-clauses under the section provides grounds and if any of it is present, it will enable arrest by police officer without warrant. If he has reason to believe on the basis of complaint, information, or suspicion that such person has committed the cognizable offence and is satisfied that such arrest is necessary— (a) to prevent him from committing any further offence; or (b) for proper investigation; or (c) to prevent him from disappearing or tampering with evidence; or (d) to prevent him from making any inducement, threat or promise to other to not disclose facts; or (e) as unless such person is arrested, his presence in the Court whenever required cannot be ensured. The provision provides that the police officer shall record his reasons in writing for making such arrest.

The Police officer shall forward the check list duly filed and furnish the reasons and materials which necessitated the arrest, while forwarding the accused before the nearest Magistrate for further detention.

The Magistrate while authorizing detention of the accused shall peruse the report furnished by the Police officer in terms aforesaid and only after recording its satisfaction, the Magistrate will authorize detention.

Failure to comply with the mandates of the provisions and directions mentioned above shall also render the Police officers liable for departmental action along with liability for contempt of Court to be instituted before High Court having territorial jurisdiction over the police official.

Authorizing detention without recording reasons as aforesaid by Magistrate shall be liable for departmental action by the appropriate High Court within whose jurisdiction the magistrate is working.

Source: Extracted (with edits and revisions) from an article titled “Why Bombay HC termed arrest of Chanda Kochhar and husband ‘abuse of power’ published in the Indian Express.

78. Vidhan has been accused of committing theft, a cognizable offence. An FIR has been filed against him. This is not the first time an accusation has been filed against Vidhan. He has been convicted for the offence of theft in the past as well. Taking such criminal antecedent in mind, the police officer in charge has decided to arrest Vidhan without warrant. He believes that if not arrested there is a likelihood of Vidhan committing a similar offence again in the future. The officer in charge of arrest procured the records pertaining to Vidhan’s criminal history and then proceeded to arrest Vidhan. After arresting Vidhan, the officer in Charge forwarded Vidhan before the magistrate for further detention order. The police official only shared the records with the Magistrate as he had not recorded any reasons in writing. Decide whether the arrest by the Police Officer in charge is in compliance with Section 41 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1974?

- (a) Yes, as there are sufficient grounds to believe that Vidhan will commit an offence again in the future.
- (b) No, as the police officer failed to record the reasons in writing as mandated by Section 41 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.
- (c) Yes, as the police officer has shared the relevant materials along with the accused to the Magistrate.
- (d) No, as past criminal records do not automatically conclude that Vidhan will commit an offence in future.

79. Vidya has been a victim of theft, a cognizable offence. She has approached the police station to lodge an FIR. The police have registered an FIR in March, 2024. However, they cannot arrest anyone yet as Vidya is not sure at the time of filing FIR as who has committed the crime. She later suspects that Vidyut, her neighbor might have committed the crime. The police officer has made Vidyut an accused as he also had reason to believe that Vidyut is involved in the offence. However, still they have refused to arrest Vidyut. In light of the checklist mentioned under Section 41(b)(ii), which of the following if proved true would not strengthen the decision taken by the police official?

- (a) Not arresting Vidyut will not have any effect on proper investigation in the allegation of theft.
- (b) Police is satisfied that Vidyut is not going to make any threat or inducement to Vidya.
- (c) For the purpose of his work, Vidyut is going to leave India soon and he will not be able to come back to India for the next couple of years.
- (d) Vidyut is not going to cause disappearance of evidence of the offence.

80. Vidur and Vidhit are neighbors. One day they both had a serious argument. To stop the argument, Vidhit’s wife intervened. As she was trying to intervene, Vidhit slapped Vidur. Vidur was very angry at this. He warned Vidhit that he will definitely pay for this. Scared, Vidhit along with his wife approached the police station to file an FIR. The police registered an FIR and issued a notice to Vidur under Section 41A directing him to appear in the police station on next day. He replied to the notice stating that he will be there as requested. Noting such response, the Police decided to wait for Vidur. Next day, Vidur went to the station. He was arrested the moment he entered. Decide whether the arrest is in compliance with Section 41A?

- (a) Yes, as there is likelihood that Vidur will commit an offence against Vidhit in the future.
 (b) No, as the notice under Section 41A has not been issued in time.
 (c) Yes, as such arrest is necessary to prevent Vidur from making any threat to Vidhit and her wife.
 (d) No, as Vidur had already complied with the notice under Section 41A.

