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

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Subhash H.S. School,
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Jerrin Mathew
St. Arnold's H.S. School
Indore



Lavesh Verma
St. Paul HS School
Indore



Tanay Kaushal
IBP Global Academy,
Ujjain

Duration: 120 Minutes
29th 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**

On 26 February 2015, Cates Holderness, a BuzzFeed community manager, posted a picture of a dress, captioned: 'There's a lot of debate on Tumblr about this right now, and we need to settle it.' The post was accompanied by a poll that racked up millions of votes in a matter of days. About two-thirds of people saw the dress as white and gold. The rest, as blue and black. The comments section was filled with bewildered calls to 'go check your eyes' and all-caps accusations of trolling.

Vision scientists were quick to point out that the difference in appearance had to do with the ambiguity of ambient light in the photograph. If the visual system resolved the photograph as being taken indoors with its warmer light, the dress would appear blue and black; if outdoors, white and gold. That spring, the annual Vision Sciences Society conference had a live demo of the actual dress (blue and black, for the record) lit in different ways to demonstrate the way the difference of ambient light shifted its appearance. But none of this explains why the visual systems of different people would automatically infer different ambient light (one predictive factor seems to be a person's typical wake-up time: night owls have more exposure to warmer, indoor light).

Whatever the full explanation turns out to be, it is remarkable that this type of genuine difference in visual appearance could elude us so completely. Until #TheDress went viral, no one, not even vision scientists, had any idea that these specific discrepancies in colour appearance existed. This is all the more remarkable considering how easy it is to establish this difference. In the case of #TheDress, it's as easy as asking 'What colours do you see?' If we could be oblivious to such an easy-to-measure difference in subjective experience, how many other such differences might there be that can be discovered if only we know where to look and which questions to ask?

Take the case of Blake Ross, the co-creator of the Firefox web browser. For the first three decades of his life, Ross assumed his subjective experience was typical. After all, why wouldn't he? Then he read a popular science story about people who do not have visual imagery. While most people can, without much effort, form vivid images in their 'mind's eye', others cannot – a condition that has been documented since the 1800s but only recently named: aphantasia. Ross learned from the article that he himself had aphantasia. His reaction was memorable: 'Imagine your phone buzzes with breaking news: *Well, then, what are you?*'

Ross went on to ask his friends about what it's like for them when they imagine various things, quickly realising that, just as he took his lack of imagery as a fact of the human condition, they similarly took their presence of visual imagery as a given. 'I have never visualised anything in my entire life,' Ross wrote in Vox in 2016. 'I can't "see" my father's face or a bouncing blue ball, my childhood bedroom or the run I went on 10 minutes ago... I'm 30 years old, and I never knew a human could do any of this. And it is blowing my goddamn mind.'

There is a moral imperative for us to study and understand these kinds of differences

There is a kind of visceral astonishment that accompanies these types of hidden differences. We seem wedded to the idea that we experience things a certain way because they *are* that way. Encountering someone who experiences the world differently (even when that difference seems trivial, like the colour of a dress) means acknowledging the possibility that our own perception could be 'wrong'. And if we can't be sure about the colour of something, what else might we be wrong about? Similarly, for an aphantasic to acknowledge that visual imagery exists is to realise that there is a large mismatch between their subjective experiences and those of most other people.

Studying hidden differences like these can enrich our scientific understanding of the mind. It would not occur to a vision scientist to ask whether being a night owl might have an impact on colour perception, but a bunch of people on the internet comparing notes on how they saw a dress inspired just such a study. The study of aphantasia is helping us understand ways in which people lacking imagery can accomplish the same goals (like remembering the visual details of their living room) without using explicit imagery. How many other such examples might there be once we start looking? There is also, arguably, a moral imperative for us to study and understand these kinds of differences because they help us understand the various ways of being human and to empathise with these differences. It's a sobering thought that a person might respond differently to a situation not just because they have a different opinion about what to do or are in possession of different knowledge, but because their experience of the situation is fundamentally different.

1. What impact did the dress have on the people, as per the views of the author?

- (a) The people were remarkably shocked as to how the visual system of different people would infer different ambient lights.
- (b) The people made it viral because it was the best way to become famous.

- (c) The people were clueless about how the colour of the dress changed according to the ambient light.
 (d) The people were indifferent to the idea that the discrepancies in colour appearance exists.
2. What can be inferred by the author's realisation of the instances like Buzzfeed's post?
- (a) People do not respect the people with different abilities or their struggle.
 (b) Encouraging people and their experience with the world being different expands our perspective towards world.
 (c) We are living in our own shell which is also safe for us but we might miss some other experiences.
 (d) People can make anything viral even if the motive is malicious but sometimes it results in hurting others' feelings.
3. What are the views of the author on the study of aphantasia?
- (a) The author realised that there is a noticeable discrepancy between the subjective experiences of the people with aphantasia and the others.
 (b) The author feels that other people are less empathetic toward the people having aphantasia when they need more of it.
 (c) People do not realise the impact of these differences on those who are suffering from such experiences.
 (d) People have a certain perspective on the way of living where the difference seems trivial to them but it is much deeper.
4. What do we learn eventually by knowing different types of human conditions, according to the passage?
- (a) People react differently in some situations because their perspective on the various situations is indifferent.
 (b) People have different reactions to a situation because of their past experiences.
 (c) People nowadays should be more empathetic to others with their opinions and situations.
 (d) People with different experiences try to think of a situation in the same way as a normal person would.

PASSAGE - II

The covid pandemic sent people home and revived the question of whether flexible work could help solve India's problem of abysmal levels of workforce participation by women. Work done by this year's winner of the Nobel Prize for Economics, Claudia Goldin, a Harvard professor awarded "for having advanced our understanding of women's labour market outcomes," could guide us towards an answer not just to that, but maybe to other questions as well. Such as why women are paid less than men. Gender disparity has been studied deeply by Professor Goldin, who looked back at US records for two centuries plus, working out ways to fill data gaps-no mean task, given how male chauvinism can warp statistics-to capture drivers of gender gaps as they changed over time. Although America is not India and our labour markets differ, many of her findings resonate with us. Her U-shaped curve for the labour participation of married women in the US, for example, may apply to any evolving economy. As traced by her, this key gender variable dropped as the Industrial Age split homes and workplaces apart, and then recovered with a services boom. This tale of two centuries made it amply clear that economic emergence (in terms of output) is not enough for gender equity.

Only half of all women today are in paid employment, globally, compared to 80% of men, and the former still tend to earn less. This is glaringly inefficient. An economy with fewer opportunities for women and unequal terms on offer fails to make the best use of its resources. But in the US, a 20th century uptrend of women at paid work and its apparent correlation with prosperity had incubated intellectual laziness on the issue. On the insight that female farm and workshop workers of the 19th century had been undercounted, Professor Goldin fixed that data flaw to reveal a remarkably high ratio of married women working in agrarian times. This variable slid as factory/office work took off, only to rise again as services emerged. Crucially, by popping a myth that arose from correlation mixed up with causation, she made academia study the barriers women face as an economy's structure changes. She explored the family context. If marriage and domestic duties played a role in keeping women back, even as education and other factors pushed the other way, so did women's expectations. What career paths to expect-if any after motherhood-and what education to invest in took generations to settle in the US. Even if the young knew their work lives needn't follow their mothers', a haze over earning prospects was a holdback. America's big reset of the past half century was the contraceptive pill. It let women delay childbirth and make confident career choices in diverse fields, even male bastions. Vitally, incentives to invest in women's education suddenly went up. Professor Goldin's research tells us that enhancing expectations is still a must. While the US gender gap in earnings has reduced, it is also proving to be a 'sticky wage problem' of another kind. Her review of pay gaps found industrial era gains for women over 1820-1850 and 1890-1930, before a long plateau over 1930-1980 (in spite of social empowerment). Alas, it's still slow-going. And baby breaks explain some but not all of it.

The social story of Indian women may differ, but broad structural shifts may plausibly have had a role in our 21st century drop in women's workforce participation, even if the dominant factors at play are far more complex.