81. A complaint was filed against Vidhi before the High Court of Maharashtra. The High Court directed the Maharashtra police to take appropriate action against Vidhi, who is allegedly involved in the offence, in accordance with Section 41 of Cr.P.C. if considered appropriate by the police. The police came to know that Vidhi is trying to escape the state. The police decided to arrest her in order to prevent her. However, due to urgency of the situation, they could not record the reasons in writing and never tried to record it even after arresting her. They were able to arrest Vidhi in the nearby State of Madhya Pradesh. The nearest magistrate to the place of arrest was in the jurisdiction of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh. Accordingly, the police took her to the said magistrate. The Magistrate verbally authorized further detention. Based on legal principles laid down in the passage, choose the correct statements.

- (i) The arrest by the police is correct as they had various reasons to arrest Vidhi.
 (ii) The arrest by the police is incorrect as they failed to record reasons for Vidhi's arrest.
 (iii) The magistrate will be liable to departmental action by the High Court of Maharashtra.
 (iv) The magistrate will be liable to departmental action by the High Court of Madhya Pradesh.
 (a) Only (i) (b) Only (ii) (c) Both (ii) & (iii) (d) Both (ii) & (iv)

82. Assume in the previous question, certain additional facts are added. After the magistrate ordered detention, Vidhi's lawyer has filed a complaint before the High Court of Maharashtra. He is claiming that the police officer shall be liable for contempt of court as they failed to arrest Vidhi in compliance with Section 41 of Cr.P.C. Decide, whether the claim will succeed?

- (a) Yes, as the police failed to record reasons for Vidhi's arrest and thus liable to contempt of court.
 (b) No, as in case of non-compliance of Section 41 Cr.P.C., the police is liable for departmental action only.
 (c) Yes, as the police officer failed to take Vidhi to a magistrate within their State.
 (d) No, as the State of Maharashtra is not empowered to take an action in the instant case.

83. Based on the passage, decide:

Assertion (A): Arresting an individual without complying with the conditions as laid down under Section 41A Cr.P.C. can be treated as abuse of power.

Reasons (R): Recently, the Bombay High Court termed arrest by CBI as an abuse of power as the said arrest was in violation of Section 41A of the Criminal Procedure Code (Cr.P.C.).

- (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
 (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
 (c) A is true, but R is false.
 (d) A is false, but R is true.

84. With regards to essential conditions related to procedure for arrest of an individual, which of the following is not correct?

- (a) The police officer should be satisfied that all the grounds as mentioned under Section 41(1)(b)(ii) are fulfilled before arresting an individual.
 (b) The police officer has to forward the duly-filed check list to the nearest magistrate.
 (c) The police officer has to forward to the nearest magistrate all the evidence and any other material information based on which arrest was done.
 (d) The police officer shall forward the accused to the nearest magistrate for further detention orders.

Section D-Logical Reasoning

PASSAGE - XVI

In India, the governor of a state is formally the head of the executive. But he or she is not part of the elected government or even elected by an electoral college as the president is. Governors are appointed by the party ruling at the Centre, often as a reward for loyalty. The expectation that they shall be above politics, as imagined by the Constitution, was thus never very realistic. The governor's leaning is often towards the Centre in Opposition-ruled states. No political party at the Centre, starting with the Congress, has been above exploiting the political potential of the governor's role, but in the BJP led regime, the relationship of governors with the legislatures in some Opposition states has become openly acrimonious. Kerala has now proposed that states be given the power to

recall governors who violate constitutional provisions, mishandle the job of chancellor and do not discharge criminal prosecution responsibilities.

The proposal — quite startling, given the Constitutional mandate — retained propriety by being presented as a reply to the Centre's request for feedback on the recommendations of the Punchhi Commission report on changes to be made in Centre-state relations. Kerala may have touched a chord in a number of Opposition states, including West Bengal, which wished the Centre to recall its governor, Jagdeep Dhankhar, whose constant criticism of and clashes with the legislature are unprecedented. Resistance to and delaying of executive business are the complaints against governors whom Opposition states find unfriendly. The other suggestions of Kerala, too, touch upon issues relevant to different states, saying that the Centre should consult the state when appointing a governor, that the governor should not be chancellor — Bengal said this too — and that the governor can ask for Central forces only with the state's permission. The proposals aim to lessen the Centre's power, channeled through the governor, to undermine a state's authority or raise questions about the legitimacy of an elected government. The Constitution, while attributing some powers to the office, does not seem to envisage the governor engaging in political tussles. Kerala's proposals articulate the main issues behind Opposition states' discontent. They must be addressed; the Centre has to decide on the method.

[Extracted with (edits and revisions) an excerpt from the article titled "Equal Powers" published in 'Times of India']

85. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?

- (a) The President is elected by an electoral college.
- (b) The Constitution has imagined that the Governor shall be above politics.
- (c) The President has the similar powers as the state.
- (d) Both (a) and (b).

86. Consider the statement "The Constitution, while attributing some powers to the office, does not seem to envisage the governor engaging in political tussles. Kerala's proposals articulate the main issues behind Opposition states' discontent. They must be addressed; the Centre has to decide on the method."

What is the purpose of the last few lines of the passage?

- (a) It is a rhetorical statement used by the author to bolster his argument.
- (b) It is the conclusion of the argument.
- (c) It answers a question beforehand.
- (d) It aptly highlights the plight discussed by the author.

87. Which of the following is not analogous to the clash between the governor and the state government?

- (a) In Kerala, the governor, Khan didn't appear for oath giving of the Chief Minister.
- (b) In UP, the governor Patel didn't back CM for riots against the majorities.
- (c) In Delhi, clashes arose between the CM and governor on the jurisdiction and functioning of state.
- (d) Governor appointed all the prosecutors whose names were submitted by the Delhi Police and the State government's list was rejected.

88. What role does the example of Jagdeep Dhankar play in the argument displayed in the passage?

- (a) It does not express an idea that the author of this passage argues in favour of.
- (b) It expresses an idea that the author of this passage argues against.
- (c) It bolsters the author's argument.
- (d) It forms the premise of the argument in the passage.

89. Which of the following measures has not been suggested by Kerala?

- (a) States should have the authority to recall governors who do not discharge criminal prosecution responsibilities.
- (b) States be given the power to recall governors who violate constitutional provisions.
- (c) The Centre should consult the state when appointing a governor.
- (d) The Central forces can be used only with the state's permission.

90. Which of the following is inferred from the passage except?

- (a) The governors appointed by the Centre stay loyal to it during their tenure.
- (b) The governors may intentionally display a lackadaisical attitude in the workings for the state.
- (c) According to the Constitution the Governors are engaged in political disputes.
- (d) None of the above

PASSAGE – XVII

The global landscape is in chaos, with the Israeli assault on Gaza and the Russian invasion of Ukraine capturing worldwide attention. Indians, too, are engrossed in the West Asian crisis. However, the Indian media's predictably pro-Israel stance, possibly influenced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's early remarks, has been disheartening. Their coverage often portrays Islam as a source of terrorism and Muslims as inherently violent, aligning with the Hindutva narrative used by the Indian State to target Pakistan, Kashmiris, and Muslim Indians. The Indian right-wing idolizes Israel's robust security state, often asking, "Why can't India be like Israel?" They fail to recognize the stark differences: Israel, an artificial construct without a Constitution or defined borders, was created for a persecuted religious community. In contrast, India is a vast, secure nation with a Constitution that doesn't discriminate on religious grounds. Hindutva ideologues envision India as a 'Hindu homeland', mirroring Israel's 'Jewish homeland' identity. This aligns with the Hindu rashtra concept, hoping to gain Western support similar to Israel. Their tactics in Western countries mirror those of hardline Jewish groups, using funding and lobbying to influence policies.

Interestingly, in drawing parallels with Israel, Hindutva ideologues echo Pakistani military dictator, General Zia ul-Haq's views. Zia once compared Pakistan to Israel, emphasizing their religious foundations. Israel and Pakistan, both created based on religion by colonial powers, share historical similarities. India, however, chose a different path in 1947, one that has served it well. Why would it now want to emulate a Hindu version of Pakistan? Recent Indian military initiatives, like Project Udbhav, aim to 'rediscover' India's ancient strategic heritage, focusing on pre-Muslim rule texts. This move mirrors Pakistan's shift towards puritanical Islam under Zia. Geopolitically, India's current alignment with the US against China mirrors Pakistan's alliance with the US during the Cold War. Despite global concerns about India's democratic regression and religious minority treatment since 2014, the US has largely turned a blind eye, much like its past indulgence of Pakistan.