5. According to the passage, what can be inferred as similarities between the economy of US and India?
 - (a) The employment of women is not considered comparing to the employment of men.
 - (b) The labour participation of married women shows the inequality of gender in both the countries.
 - (c) The women employment rates of US is nearly the same as India's.
 - (d) The employment of women after marriage is plausibly same in both countries.
6. According to the author, what is the primary reason of the women facing inequality in working class?
 - (a) The relation of working women with the economy failed to provide results.
 - (b) The women employees fall prey to the male chauvinism in their workplace.
 - (c) The working women at the farm or workshops had been undercounted.
 - (d) The academics are the main barriers of the women to make a career.
7. What is the solution that public in the US has imposed to work on women employment?
 - (a) The women in the US were given the right education to maintain the employment ratio.
 - (b) The women in the US worked even after childbirth and maintained a work life balance.
 - (c) The women in the US started using contraception to delay childbirth and work independently.
 - (d) The women in the US started delaying marriages to work with an independent life.
8. Select an option that does not fit in the attributes of the theory of women working in motherhood?
 - (a) The US gender gaps in earning has reduced in the past fifty years.
 - (b) The women in America have adopted the solution of consuming contraceptive pill to work for a longer period.
 - (c) Professor Goldin fixed that data flaw to reveal a remarkably high ratio of women working in agrarian times.
 - (d) The baby breaks could explain a part of women not continuing the work post-partum.
9. Which of the following accurately summarizes the research of Professor Goldin?
 - (a) The research of Professor Goldin tells us that women working after marriage should be given a second chance.
 - (b) The research of Professor Goldin tells us that the women are struggling with equality in their workplace.
 - (c) The research tells us about the struggle women are facing with equality in workplace, working after marriage and post-partum.
 - (d) All of the above

PASSAGE - III

Lawyers for former President Donald J. Trump filed an appeal on Tuesday seeking to overturn the ruling last week by Shenna Bellows, Maine's secretary of state, to bar him from appearing on the state's Republican primary ballot. Ms. Bellows, a Democrat, "was a biased decision maker who should have recused herself and otherwise failed to provide lawful due process," lawyers for Mr. Trump wrote in the 11-page appeal filed in Maine Superior Court. They further argued that she had "no legal authority to consider the federal constitutional issues presented by the challengers."

Ms. Bellows "made multiple errors of law and acted in an arbitrary and capricious manner," the lawyers wrote. They demanded that the court vacate the secretary's decision, which they described as "the product of a process infected by bias."

Maine became the second state to exclude Mr. Trump from its primary ballot on Dec. 28, when Ms. Bellows found him ineligible under the third section of the 14th Amendment, which prohibits people who have engaged in insurrection from holding office. Her decision followed a similar landmark finding in Colorado, where the state's Supreme Court ruled on Dec. 19 that he could not appear on the ballot there.

A spokesman for the Trump campaign previously called both states' actions "partisan election interference" and "a hostile assault on American democracy. "Similar challenges to Mr. Trump are playing out in states around the country, mostly in the courts. Mr. Trump is expected to file an appeal of the Colorado ruling with the United States Supreme Court within days. If the court takes the case, it would most likely put a hold on legal challenges elsewhere, though the potential impact on Maine's unfolding process remains unclear.

Richard L. Hasen, a law professor at the University of California, Los Angeles, and an election law expert, said he expects the appeal in Maine to proceed even if the Supreme Court takes up the Colorado case, because of the pressing need to resolve the matter, and because some of the legal questions in the two states differ.

"I don't think that will stop the process in its tracks," he said. "Trump wants to move ahead because he's off the ballot, and the state wants finality."

Given the need to finalize ballots promptly for voters in the military and overseas, the complex legal manoeuvring is taking on increasing urgency. The Republican primaries in Maine and Colorado are both scheduled for Super Tuesday, March 5. Challenges to Mr. Trump's candidacy have been filed in at least 33 states. Beyond Colorado and Maine, at least 17 states have unresolved challenges in play, including California, New Hampshire, Oregon and North Carolina.

(Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/01/02/us/politics/>)

10. What can be inferred about Donald J. Trump's legal strategy based on the information in the passage?

- (a) Trump's legal team is primarily focusing on challenging state-specific constitutional issues.
- (b) The legal challenges against Trump in different states are proceeding simultaneously.
- (c) Trump's legal team is confident in overturning the rulings barring him from primary ballots.
- (d) The legal challenges to Trump's candidacy are causing delays in the election process.

11. What is the tone of Donald J. Trump's legal team in their appeal against Shenna Bellow's decision?

- (a) Conciliatory
- (b) Indifferent
- (c) Combative
- (d) Neutral

12. What is the point of contention between Donald J. Trump's legal team and Shenna Bellows, Maine's secretary of state, according to the passage?

- (a) The legal authority to consider federal constitutional issues.
- (b) The eligibility criteria under the third section of the 14th Amendment.
- (c) The necessity of a recusal from the decision-making process.
- (d) The timing of filing an appeal with the United States Supreme Court.

13. What opinion does the Trump campaign express regarding the actions of Maine and Colorado in excluding Donald J. Trump from primary ballots?

- (a) The states' actions are considered unbiased and fair.
- (b) The actions are seen as a necessary step to protect American democracy.
- (c) The campaign views them as a partisan election interference and a hostile assault to democracy.
- (d) The states are praised for their adherence to constitutional principles.

14. What is the primary objective of Donald J. Trump's legal team in filing an appeal against Shenna Bellow's decision?

- (a) To seek monetary compensation for the exclusion from the primary ballot.
- (b) To request the recount of the votes in Maine's republican primary.
- (c) To challenge the legality of the third section of the 14th Amendment.
- (d) To overturn the ruling and allow Trump to appear in the state's Republican primary ballot.

PASSAGE - IV

Religious behaviour has been investigated by a wide range of disciplines: Anthropologists deal with the comparative study of primitive religions, examining prayer, ritual, the rites of passage, etc. Sociologists have investigated the institutional aspects of religious behaviour, such as the role of the priestly class in society. Ever since William James, psychologists of religion have studied the varieties of religious experience, such as mysticism, ecstasy, talking in tongues, exorcism, etc. Similarly, biologists have postulated a role for religious beliefs and practices in the evolutionary process and their possible adaptive/survival value. They have asked, does religiosity have a genetic or environmental basis? Others have focused on the neurological correlates of religious piety, and still others have attempted to test the efficacy of prayer.

One can deal with religion in contemporary or historical contexts. A great deal of attention has been devoted to the historical analysis of religious claims, especially since the great classical religions are based on ancient documents (the Old and New Testaments and the Koran), as are some of the newer religions (such as the nineteenth-century Book of Mormon). These texts allege that certain miraculous and revelatory events have occurred in the past and these warrant religious belief today; and it is often claimed that belief in them is based upon faith.

'Some have argued that religious phenomena-matters of faith-are entirely beyond the ken of science; but this surely is false because the scientific investigation of religion has already made great strides and there is a vast literature now available.'

Religious belief systems are deeply ingrained in human history, culture, and social institutions that predate science, and thus it is often difficult, if not impossible, to insist upon using the standards of objective skeptical inquiry retrospectively. This is especially the case since to believe in a religion is more than a question of cognitive assent, for religion has its roots in ethnic or national identity; and to question the empirical or rational grounds for religious belief is to shake the very foundations of the social order.

15. The passage deals mainly with which of the following?

- (a) Refuting the claims of religion by recourse to scientific theories.
- (b) Proving that every phenomenon in nature can be explained by scientific theories.
- (c) Establishing that the claims of religion can be examined through scientific objectivity.
- (d) Establishing that there are naturalistic explanations for the so-called bizarre events.

16. It can be inferred from the passage that

- (a) Science should be construed in such a way that it only applies to experimental laboratory work.
- (b) Skepticism should be committed only to "methodological naturalism" and not scientific naturalism while examining religion.
- (c) Science should bring in the tools of logical analysis, historical research, and rational investigation while examining religion.
- (d) We lack the resources and expertise to focus on the entire range of scientific questions about religion.

17. Which of the following can be inferred from the information in the passage?

- (a) The sacredness of religion has firmly put it beyond the sphere of the scientific and the rational.
- (b) It is difficult for people to let go off long-ingrained religious beliefs.
- (c) In order to protect social order, it is essential that scientific enquiry give way to religious beliefs.
- (d) All of the above

18. What is the meaning of the word "exorcism" in the passage?

- (a) The expulsion of a supposed evil spirit from a person or place.
- (b) The repulsion of a supposed evil spirit from a person or place.
- (c) The impulsion of a supposed evil spirit from a person or place.
- (d) The fulmination of a supposed evil spirit from a person or place.