The US's past leniency towards Pakistan had long-term repercussions for South Asia, with Pakistan's citizens paying the heaviest price. As the US now appears to indulge Modi, Indians must reflect on whether they want their nation to follow Pakistan's path, directly or via Israel.

Source: Zia's long shadow, The Telegraph Online, October 19, 2023

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

- (a) India should emulate Israel's robust security state to deal with its own geopolitical challenges.
- (b) The Indian media's portrayal of Islam aligns with the Hindutva narrative.
- (c) The U.S. has been consistently critical of India's treatment of religious minorities since 2014.
- (d) Project Udbhav is a step towards secularism in India.

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

- (a) The U.S. has always been critical of Pakistan's policies.
- (b) Hindutva ideologues seek to gain Western support similar to Israel.
- (c) India has a Constitution that discriminates on religious grounds.
- (d) General Zia ul-Haq's views are completely different from those of Hindutva ideologues.

93. Which of the following would most weaken the author's arguments?

- (a) India has recently amended its Constitution to include religious discrimination.
- (b) The U.S. has imposed sanctions on India for its treatment of religious minorities.
- (c) General Zia ul-Haq never actually compared Pakistan to Israel.
- (d) The Indian media has been consistently critical of the Hindutva narrative.

94. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the author's argument?

- (a) Project Udbhav has been criticized for its focus on pre-Muslim rule texts.
- (b) The U.S. has a history of supporting countries that later face democratic regression.
- (c) Hindutva ideologues have openly admitted to using funding and lobbying to influence Western policies.
- (d) General Zia ul-Haq had also aimed to 'rediscover' Pakistan's ancient strategic heritage.

95. As per the passage, which one of the following is a correct expression of the author's opinion as stated in the passage?

- (a) India should follow Pakistan's path to gain Western support.
- (b) The U.S.'s past leniency towards Pakistan had no significant repercussions for South Asia.
- (c) Indians must reflect on whether they want their nation to follow Pakistan's path, directly or via Israel.
- (d) The Indian right-wing's admiration for Israel's security state is justified.

96. Which of the following supports the author's view on India being the opposite of Israel?
- (a) India adheres to the Hindutva philosophy, which promotes the nation as the "Hindu homeland".
 - (b) India does not want to discriminate based on religion, in contrast to the Jewish community.
 - (c) Though Jewish thought rejects non-discrimination legislation, it is influenced by Hindutva ideology.
 - (d) India is a democratic country heavily influenced by one religion, unlike the Jewish people.

PASSAGE - XVIII

Europe's ambitious strides towards a greener future are now facing a significant backlash, a phenomenon that can be termed as "greenlash." The EU, undeterred by the pandemic or geopolitical crises, has made commendable progress in its green agenda. In 2022, renewables even surpassed gas as the leading source of electricity in the EU. However, as the costs and complexities of the transition become more palpable, resistance is growing from various quarters. Dutch farmers are protesting stringent nitrogen emission limits, arguing that these could cripple European agriculture. In Germany, there's public concern over the phasing out of gas boilers. Meanwhile, political leaders like French President Emmanuel Macron and Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo are calling for a "pause" in the EU's green legislative agenda. Poland is fighting to sustain its coal subsidies, and conservative elements within the European Parliament are attempting to obstruct nature conservation laws.

This "greenlash" can be interpreted in two ways. The first interpretation suggests that the backlash is a natural outcome of the green agenda becoming a tangible reality. As long as the climate goals remained abstract, it was easy for everyone to support them. Now that the rubber is hitting the road, the complexities and sacrifices required are becoming evident. This is a revolutionary transition with winners and losers, and it's only natural for the "losers" to voice their concerns. The challenge for politics is to channel this dissent constructively, ensuring it doesn't derail the journey to net zero. The second interpretation is more ominous. It suggests that the "greenlash" could be a harbinger of worse things to come, especially with upcoming elections in several EU countries. Right-wing, populist parties are already capitalizing on the backlash, not by denying climate change, but by criticizing the inequalities they claim are exacerbated by green policies. They advocate for an "ecological sovereignty" that opposes wind and solar farms and promotes traditional agriculture. Such populist nationalism distorts the climate agenda and could slow down not just the decarbonization efforts but also the broader sustainability goals related to biodiversity and nature conservation.

Source: After two years of real progress on climate, a European 'greenlash' is brewing, July 12, 2023

97. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the author's argument that the "greenlash" is a natural outcome of the green agenda becoming a tangible reality?

- (a) The EU has been successful in implementing green policies without any public resistance.
- (b) Dutch farmers are protesting because they believe the green agenda is unrealistic and unattainable.
- (c) The EU's green legislative agenda has been paused due to increasing geopolitical crises.
- (d) Supporting the climate goals was easy till they remained ideational.

98. How does the author suggest the challenge for politics is in dealing with the "greenlash"?

- (a) By advocating for an "ecological sovereignty" that opposes wind and solar farms.
- (b) By channelling the dissent constructively to ensure it doesn't derail the journey to net zero.
- (c) By phasing out gas boilers in Germany to reduce public concern.
- (d) By sustaining coal subsidies in Poland to appease conservative elements.

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

- (a) The "greenlash" is solely a result of right-wing, populist parties capitalizing on public dissent.
- (b) The complexities and sacrifices required by the green agenda are becoming evident, leading to resistance.
- (c) The EU should immediately halt all green initiatives to address the concerns of Dutch farmers and German citizens.
- (d) The "greenlash" is an indication that the EU's green policies have been a complete failure.

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

- (a) All EU countries are in favor of the green legislative agenda.
- (b) The "greenlash" could potentially slow down broader sustainability goals related to biodiversity and nature conservation.
- (c) Dutch farmers are the primary force behind the resistance to the EU's green agenda.
- (d) The EU's green legislative agenda has been completely derailed by public dissent.

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

- (a) Renewables have not surpassed gas as the leading source of electricity in the EU.
- (b) The EU's green legislative agenda has been accelerated despite the "greenlash."
- (c) Right-wing, populist parties are denying climate change rather than criticizing the inequalities they claim are exacerbated by green policies.
- (d) The complexities and sacrifices required by the green agenda are not becoming evident to the public.

102. Which of the following does the author imply about the "ecological sovereignty" while

- (a) The climate agenda has been wrecked by politics, which supports phony "ecological sovereignty" while opposing green policies.
- (b) The goal of right-wing populists is to improve ecological sovereignty by reintroducing green measures.
- (c) Green policies will support right-wings' fight against climate change.
- (d) The right-wing is pushing the 'ecological sovereignty' view, which is strengthening its hold on the political agenda.

PASSAGE – XIX

The complex relationship between life and death has been a subject of fascination across cultures, explored through various artistic mediums. This theme is evident in Ingmar Bergman's film "The Seventh Seal" and the Indian epic "Mahabharata," particularly in the tale of Savitri, as well as its modern interpretation by Sri Aurobindo in "Savitri: A Legend and a Symbol." "The Seventh Seal" depicts death amidst the medieval plague in Sweden. The protagonist, Antonius Block, a knight returning from the Crusades, challenges Death to a chess game, hoping to delay his inevitable end. Death, characterized as cunning and deceitful, engages in this mortal game. The film concludes with Death dancing with Block and his companions, a portrayal that aligns closely with the grim reality of death's inescapability. In contrast, the Mahabharata's tale of Savitri offers a different perspective. Savitri, a woman, defies the Lord of Death, Yama Dharmaraja, to bring back her deceased husband, Satyavan. Yama, bound by divine laws, initially refuses but grants Savitri three boons, excluding Satyavan's life. Savitri's astuteness in requesting to bear a hundred sons, thereby necessitating Satyavan's revival, showcases her intellectual prowess and her ability to outwit Death. Sri Aurobindo's reimagining of this story in his poem further illuminates the unique engagement of women with death. He transforms the narrative into a universal symbol, depicting Satyavan as the "divine truth of being" and Savitri as the "Divine Word" and "goddess of the supreme Truth." This allegorical interpretation brings the story closer to reality, making it more relatable to readers. Aurobindo's choice to focus on Savitri's tale, as discussed in K.R. Srinivasa Iyengar's "Sri Aurobindo: A Biography and a History," reflects his fascination with this narrative over others like Nala and Damayanti. Both "The Seventh Seal" and "Savitri: A Legend and a Symbol" involve active engagements with Death. However, while Death in Bergman's film is deceptive, Yama in the Mahabharata upholds Dharma, the moral order. Savitri's victory over Death is unique, showcasing her transition from emotional grief to intellectual argumentation. Her request for a hundred sons, seemingly patriarchal, also highlights her central role in the lives of men: her husband, her future sons, and her triumph over Yama. Savitri's story, particularly in Aurobindo's rendition, stands out in world literature for its portrayal of a woman's encounter with Death. It contrasts with the male-centric narrative of "The Seventh Seal" and other mythological tales. The combination of a woman's intellect and the theme of death in these works underscores the varied cultural perceptions and artistic representations of life's inevitable counterpart, death.