PASSAGE - V

Hardcover or paperback? Until recently those were our only reading options. As with everything else, whether it's ice cream or television, things are much more complicated now. We are way beyond vanilla and chocolate, way beyond the corner bookstore and neighborhood library and into a multiplicity of forms and platforms and technologies and interfaces that could be dispiriting if you are inclined to worry about the death of the book. Do I love books or do I love reading? When my book group picked *Little Dodo*, I found myself asking that question. Good old paid-by-the-word Dickens: I figured that it would take me months to finish nearly 1,000 pages. My reading would take place on the city subway, in cars and planes, on business trips and vacation, and (my all-time favorite) in bed at the end of the day. I went automatically to my old Penguin paperback, standing ready on the shelf. Never mind its familiar and friendly orange spine — I hesitated. Maybe it would make sense to read the book on the Kindle that my husband bought me last year. Then again, for my daily city life, I love audiobooks, the best choice for crowded public transportation and a wonderful companion for walking. And now that I use an iPhone, I have been surprised by the ease of reading its crisp, bright screen. I decided to read *Little Dodo* four ways: paperback, audiobook, Kindle, and iPhone. It was often maddening to keep finding and losing my place as I switched from format to format. But as an experiment, it taught me a great deal about my reading habits, and about how a text reveals itself differently as the reading context changes. Along the way, I also began to make some predictions about winners and losers in the evolution of books. *Little Dodo* was an accidental choice, but I could hardly have done better. Its length, multiple story lines, 19th-century allusions, and teeming cast of characters helped me to test the functionality of different formats. Beyond the artifice of my reading experiment, though, please don't think that technology compromised my ability to appreciate this beloved novel, written in 1857 at the height of Dickens's power and popularity. Just the opposite. I started with the paperback, reading in bed. "Thirty years ago, Marseilles lay burning in the sun. ..." As soon as I opened the book, there I was, encountering my name and my own marginal notations — "Sunshine that illuminates or blinds?" — from decades ago. That and the \$2.45 price marked on the back made me more than a little nostalgic about my graduate-school days, when I first fell in love with the Victorian novel. In a book about how the present is haunted by the past, I was confronting my old self through the medium of the physical book, still in great condition, still fitting perfectly in my hands. How dare we think that anything could replace it?

19. What does the author imply by "We are way beyond vanilla and chocolate"?

- (a) It is the time of multiple choices in almost every field.
- (b) It is the time of less options in almost every field.
- (c) People prefer vanilla and chocolate to books.
- (d) Books don't offer as many choices as ice creams do.

20. What is the main idea of the passage?

- (a) That reading aids help sell books.
- (b) New formats are conducive to reading.
- (c) Formats do not induce reading.
- (d) Book's content conquers any format of book that it avails.

21. It can be inferred that the speaker puts the onus of good reading onto:

- (a) The content
- (b) The reader
- (c) The listener
- (d) The format

22. The author's tone in the passage is:

- (a) Light-hearted
- (b) Sentimental
- (c) Pragmatic
- (d) Tentative

23. What is the connotation of the author in "Hardcover or paperback?"

- (a) It was a time of limited choices over multiple choices.
- (b) There was a time you had limited choices.
- (c) Choice has nothing to do with availability.
- (d) Choose or not to choose.

24. What does the author imply by, "Beyond the artifice of my reading experiment"?

- (a) My comprehension was slightly compromised but still I could say it was a good book to read.
- (b) My comprehension was not compromised at all but still I could not say it was a good book to read.
- (c) My comprehension was awful and still I could not say anything about Little Dodo.
- (d) My comprehension was brilliant and still I have no clue about Little Dodo.

Section B-Current Affairs with GK

PASSAGE - VI

The high-level committee led by [1] has proposed a significant electoral reform, suggesting the synchronization of Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections as the initial step. Subsequently, the committee recommends conducting municipal and panchayat elections within [2] of the general elections in the next phase. This proposal aims to streamline the electoral process and enhance governance efficiency. Their extensive report, exceeding 18,000 pages, was formally delivered to President Droupadi Murmu on March 14. However, for public consumption, a condensed version of 321 pages was made available, encapsulating the core recommendations and findings of the committee's exhaustive analysis. During their proceedings, the committee actively engaged with 62 political parties, receiving feedback from 47 of them. Of these, 32 parties voiced their support for synchronized elections, contrasting with the 15 parties that opposed the concept. Furthermore, the committee sought public opinion, garnering a substantial response of 21,558 inputs from citizens. This reform initiative holds substantial significance for India's democratic framework, potentially catalysing enhanced electoral coherence and administrative efficacy across various tiers of governance.

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

- (a) Narendra Modi
- (b) Ram Nath Kovind
- (c) Pratibha Patil
- (d) Amit Shah

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

- (a) Within 30 days
- (b) Within 100 days
- (c) Within 200 days
- (d) Within 60 days

27. What is the proposed role of the President in synchronizing elections, according to the committee redacted by [1] in the passage?

- (a) To appoint the Election Commission
- (b) To issue a notification setting an 'Appointed Date'
- (c) To dissolve the Lok Sabha after general elections
- (d) To declare a national holiday on election day

28. To which Article of the Constitution does the committee, recommend constitutional amendments to regulate the tenure of the Houses of Parliament and State legislatures?

- (a) Amendments to Article 83 and Article 172
- (b) Amendments to Article 82A and Article 82
- (c) Amendments to Article 83 and Article 92
- (d) Amendments to Article 172 and Article 82A

29. What is the proposed legislative addition for synchronization of Local Body Elections with General Elections?

- (a) Introduction of Article 326A
- (b) Introduction of Article 324A
- (c) Introduction of Article 330A
- (d) Introduction of Article 44A

PASSAGE – VII

The Central Information Commission (CIC) recently upheld the Rashtrapati Bhavan's response to a Right to Information (RTI) Act query concerning former President Ram Nath Kovind. The query sought to determine how many times the former President had returned decisions made by the Prime Minister or the Union Council of Ministers for reconsideration. The President's Secretariat responded that no information on this matter was available on record. This response was challenged by Yuvan Mitran, a college student from Chennai, who moved the CIC to contest the reply from the Rashtrapati Bhavan. Mitran filed his first appeal before the First Appellate Authority (FAA), seeking clarification on whether the lack of information indicated that the former President had never returned any decisions for reconsideration, or whether such information was simply not recorded. Mitran argued that the information provided was "incomplete, misleading, or false". In response, the Officer on Special Duty/FAA referred the appeal to the relevant section, which reaffirmed the original response, stating that "no information rests with this Secretariat". The CIC, upon review, upheld the President's Secretariat's stance. This decision highlights the procedural nuances of the RTI Act and underscores the limitations encountered by citizens seeking information from high-level government offices. The case illustrates the challenges in obtaining specific records about the actions of the President concerning decisions by the Prime Minister or the Union Council of Ministers, particularly when such actions are not documented in the records of the President's Secretariat.

30. Under which Article of the Constitution is the Right to Information derived?

- (a) Article 14 (b) Article 19 (c) Article 22 (d) Article 32

31. Which Act did the RTI Act, 2005 replace?

- (a) The Information Technology Act, 2000 (b) The Right to Privacy Act, 1995
 (c) The Freedom of Information Act, 2002 (d) The Public Disclosure Act, 1999

32. Which type of body is the Central Information Commission (CIC)?

- (a) Constitutional body (b) Statutory body
 (c) Advisory body (d) Judicial body

33. How many members can the Central Information Commission consist of?

- (a) A Chief Information Commissioner and not more than five Information Commissioners
 (b) A Chief Information Commissioner and not more than ten Information Commissioners
 (c) A Chief Information Commissioner and not more than fifteen Information Commissioners
 (d) A Chief Information Commissioner and not more than twenty Information Commissioners

34. Who appoints the Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners?

- (a) Speaker of Lok Sabha (b) The President
 (c) The Parliament (d) The Supreme Court

PASSAGE – VIII

India recently participated in the BRICS foreign ministers' meeting held in [X]. This was a significant event as it marked India's first foreign policy assignment under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's historic third consecutive term. The Indian delegation was headed by senior diplomat Dammu Ravi, Secretary (Economic Relations) at the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). Randhir Jaiswal, the spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs, expressed warm welcome to the new members in a post on social media platform X. The meeting, characterized as an expanded gathering of the BRICS family, was met with wholehearted acceptance from India towards the new membership. Dammu Ravi, Secretary (Economic Relations) at the MEA, led the Indian delegation during this crucial meeting, which happened to be the first of its kind since the expansion of BRICS. Typically, such meetings are attended by the External Affairs Minister. However, due to the reappointment of S. Jaishankar as the External Affairs Minister following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent swearing-in ceremony, he was unable to attend this particular meeting. During the meeting, the Ministers acknowledged the necessity for a comprehensive reform of the global financial architecture. A joint statement released by the MEA indicated that the leaders also advocated for a robust Global Financial Safety Net with a strong quota-based and adequately resourced unit at its core. They also called for the continuation of the IMF governance reform process, which includes the creation of a new quota formula reflecting the economic size of its membership, as part of the overall quota review.

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

- (a) Brazil (b) Russia
 (c) India (d) China

- 36.** Which of the following countries were invited to become members of BRICS during the 15th BRICS Summit?
 (a) Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)
 (b) Spain, Egypt, Ethiopia, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)
 (c) Spain, Oman, Turkey, Paraguay, Ethiopia
 (d) None of the Above
- 37.** What percentage of the global population does BRICS represent?
 (a) 35% (b) 41% (c) 48% (d) 55%
- 38.** The BRICS Foreign Ministers released a joint statement covering a vast range of global issues addressed during the meeting. The Ministers recognized the pivotal role played by the G-20 in international economic cooperation. Who was admitted as a new member of the G20 during the 18th G20 Summit?
 (a) European Union (EU) (b) African Union (AU)
 (c) Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) (d) None of the Above
- 39.** The Ministers in BRICS meeting supported a robust Global Financial Safety Net. Which institution is part of the global financial safety net and provides financing during crises?
 (a) National Development Bank (b) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
 (c) Asian Development Bank (ADB) (d) None of the Above

PASSAGE – IX

Prime Minister Narendra Modi took the oath of office for a third successive term, along with 71 other members of his Council of Ministers, at a ceremony held in the forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan. Among those sworn in were 36 Ministers of State and five Ministers of State (independent charge). Modi's historic third term is seen as a strong message of political and economic stability and continuity amidst rising geostrategic uncertainty, according to US India Business Council President Keshap. The leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party took his oath, stating he would "do right to all manner of people without affection or ill-will." Sworn in by President Draupadi Murmu, Modi pledged to uphold the sovereignty and integrity of India and govern with "true faith and allegiance to the constitution." He affirmed his commitment to act in accordance with the constitution and the law without fear or favour. Addressing the opposition's perspective on the 2024 Lok Sabha results, Modi remarked, "The Opposition tried to paint the 2024 Lok Sabha results as a loss for us. But we didn't lose, we never lost, we will never lose."

- 40.** How many seats did the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) win in the 2024 Lok Sabha general election?
 (a) 250 (b) 275 (c) 293 (d) 310
- 41.** Which Article of the Constitution deals with the status of the Council of Ministers?
 (a) Article 72 (b) Article 74 (c) Article 75 (d) Article 77
- 42.** Which Constitutional Amendment inserted clause 1A in Article 164, stating that the total number of Ministers, including the Chief Minister, in the Council of Ministers in a State shall not exceed 15% of the total number of members of the Legislative Assembly of that State?
 (a) 85th Amendment (b) 89th Amendment (c) 91st Amendment (d) 95th Amendment
- 43.** How many women leaders were inducted into the Council of Ministers in Cabinet 3.0?
 (a) 5 (b) 6 (c) 7 (d) 8
- 44.** Which of the following leaders holds the position of Cabinet Minister?
 (a) Annapurna Devi (b) Anupriya Patel (c) Raksha Nikhil Khadse (d) Savitri Thakur

PASSAGE – X

As discussions persist on the development of an international legally binding treaty to address plastic pollution, it's imperative to prioritize support for individuals engaged in informal waste collection and recycling. The OECD Global Plastic Outlook highlights a concerning trend: global plastic waste production reached 353 million tonnes in 2019, more than doubling since 2000, with projections indicating a tripling by [X]. Remarkably, the United Nations Environment Programme underscores that despite this surge, only [Y] of plastic is recycled globally, with a staggering 85% of that recycling carried out by informal workers. These informal recyclers play a pivotal role in our waste management ecosystem. They diligently collect, sort, and recover recyclable materials from general waste, easing the financial strain on municipal budgets and effectively subsidizing the environmental responsibilities of producers, consumers, and governments. Notably, organizations like the Centre for Environment Justice and Development emphasize that these individuals also champion circular waste management approaches, actively contributing to sustainability efforts and helping to curb greenhouse gas emissions. Their tireless efforts translate

into tangible benefits for our environment. By diverting significant volumes of plastic, they play a vital role in preventing plastic pollution from permeating our ecosystems. In essence, they serve as frontline defenders against the proliferation of plastic waste, showcasing the critical role of informal recyclers in achieving our collective environmental objectives.

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

- (a) 2040 (b) 2050 (c) 2060 (d) 2070

46. Where was the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-4) of the United Nations Environment Agency (UNEA) to build a legally binding treaty on plastics pollution held?

- (a) Geneva, Switzerland (b) Ottawa, Canada (c) New York, USA (d) Paris, France

47. According to the "Plastic Waste Makers Index 2019" report, where did India rank in terms of investment in single-use plastic polymer production globally?

- (a) 5th (b) 10th (c) 13th (d) 20th

48. Who were the collaborating partners for the India Plastics Pact?

- (a) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
 (b) Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) and World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
 (c) Indian Ministry of Environment and Forests and World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
 (d) Indian Plastic Manufacturers Association

PASSAGE – XI

The Prevention of Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act, commonly referred to as the POSH Act, stands as a monumental stride in India's ongoing quest for gender equality and workplace safety. Enacted in 2013, this legislation is a beacon of protection for women in professional environments, marking a significant turning point in addressing the scourge of sexual harassment. The essence of the POSH Act lies in its steadfast commitment to safeguarding the dignity and rights of women at work. It establishes a robust framework for preventing, prohibiting, and redressing instances of sexual harassment, underscoring the fundamental principles of respect and equality enshrined in the Indian Constitution. Over a decade since its inception, the POSH Act has played a pivotal role in fostering a safer and more inclusive work culture. It has provided victims of sexual harassment with a reliable and effective mechanism for seeking redressal, thereby empowering them to assert their rights and seek justice. Despite its laudable objectives and tangible impact, a significant gap persists in the accessibility and consolidation of data pertaining to sexual harassment cases across employers and companies. The existing data landscape is fragmented, with information scattered across individual company reports in non-standardized formats that are often not user-friendly. This fragmentation poses a considerable challenge in discerning industry-wide trends and patterns related to the reporting and resolution of sexual harassment cases. A lack of consolidated and publicly accessible data hinders efforts to identify systemic issues, track progress, and implement targeted interventions to address gaps in compliance and enforcement of the POSH Act. To truly harness the transformative potential of the POSH Act and ensure its continued effectiveness, there is an urgent need for comprehensive data aggregation and standardized reporting mechanisms. By bridging this data gap, stakeholders can gain valuable insights, drive evidence-based policymaking, and foster a culture of accountability and transparency in combating sexual harassment at the workplace.

49. Which set of guidelines formed the basis for the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act, 2013?

- (a) Vishakha guidelines (b) Damini guidelines (c) Nirbhaya guidelines (d) None of the Above

50. What is the timeframe for completing the enquiry against any complaints received under the PoSH Act?

- (a) 30 days (b) 60 days (c) 90 days (d) 120 days

51. Which Article of the Indian Constitution prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, and place of birth?

- (a) Article 14 (b) Article 15 (c) Article 21 (d) Article 32

52. Which committee recommended setting up an employment tribunal instead of an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC)?

- (a) Justice Verma Committee (b) EkA Committee
 (c) Justice Arora Committee (d) Gender Equality Panel

Section C-Legal Reasoning**PASSAGE – XII**

In overturning the election results for the post of Mayor of the Chandigarh Municipal Corporation, the Supreme Court invoked the sweeping powers conferred on the court under Article 142 of the Constitution.

Article 142 provides a unique power to the Supreme Court, to do “complete justice” between the parties, where, at times, the law or statute may not provide a remedy. In those situations, the court can extend itself to put an end to a dispute in a manner that would fit the facts of the case.

While the powers under Article 142 are extraordinary in nature, the apex court has defined its scope and extent through its judgments over time.

In the Prem Chand Garg case, the court held that an order to do complete justice between the parties “must not only be consistent with the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution, but it cannot even be inconsistent with the substantive provisions of the relevant statutory laws,” referring to laws made by Parliament.

Deeming the power under Article 142 to be “at an entirely different level and of a different quality”, the court in Union Carbide Corporation vs Union of India clarified that “prohibitions or limitations on provisions contained in ordinary laws cannot, ipso-facto, act as prohibitions or limitations on the constitutional powers under Article 142”. Adding that it would be “wholly incorrect” to say that powers under Article 142 are subject to express statutory prohibitions, the court reasoned that doing so would convey the idea that statutory provisions override a constitutional provision.

In 1998, the apex court in ‘Supreme Court Bar Association vs Union of India’ held that the powers under Article 142 are supplementary in nature and could not be used to supplant or override a substantive law and “build a new edifice where none existed earlier”.

The court said that the powers conferred by Article 142 are curative and cannot be construed as powers “which authorise the court to ignore the substantive rights of a litigant while dealing with a cause pending before it”. Adding that Article 142 cannot be used to build a new edifice, ignoring statutory provisions dealing with a subject, the court also said that the provision cannot be used “to achieve something indirectly which cannot be achieved directly”.

Concluding the debate pertaining to Article 142 and statutory laws, the Supreme Court held that when a statute requires a particular thing to be done in a particular manner, it must be done in that manner or not at all, and other methods of performance are necessarily forbidden.