Source: Unique pairing, The Telegraph Online, November 13, 2023

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

- (a) The portrayal of Death in "The Seventh Seal" and "Mahabharata" is fundamentally similar, emphasizing its inescapability.
- (b) Sri Aurobindo's "Savitri: A Legend and a Symbol" represents a departure from traditional interpretations of the Mahabharata.
- (c) The Mahabharata's tale of Savitri predominantly underscores her emotional grief over the intellectual prowess.
- (d) Ingmar Bergman's "The Seventh Seal" suggests a positive, hopeful outlook on death.

104. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the author's argument regarding the role of women in the narratives of "Savitri: A Legend and a Symbol" and "The Seventh Seal"?

- (a) In many ancient cultures, death was personified as a male figure, symbolizing power and finality.
- (b) Ingmar Bergman explicitly stated that his depiction of Death in "The Seventh Seal" was intended to challenge traditional gender roles.

(c) Other stories in the Mahabharata, apart from the tale of Savitri, predominantly feature male protagonists interacting with death.

(d) Sri Aurobindo's work has been widely recognized for its feminist interpretations of traditional Indian myths.

105. Which of the following is a correct expression of the author's opinion as stated in the passage about the character of Death in "The Seventh Seal" and "Mahabharata"?

(a) Death in both "The Seventh Seal" and the "Mahabharata" is portrayed as a figure adhering strictly to moral and divine laws.

(b) The character of Death in "The Seventh Seal" is depicted as more benevolent and forgiving than in the "Mahabharata".

(c) In "The Seventh Seal", Death is characterized as cunning and deceitful, contrasting with Yama's upholding of Dharma in the "Mahabharata".

(d) The depiction of Death in both works is meant to symbolize the triumph of human intellect over mortality.

106. Which of the following aligns to the point of view regarding the portrayal of Death in "The Seventh Seal" and the tale of Savitri in the "Mahabharata"?

(a) Death is an inevitable force that cannot be intellectually outmanoeuvred, as shown in both the film and the epic.

(b) The contrasting representations of Death in the two narratives reflect cultural differences in the perception of mortality.

(c) Both narratives emphasize the role of divine intervention in altering the course of events related to death.

(d) The tales demonstrate that death, regardless of its portrayal, ultimately signifies the end of human existence.

107. Based on the author's arguments, which of the following will act as an assumption for the unique portrayal of women in "Savitri: A Legend and a Symbol" and "The Seventh Seal"?

(a) Women's roles in mythological narratives are often limited to traditional, domestic spheres.

(b) The intellectual prowess of women in mythology is typically overshadowed by their emotional expressions.

(c) The interpretation of mythological stories can vary significantly based on the cultural context and the narrator's perspective.

(d) Death, as a character in narratives, is universally depicted as a malevolent and unyielding force.

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

(a) The perspective on Savitri in the Mahabharata differs greatly from that of Aurobindo's Savitri.

(b) The main focus of Savitri's story in the Mahabharata is her emotional anguish over the intellect.

(c) The way that a woman meets Death in the Mahabharata version of Savitri's narrative is particularly notable.

(d) "The Seventh Seal" by Ingmar Bergman presents a distinctive and transitional view of death.

Section E-Quantitative Techniques

PASSAGE - XX

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

In Vidhigya International School, there are three different classes - 8th, 9th, and 10th - with a certain number of boys and girls studying in each.

For 8th class: 65% are girls and the rest are boys. Out of the total number of girls and boys, 40% of girls and 20% of boys scored more than 80% in the final exam, while the remaining students scored less than or equal to 80%. The number of students who scored less than or equal to 80% is 1340.

For 9th class: 55% are girls and the rest are boys. Out of the total number of girls and boys, 60% of girls and 40% of boys scored more than 70% in the final exam, while the remaining students scored less than or equal to 70%. The number of students who scored less than or equal to 70% is 1470.