In ‘A. Jideranath v. Jubilee Hills Co-op House Building Society’, the Supreme Court discussed the scope of the power here, holding that in its exercise no injustice should be caused to a person not party to the case.

Source: Extracted (with edits and revisions) from an article titled “What is Article 142, invoked by Supreme Court to overturn Chandigarh mayoral poll results?” published in the Indian Express.

53. Recently, the State of Uttarakhand has enacted the Uniform Civil Code. Under the code a woman in a live-in relationship is treated as a married woman for the purpose of claiming relief under the Domestic Violence Act. However, the Code is silent on relief to men in such relationships. Vidhi and Vidhan have been in a live-in relationship. However, recently Vidhan decided to break up the relationship. Affected by this, Vidhi decided to teach a lesson to Vidhan. She filed a false case against Vidhan which was dismissed by court as considered it was based on false facts. This has caused serious trouble to Vidhan. He has now approached the Supreme Court to claim relief under Article 142. In light of the legal principles mentioned in the passage, choose the most appropriate option:

- (a) The Supreme Court will not be able to provide any relief as the Uttarakhand Uniform Civil Code is silent on any relief for males in a live-in relationship.
- (b) The Supreme Court will provide an appropriate relief by exercising powers under Article 142 of the Constitution of India.
- (c) The Supreme Court will dismiss the case against Vidhan and will impose a penalty against Vidhi.
- (d) The Supreme Court will not provide any relief as the power under Article 142 is subject to statutory prohibition.

54. The Constitution of India provides that right to education is a fundamental right of children. To give effect to such right, the Parliament enacted a law. The law provided certain admission benefits to eligible children. Vidya has applied to claim such benefits. However, due to an error on Government’s part Vidya’s application was rejected wrongfully. She has applied to the Government to remedy her situation. The Government acknowledged the error but refused to accept her application as now all the seats are filled and law is silent on dealing with such situations. Aggrieved Vidya has approached the Supreme Court under Article 142. She is claiming that she should be admitted by removing a candidate selected in her place. Based on the legal principle mentioned in the passage, decide whether Vidya’s claim can be accepted?

(a) Yes, as the Supreme Court has the power to pass such an order under Article 142 if the law or statute does not provide a remedy.

(b) No, as power of the Supreme Court under Article 142 is subject to statutory prohibition.

(c) Yes, as the Supreme Court has the power under Article 142 to pass an appropriate order to do complete justice.

(d) No, as passing such an order would lead to violation of fundamental right to education guaranteed by the Constitution.

55. To deal with increasing instances of false litigation before the Supreme Court, the Parliament has enacted a law. The law provides that a party will be allowed to file a case when a designated judge of the Supreme Court approves the case after thorough review. The decision by such a judge is final and cannot be challenged. After the enactment of the law, Vidushi has filed a case before the Supreme Court. The case was rejected by the designated judge after thorough review. Aggrieved by such rejection, Vidushi has approached the Supreme Court under Article 142. Based on the legal principle in the passage, decide whether the Supreme Court can pass an order under Article 142?

(a) Yes, as the Supreme Court has the power to pass such an order under Article 142 if the law or statute does not provide a remedy.

(b) No, as allowing such relief will not help in reducing the case load.

(c) No, as power under Article 142 is not used to achieve something indirectly if that thing cannot be achieved directly.

(d) Yes, as the Supreme Court has the power under Article 142 to pass an appropriate order to do complete justice.

56. Which of the following is incorrect with regards to the power of the Supreme Court under Article 142?

(a) Under Article 142, the Supreme Court has the power to give any relief even if it violates the provisions of any statute.

(b) Article 142 provides the Court with a unique power to do complete justice between the parties.

(c) The power cannot be used to achieve something indirectly if that thing cannot be achieved directly.

(d) The power under Article 142 of the Constitution of India is subject to the provisions pertaining to Fundamental rights under the Constitution.

57. Based on the passage, decide:

Assertion (A): While dealing with a case under Article 142, the Supreme Court has the power to pass an order to do complete justice between the parties, irrespective of the consequences of such an order on people not party to the case before it.

Reason (R): In *A. Jideranath v. Jubilee Hills Co-op House Building Society*, the Supreme Court held that in its exercise of power under Article 142 no injustice should be caused to a person not party to the case.

(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

Under Section 27 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872 (ICA) agreements in restraint of trade and profession are void. Agreement in restraint of trade is defined as the one in which a party agrees with any other party to restrict his liberty in the present or the future to carry on a specified trade or profession with other persons not parties to the contract without the express permission of the latter party in such a manner as he chooses. Providing for restraint on employment in the employment contracts of the employees in the form of confidentiality requirement or in the form of restraint on employment with competitors during the period of employment has become a part of the corporate culture.

SECTION 27;

Every agreement by which anyone is restrained from exercising a lawful profession or trade or business of any kind, is to that extent void.

STATUTORY EXCEPTIONS:

1. Sale of goodwill:

The only exception mentioned in the proviso to Section 27 of the Contract Act is that relating to sale of goodwill. It is thus stated: One who sells goodwill of a business may agree with a buyer to refrain himself from carrying on a similar business, within specified local limits so long as the buyer, or any person deriving title to the goodwill from him, carries on a like business therein provided that such limits appear to the Court reasonable, regard being had to the nature of business. Apparently, the object is to protect the interest of a purchaser of a goodwill.

2. Partnership Act:

There are four provisions in the Partnership Act which validate agreements in restraint of trade. Section 11 enables partners during the continuance of the firm to restrict their mutual liberty by agreeing that none of them shall carry on any business other than that of the firm. Section 36 enables them to restrain an outgoing partner from carrying on a similar business within a specified period or within specified local limits. Such agreement shall be valid if the restrictions imposed are reasonable. A similar agreement under section 54 may be made by partners upon or in anticipation of dissolution by which they may restrain each other from carrying on business similar to that of the firm. It is necessary for the validity of a restraint under Section 36 or 54 that;

1. The agreement should specify the local limits or the period of restraint, and
2. The restrictions imposed must be reasonable.

Source: Written by the content team of Vidhigya by relying upon the relevant provisions of Indian Contracts Act.

58. Vidhan and Vedit came to an agreement for sale of some mangoes from the whole lot which Vidhan gets from her farm. Vidhan, who is a merchant of fruits, agreed to deliver the agreed quantity on monthly basis to Vedit for the whole summer period i.e. from March 2024 to July 2024. One of the terms of the agreement being that during the continuance of agreement Vidhan cannot do any other work or business but to sell him mangoes to him. Vidhan started a fruit juice centre. Vedit filed a case against Vidhan contending that Vidhan has breached the term of the contract. Vidhan is saying that this portion of the agreement is void as per Section 27 of ICA. Decide whether Vedit will succeed in defending the case?

- (a) Yes, as section 27 of the ICA does not allow freedom of trade and business if agreement is made.
- (b) No, as it is an agreement signed by both the parties so it is binding on them.
- (c) Yes, as per section 27 of ICA, such part of agreement is in restraint of freedom of trade and business.
- (d) No, since Vidhan was selling his goodwill with the product, he can't do any other work as per the proviso.

59. Vidya was owner of an establishment called Momosaa which has branches in Indore, Devas and Bhopal. Her shop was known and famous in whole Indore by its name due to its very good-quality products. Vidya wanted to relax so she sold the shop located in Indore to Vidyut. They signed an agreement of sale of goodwill which prohibited Vidya from running or opening any other such shop in Indore. Is the term of the contract allowed by the law?

- (a) No, once the sale deed is done the other party is free to do whatever business they want according to the law.
- (b) Yes, as the terms once agreed to both the parties are signed, it becomes legal to transgress on the part of either party.
- (c) No, it is in prohibition of freedom of trade and business.
- (d) Yes, as the agreement involves sale of goodwill, these restrictions can be allowed.

60. Vidhan joined a new firm 'XYZ' as a partner. In the agreement it was mentioned that Vidhan like all other partners cannot be the part of some other business as long as he is a partner of 'XYZ'. After few days, Vidhan was found to have started a business due to which he was terminated from the post as the partner from XYZ firm by giving ground that he violated the terms of the agreement. Vidhan sued the firm and stated that such portion of the agreement is void as per section 27 of ICA. Decide will Vidhan succeed?

- (a) Yes, as the section 27 of ICA disallows such a term in any type of contract which is in restraint of business.
- (b) No, as the section 11 of The Partnership Act prohibits any such action on part of a partner if so agreed.
- (c) No, as Vidhan was an executive partner of the firm, he would not be bound by the provision of the Act.
- (d) Yes, since Vidhan was exercising his right under Article 19 (1) (g) of Constitution of India which provides Right to practice any profession or to carry on any occupation, trade or business to all citizens.

61. XYZ company is the manufacturer of products like tyre cord yarn and many other essential products. XYZ invited applications for appointments in said plant. Vidhan was employed for the position of shift supervisor in the tyre cord company and entered into a contract for a term of two (2) years with a term that he cannot work anywhere else during this period. After the completion of training for 9 months which is included in this period, Vidhan started being absent from the job and afterward Vidhan informed the company XYZ that he had resigned without giving prior written notice. XYZ rejected Vidhan's resignation and ordered him to re-join but he had already obtained another employment during that course of time. XYZ Company suffered damages due to appellant because he had learned the company's trade secrets during his training period. Therefore, XYZ wanted an injunctive relief (injunctive relief is a court order for the defendant to stop a specified act or behaviour) to restrain him from obtaining employment from any rival company. Choose the most appropriate option:

Note- A resignation given by the employee does not terminate the employment until the employer accepts it.

(a) Vidhan could argue that this agreement and this clause of restraint on trade is against public policy interest at large.

(b) The negative covenant was reasonable as it was only for the period during which Vidhan was an employee.

(c) Vidhan couldn't have learned any business secret during his training as a shift supervisor.

(d) Vidhan must be allowed to continue his job if he promises not to release the trade secret.

62. Vidhan, Vidit and Vidyut had established a firm 5 years ago in Indore. Vidhan plans to leave the firm and so he express this wish to his other two partners. According to the partnership deed they had made a provision that the partner leaving the firm cannot do any similar kind of business in the Madhya Pradesh state. The deed did not mention any time period for which the restriction was to be held. Vidhan planned to start a business in Ujjain district in M.P. near Indore after a decade of leaving the firm. Vidit and Vidyut sued Vidhan for breaking the terms of their partnership deed. Vidhan disagrees. Decide.

Note- A decade should be considered a reasonable time if no time is mentioned in the agreement.

(a) Vidhan would be stopped from doing his business in Dewas as the deed he signed stops him from doing so.

(b) Vidhan could not be stopped from doing the said business for any period of time.

(c) Vidhan would be stopped for ever to do a business in M.P. as the terms were clear to him and he worked with the firm for a good long five years.

(d) Vidhan wouldn't be stopped now as the restriction is not applicable after a decade.

PASSAGE – XIV

The Allahabad High Court held that the objections under Section 47 of the Civil Procedure Code (CPC) are not maintainable in execution proceedings for the enforcement of an arbitration award. It held that an arbitration award, not being issued by a "court," falls outside the definition of a decree as outlined in Section 2(2) of CPC. Moreover, once the award attains finality, any objections must be raised exclusively in proceedings under Section 34 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act (ACA). As per Section 9 of the ACA, a party may, before or during arbitral proceedings or at any time after the making of the arbitral award but before it is enforced in accordance with section 36, apply to a Court: (i) for the appointment of a guardian for a minor or a person of unsound mind for the purposes of arbitral proceedings; or (ii) for an interim measure of protection in respect of any of the following matters, namely: the preservation, interim custody or sale of any goods which are the subject-matter of the arbitration agreement.

As per Section 36(1) of the ACA, where the time for making an application to set aside the arbitral award under section 34 has expired, then, subject to the provisions of sub-section (2), such award shall be enforced in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, in the same manner as if it were a decree of the court.

(2) Where an application to set aside the arbitral award has been filed in the Court under section 34, the filing of such an application shall not by itself render that award unenforceable, unless the Court grants an order of stay of the operation of the said arbitral award in accordance with the provisions of sub-section (3), on a separate application made for that purpose.

(3) Upon filing of an application under sub-section (2) for stay of the operation of the arbitral award, the Court may, subject to such conditions as it may deem fit, grant stay of the operation of such award for reasons to be recorded in writing.

Section 47 of the CPC provides that all questions arising between the parties to the suit in which the decree was passed, or their representatives, and relating to the execution, discharge or satisfaction of the decree, shall be determined by the Court executing the decree and not by a separate suit.

An application under Section 34 of the ACA is to be filed in the Court before three months from the date on which the party making that application had received the arbitral award.

Source: Extracted (with edits and revisions) from an article titled "Can't Raise Objections u/s 47 Of CPC In Execution Proceedings For The Enforcement Of Award, S. 34 Of A&C Must Be Availled: Allahabad High Court" published in Live Law.

63. Vidhan and Vidur entered into an agreement whereby it was decided that Vidhan would supply 50000 kg of tomatoes every month to Vidur at a pre-determined price. The contract mentioned provided for resolution of any dispute arising out of it through arbitration. During one month, Vidhan failed to deliver the required goods on the date he was supposed to deliver it. He told Vidur to take the delivery a week later, but Vidur denied and filed an application for the same in arbitral tribunal. Before the Arbitral proceedings could began, Vidhan filed an application in Court for allowing the sale of the tomato as during the pendency of the proceeding, it will perish. In light of the passage, decide whether such application can be entertained by the Court?

- (a) No, as the contract provides for resolution of any dispute arising out of it through arbitration.
 (b) No, as Vidhan is not an aggrieved party and only Vidur can file such an application.
 (c) Yes, as tomato is a perishable good and can be destroyed if not used on time.
 (d) Yes, he can file such an application as per the provisions of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act.
- 64.** In the previous question, assume that a fact is substituted. Suppose that instead of Vidhan, Vidur applies to Court for interim custody of the tomatoes. Decide what would be the impact of substituted fact on the maintainability of such an application?
 (a) The substituted fact would strengthen the maintainability of the application.
 (b) The substituted fact would weaken the maintainability of the application.
 (c) The substituted fact would strengthen the maintainability of the application as Vidur is an aggrieved party.
 (d) The substituted fact would have no effect on the maintainability of the application.
- 65.** Based on the passage, decide
 Assertion (A): Objections under Section 47 of the CPC are not maintainable in execution proceedings for the enforcement of an arbitration award.
 Reason (R): Once the award attains finality, any objections must be raised exclusively in proceedings under Section 34 of the Arbitration Act.
 (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.
- 66.** Based on the passage, which of the following statements can be concluded.
 (i) Arbitral award is identical to a decree of Court under Section 2(2) of the CPC.
 (ii) An application filed under Section 34 of the ACA automatically renders the award unenforceable.
 (iii) The Court has the power to order a stay on the enforcement of the arbitral award.
 (a) (i) and (ii) only (b) (ii) only (c) (iii) only (d) (ii) and (iii) only
- 67.** Vidhi filed an application in the arbitral tribunal against Vikas for breach of contract, which provided for resolution of disputes through arbitral tribunal. The tribunal ruled in Vidhi's favour on 1st January 2023. Vidhan in March filed an application in Court under Section 34 of the ACA to set aside the award of the tribunal. On 1st July, Vidhi files an application for enforcement of the award during the pendency of the proceeding regarding only said application initiated by Vidhan. In the light of the passage, decide whether the arbitral award can be enforced?
 (a) Yes, as the time period mentioned under Section 34 of has already passed.
 (b) No, as application under Section 34 of the ACA is pending before the Court, hence the award is unenforceable.
 (c) Yes, as merely filing an application under Section 36(2) of the ACA does not render the award unenforceable.
 (d) Cannot be determined.

PASSAGE – XV

Right to defend oneself is a Fundamental Right under Article 21, Part III of the Constitution of India and further right to appear for a client is also a Fundamental Right being a part of carrying on one's profession as a lawyer, the Supreme Court observed while quashing an order passed by the Mysore Bar Association.

Article 21 states that no person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law.

The phrase procedure established by law was explained by the Supreme Court in the case of *Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India* that law must be "right and just and fair" and not arbitrary, fanciful or oppressive; otherwise, it would be no procedure at all and the requirement of Article 21 would not be satisfied. The procedure to be valid must comply with the principle of natural justice.

Natural justice is the essence of fair adjudication, deeply rooted in tradition and conscience, to be ranked as fundamental. Natural Justice recognizes three principles: (i) *Nemo debet esse iudex in propria causa*- nobody shall be a judge in his own cause or in a cause in which he is interested (Doctrine of Bias) (ii) *Audi alterem partem*—to hear the other side. This is necessary for a fair hearing and no doubt the rule against bias would also be a part of the procedure; and (iii) Speaking orders or reasoned decisions. This mandates that decisions by authorities should include reasons for a decision. Reasons are also required to be given when the appellate or revisionary authority affirms the order of the lower authority.