For 10th class: 60% are girls and the rest are boys. Out of the total number of girls and boys, 40% of girls and 50% of boys scored more than 75% in the final exam, while the remaining students scored less than or equal to 75%. The number of students who scored less than or equal to 75% is 560.

Note: All students appeared in the final exam.

109. What is the average number of girls studying in class 8th and 9th together?

(a) 1575

(b) 1275

(c) 1375

(d) 1475

110. Find the respective ratio between number of boys of class 8th and 9th together and number of girls of 9th and 10th together?

(a) 41:45

(b) 45:41

(c) 54:51

(d) 51:54

111. The number of students of class 8th and 9th together is how much percent more or less than the number of students of class 9th and 10th together?

- (a) 20% (b) 35% (c) 25% (d) 40%

112. What is the difference between the total number of girls and the total number of boys of all three classes together?

- (a) 1200 (b) 1100 (c) 1300 (d) 1000

PASSAGE – XXI

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

Six employees named Vidhi, Vidhan, Vidyut, Vidushi, Vidhit and Vidya from Vidhigya law firm went on an official car trip to Bhopal. The following information is about their ages. Five years ago, the ratio of Vidhi's age to Vidhan's age was 7:10, respectively. Vidyut's present age is 5 years less than twice the present age of Vidhi. Also, the ratio of Vidhan's age to Vidyut's age five years from now will be 3:4, respectively. Similarly, four years ago, the ratio of Vidushi's age to Vidhit's age was 4:5, respectively. Vidya's present age is 6 years more than twice the present age of Vidushi. Also, the ratio of Vidhit's age to Vidya's age four years from now will be 14:25, respectively.

113. Find the difference between the present age of Vidhan and Vidhi?

- (a) 15 years (b) 12 years (c) 10 years (d) 16 years

114. Find the sum of present age of all six employees together?

- (a) 240 years (b) 250 years (c) 230 years (d) 260 years

115. What is the respective ratio between the age of Vidhan 5 years from now and the age of Vidya 6 years ago?

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

116. What is the average present age of Vidhi, Vidhan, Vidyut and Vidushi together?

- (a) 37.5 years (b) 57.5 years (c) 47.5 years (d) 67.5 years

PASSAGE – XXII

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

There are three trains, namely NARMADA EXPRESS, SHANTI EXPRESS, and CHENNAI EXPRESS that regularly travel between A and B stations. The departure timings for these trains from both stations are as follows: Train NARMADA EXPRESS departs from A to B at 7:00 am daily, and on the same day, it departs from B to A at 6:00 pm. Similarly, Train SHANTI EXPRESS departs from A to B at 8:00 am daily, and on the same day, it departs from B to A at 9:00 pm. Train CHENNAI EXPRESS departs from A to B at 2:00 pm daily, and on the same day, it departs from B to A at 7:00 am.

117. If train NARMADA EXPRESS starts from A with a speed of 70 km/hr and train CHENNAI EXPRESS starts from B with a speed of 80 km/hr. At the time of their meeting train CHENNAI EXPRESS has covered 20 km more than train NARMADA EXPRESS, then find the distance between A and B?

- (a) 300 km (b) 150 km (c) 200 km (d) 180 km

118. If the distance between A and B is 396 km and the speed of Train SHANTI EXPRESS is 10 m/s, then at what time Train SHANTI EXPRESS reached B on any particular day?

- (a) 7:50 pm (b) 7:15 pm (c) 7:30 pm (d) 7:00 pm

119. If While travelling from B to A, Train NARMADA EXPRESS travels with speed of 15 km/hr and Train SHANTI EXPRESS travels with a speed of 20 km/hr. How much distance train SHANTI EXPRESS has travelled before their meeting?(Assuming distance between stations A and B is more than 250 km)

- (a) 90 km (b) 120 km (c) 180 km (d) 160 km

120. If speed of train NARMADA EXPRESS, train SHANTI EXPRESS and train CHENNAI EXPRESS is 40 km/hr, 60 km/hr, and 50 km/hr respectively, then the speed of NARMADA EXPRESS and SHANTI EXPRESS together is how much percent more/less than the speeds of SHANTI EXPRESS and CHENNAI EXPRESS together?

- (a) 11.11% (b) 9.09% (c) 25% (d) 20%

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