With regards to the second principle, there are multiple requirements such as giving of a valid notice to the concerned person of the facts of the matter and nature of the action proposed to be taken is essential for a fair hearing. Notice is to be given even if the statute does not contain any provision for the issue of a notice. However, if

the statute specifically waives giving of the notice then no notice need be given as the rules of natural justice do not supplant the law. The notice must clearly indicate material on the basis of which the proposed action is being taken. The right to know such material is part of the right to defend oneself. The right to make representation requires that the person proceeded against must have opportunity to peruse all material relied upon. Copies of such material should be furnished free of charge without being demanded and even in those cases where the documents having been seized from the party, are relied upon.

It is now firmly established that in the absence of express provisions in any statute dispensing with the observance of the principles of natural justice, such principles will have to be observed in all judicial proceedings, quasi-judicial proceedings and administrative proceedings which involve civil consequences to the parties.

Source: Extracted (with edits and revisions) from an excerpts from an article titled “Right To Defend Oneself A Fundamental Right’: Supreme Court Quashes Bar Association’s Resolution To Not Represent A Party” published in the Live Law.

68. Observing the increasing cases of police brutalities, the Supreme Court declared that such instances violate right to life as provided under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution. The Parliament agreed with the Supreme Court and accordingly made a law to deal with such incidents. The law provided the Courts with the power to initiate suo moto cases against police officials. To quickly resolve these cases, the law provided a summary procedure and thus eliminated the need for notice to the police officers. Other than this the law provides various guidelines to ensure that a fair hearing is granted to the person accused of committing police brutalities. The police has challenged the law on the ground of violation of principle of natural justice. In light of the principles laid down in the passage, decide whether the law is correct?

- (a) Yes, as all the requirements as laid down under the Maneka Gandhi case are fulfilled.
- (b) No, as by not providing the notice the law violates the principles of natural justice.
- (c) Yes, as such a law is necessary to protect right to life of the citizens.
- (d) No, as the law is oppressive towards the police officials.

69. The parliament has enacted a law to deal with advocates. As per the law, if a lawyer illegally refuses to defend a party during the continuance of case, he will be liable to three months imprisonment. Special courts will deal with such offences. The law does not contain anything with regards to the principles of natural justice. Recently, Vidhan has been sentenced to three months imprisonment for illegal refusal to defend a party. No notice or reasons has been provided before the order punishing him. Vidhan has challenged such decision on the grounds of violation of the principles of natural justice. However, the Special Court is claiming that in absence of any specific provisions the principle of natural justice are not applicable automatically in the present case. Decide whether the reasoning by the Special Court is valid?

- (a) No, as the principles of natural justice are applicable even in case of proceedings pertaining to special courts.
- (b) Yes, as the principles of natural justice have been specifically excluded by the Parliament.
- (c) No, as the principles of natural justice mandate that proper notice shall be given to a party.
- (d) Yes, as the proceedings under the law do not involve civil consequence to the parties.

70. Vidur was appointed as an employee with the Central government. However, recently there have been allegations against him of professional misconduct which if found proved results into civil consequences against him. The administrative tribunal started hearing against him. He was provided notice of the first hearing. Along with such notice, the nature of action that is proposed to be taken against him and the grounds behind such action is also provided. He appeared in the first hearing and was allowed to present his side against the allegations. The Tribunal heard his case and ultimately decided against him by passing an order. The order merely contained the final decision against him. Nothing else was provided. Vidur has challenged the decision on grounds of violation of principle of natural justice. Based on principles laid down in the passage, decide whether Vidur’s challenge is valid?

- (a) No, as the decision was taken after providing him a proper notice and providing him an opportunity to be heard.
- (b) Yes, the order passed by the tribunal does not contain reasons for the decision taken against him.
- (c) Yes, as the notice did not disclose the material on the basis of which the proposed action is being taken.
- (d) No, as the administrative tribunals are not bound by the principles of natural justice.

71. Assume in the previous question, certain additional facts have been added. Vidur had filed an appeal against the decision granted by tribunal. The appellate tribunal reversed the order. The decision by appellate tribunal only states that the order was invalid. Based on the passage, decide whether the order by the appellate tribunal is in violation of the principles of natural justice?

- (a) No, as the appellate tribunal has rightfully quashed the decision of the lower tribunal.
- (b) Yes, as the appellate tribunal failed to share reasons with its order.

(c) No, as the appellate tribunal is not required to provide any reasons in the present case.

(d) Cannot be determined.

72. With regards to the right to defend oneself, which of the following is incorrect?

(a) Right to defend oneself is a fundamental right under Part III of the Constitution of India.

(b) Besides a party who is bringing forth the case, the opposite party himself acting as lawyer also has a right to defend himself.

(c) An individual in exercise of his right to defend himself is entitled to know the materials on the basis of which an action will be taken against him.

(d) Right to defend oneself is an absolute right and cannot be restricted by any law.

73. If the Parliament enacts a law to create restriction on fundamental right to privacy as provided under Article 21 of the Constitution of India, then which of the following requirement does the law need not fulfill to be valid?

(a) The law should provide a fair procedure to create a restriction on the right of the parties.

(b) The law should not be oppressive towards the people subjected to such law.

(c) The law should ensure that a party is properly heard before their rights is restricted.

(d) The law should specifically exclude the applicability of the principles of natural justice.

PASSAGE – XVI

Ram Nath Kovind, Chairman of the High-Level Committee (HLC) on ‘One Nation, One Election’, presents the report to President. A total of 15 Constitution Amendments which include changes in three provisions and new insertions in 12 provisions; amendments to three statutes that govern Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, and all other Union Territories; and a Presidential notification of an “appointed date” to tie all elections — these are the key changes in the legal framework recommended by the panel in its report. According to the report, the framework for simultaneous polls could be kicked off as early as possible, with the President issuing a notification to declare an “appointed date.” However, amendments to the Constitution are required for the President to draw her powers to issue such a notification. Essentially, the bundle of constitutional amendments and the notification by the President are likely to follow one another. For the constitutional amendments that would sync Assembly elections with Lok Sabha elections, the Kovind panel has recommended that ratification by states is not needed. However, the panel said that ratification by states will be required for constitutional amendments for the preparation of a common electoral roll, and syncing municipal and panchayat elections with the general (simultaneous Lok Sabha and Assembly) elections. Article 368 of the Constitution deals with the power and procedure to amend the Constitution. For a third category of “entrenched provisions” that impact the federal structure of the Constitution or the powers of the state Assemblies, an amendment requires to be ratified by legislatures of at least half of the states. Specifically, Article 368(2)(d) lists the representation of states in Parliament as one of the issues that would require ratification. However as per the report the amendments required for simultaneous elections to the House of the People and the State Legislative Assemblies do not fall under the purview of the proviso to Article 368(2) and hence, do not warrant a ratification by the States. The Kovind panel has stated that states under Article 328 of the Constitution only have residual powers on conducting Assembly elections; the power is mainly entrusted to Parliament through Article 327. Article 328 states: “Subject to the provisions of this Constitution and in so far as provision in that behalf is not made by Parliament, the Legislature of a State may from time to time by law make provision with respect to all matters relating to, or in connection with, the elections to the House or either House of the Legislature of the State including the preparation of electoral rolls and all other matters necessary for securing the due constitution of such House or Houses.”

Source: Extract (with edits and revisions) from an article titled “What it will take to make One Nation One Election panel’s view legally tenable” published at the Indian Express.

74. Alok Verma, a member of Parliament (MP) from Varanasi, puts forth a private member’s bill proposing synchronized elections for the Lok Sabha and all state assemblies. The bill primarily aims to adopt the recommendations from the Kovind panel report supporting ‘One Nation, One Election’. Several opposition MPs from different states, notably from the assemblies of Kerala, Punjab, and West Bengal, vehemently object, claiming that such a bill would interfere with the autonomy and powers of state legislatures and would require the ratification by legislatures of half of the states as per Article 368(2)(d) of the Constitution. They also fear that this change would undermine their representation in the Parliament. Alok argues that the provision regulating the frequency and timing of elections does not specifically alter the representation of states in the Parliament and thus does not mandate ratification by state legislatures. The matter eventually reaches the Supreme Court. As counsel for the

Government of India, which option below aligns with the Kovind panel's report and successfully counters the opposition's claims?

- (a) The bill calls for a change in election timing, not in the representation of states; therefore, Article 368(2)(d) does not apply, and no ratification is required.
- (b) The bill has to be ratified by half of the state legislatures under Article 368(2) (d) since it impacts the states' representation in Parliament.
- (c) Article 328 awards states residual powers over elections, which implies a bill altering election schedules must be ratified by state legislatures.
- (d) Since the Supreme Court holds jurisdiction, the bill should be first directed to the judiciary before parliamentary voting.

75. Following the enactment of amendments to implement 'One Nation, One Election with respect to Lok Sabha and State legislative assemblies', Priya Singh, the Chief Minister of Assam, raises concerns about the constitutional amendment to provide for Presidential notification to declare an "appointed date" for the first sitting of the House of People after a general election to syn the state assemblies. She argues that since the current provisions for Assembly elections are to be changed, there's an implication for the Amendment Act to be subject to ratification by states. She references the Amendment Act affecting the tenure of her assembly, which would lead to an alteration in the federal structure. However, Rakesh Kumar, a constitutional law expert, cites the Kovind panel that specifies the President's powers to issue such a notification without requiring states' ratification. Considering that the amendments recommended by the Kovind panel have been made and are legally binding, which argument should prevail before the Supreme Court?

- (a) The proposed alteration to the timing of the Assembly's tenure is not part of the entrenched provisions; hence, the President's act of setting an "appointed date" need not be ratified.
- (b) Since the alterations affect the tenure of State Assemblies, it implicates changes to the federal structure and must be ratified by state legislatures.
- (c) The "appointed date" demarcates simultaneous elections, which entails an amendment to the entrenched provisions due to its broad impact, thus requiring state legislatures' ratification.
- (d) The Presidential notification is separate from the Amendment Act affecting the tenure of assemblies and solely depends on the Kovind panel's suggestions, which is exempt from states' ratification.

76. Ravi Shankar, the mayor of Pune, citing the Kovind panel's remarks, urges the central government to make constitutional amendments without ratification by any state to synchronize municipal elections with Lok Sabha and state assembly elections. He posits that syncing these elections such manner would be consistent with the principle of simultaneous polls as recommended by the panel. However, the state government of Maharashtra objects it. Which of the following statement is in line of the passage or is correct as per the passage?

- (a) Amendments to synchronize municipal elections with Lok Sabha and assembly elections involve amending statutes for Union Territories and thus avoid the need for state ratification.
- (b) The synchronization of municipal elections with Lok Sabha and assembly elections requires constitutional amendments that necessitate state ratification.
- (c) Since the amendments proposed do not alter the representation of states in Parliament, ratification by state legislatures is not required for syncing municipal elections.
- (d) The power to conduct Municipal elections is primarily entrusted to Parliament hence negating the need for state ratification for syncing such election with general election.

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

- (a) The High-Level Committee on 'One Nation, One Election' recommended that no constitutional amendments are required for implementing simultaneous elections.
- (b) Ratification by states is deemed necessary by the Kovind panel for all constitutional amendments related to 'One Nation, One Election'.
- (c) For constitutional amendments that would sync Assembly elections with Lok Sabha elections, the Kovind panel has recommended that ratification by states is not needed.
- (d) Article 328 grants the Election Commission of India the primary responsibility for conducting Assembly elections, independent of Parliament.

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

- (a) The implementation of 'One Nation, One Election' may begin as early as June of the year mentioned, pending presidential action.
- (b) Amendments to the Constitution for 'One Nation, One Election' do not necessarily implicate changes to the representation of states in Parliament.

- (c) President by issuing a notification would declare an “appointed date” which will tie the concerned elections.
 (d) All constitutional amendments for the implementation of simultaneous elections will require the ratification by at least half of the states.

PASSAGE – XVII

While in general criminal cases, the investigating agencies usually get 60 to 90 days to complete the investigations, this time period under The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA) can be extended by further 90 days in case the probe is not completed within the initial 90 days. In case “it is not possible” for the investigating agency to complete the probe within the 90 days period, the Special court can grant additional 90 days to the agency for completion of the probe if it is satisfied with the report. The report has to indicate the progress of the investigation and the reasons for the extension. The court said the words “not possible” cannot be raised to the level of “impossibility”. It has the discretion to grant a lesser extension if it is of the view that the investigation can be completed within such time.

It observed that though there is no bar to grant an extension for a further period of 90 days in one go, it is incumbent on the Special Court to see “as to how much further time is reasonably required to complete the investigation.” It has the discretion to grant a lesser extension if it is of the view that the investigation can be completed within such time.

Section 3 of the Act says that the declaration of an association as unlawful is to be done by the Central Government by means of a notification in the Official Gazette. The declaration is subject to the public interest as the provision expressly mandates that the Central Government should not disclose any fact that it considers to be against the public interest to disclose.

The Central Government has, under Section 7 of the Act, been vested with the power to make inquiries or seize the money if it thinks that any person has custody of any amounts of money that are being used or are intended to be used for the purpose of the unlawful association. Any order made with respect to this provision is to be carried out expressly in the form of writing. Under Section 11, any person found in violation of Section 7 shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with a fine, or both.

Section 24 states that ‘proceeds of terrorism’ shall include any property intended to be used for terrorism. Under Section 25 of the Act, any kind of representation of proceeds of terrorism if presumed by investigating officer and designated authority, can be seized provided prior approval in writing of the Director-General of the Police of the state in which such property is situated, is taken.

Source: Extracted (with edits and revisions) from an article titled “Explained | UAPA, Extension Of Period Of Investigation Beyond 90 Days & Court's Duty”, Live Law.

79. Vikrant, an activist, is arrested under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) for alleged involvement in a terror plot. The initial investigation period of 90 days is about to expire, but the investigating agency seeks an extension, citing the complexity of the case. The agency requests an additional 90 days to complete the investigation. The public prosecutor provided a report regarding the progress of investigation and the reasons of extension. Vikrant argues that the investigation can reasonably be completed in a shorter period and that granting the full 90-day extension would unfairly prolong Vikrant's detention. In the light of the above passage, decide whether the Special Court can grant the extension of 90 days to the prosecution?

- (a) Yes, the Special Court can grant the full 90-day extension as requested by the investigating agency, given the complexity of the case.
 (b) No, the special Court shall deny any extension as it would lead to unfair prolonged detention of Vikrant.
 (c) Yes, the Special Court can grant the full 90-day extension if it is satisfied with the report of the public prosecutor.
 (d) No, the special Court shall deny any extension of 90 days but is capable only to grant an extension of lesser number of days.

80. In the previous question, assume that an additional fact is added. On examination of the report of the public prosecutor, the special court finds that the investigation can be completed within 30 days. In the light of the additional fact, select the most appropriate option.

- (a) The Special Court can grant the full 90-day extension as it is mandatory under the Act for the Court to grant such extension as requested by investigating agency.
 (b) The special Court shall deny any extension as it would lead to prolonged detention of Vikrant.
 (c) The Special Court shall grant the full 90-day extension as offences relating to terrorism involve unearthing of serious technological evidences.
 (d) The Special Court can grant an extension of 30 days as law allows the Court with the discretion to grant a lesser extension if it is of the view that the investigation can be completed within such time.

81. The Organisation named “Eternal Unity Movement” was declared unlawful by the central government by issuing a notification in the Official Gazette. The Central government did not mentioned any reasons for the same, citing public interest concerns. The government agencies found links that Vishal, an academican, is in possession of a car that was intended to be used for movement of members of Eternal Unity Movement. Vishal contents that he never became a member of the association and hence the seizure is incorrect. The agencies seized the car under section 7 of the Act. Decide whether the act of the government agencies is in consonance with the passage?

- (a) Yes, as UAPA empowers the government to seize any property if it thinks that it is being used or is intended to be used for the purpose of the unlawful association.
- (b) Yes, as Eternal Unity Movement was declared as an unlawful association.
- (c) No, as Vishal never became the member of the Eternal Unity Movement.
- (d) No, as UAPA does not provide such powers to the government agencies.

82. In the previous question, assume that a fact is substituted. Suppose that Eternal Unity Movement was a terrorist organisation. The government agencies authorised by UAPA seized the car after taking approval in writing of the Director-General of the Police of the state, on the apprehension that the car was intended to be used for terrorism. What would be the impact of substituted fact on the validity of the action of Government agencies?

- (a) The substituted fact would strengthen the validity of agency’s action.
- (b) The substituted fact would weaken the validity of agency’s action.
- (c) The substituted fact would have no effect on the validity of agency’s action.
- (d) The Substituted fact would weaken the validity of agency’s action as it is not made in writing.

83. Which of the following statements can be concluded from the passage discussing the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA) and its provisions?

- (a) Under the UAPA, the investigating agencies are always granted an additional 90 days after the initial 90-day period to complete their investigation.
- (b) The phrase “not possible” in the context of extending the investigation period under UAPA should be interpreted as “impossible.”
- (c) The UAPA allows for a total investigation period of 180 days, but the extension beyond the initial 90 days is subject to the discretion of the Special Court based on the progress of the investigation.
- (d) An association can be declared as unlawful by the state Government by means of a notification in the Official Gazette.

84. With regards to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA) and its provisions regarding the extension of the investigation period, which of the following statements cannot be concluded?

- (a) Any person found in violation of Section 7 shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with a fine, or both.
- (b) The Court emphasized that the phrase “not possible” should be interpreted as meaning “impossible” for extending the investigation period.
- (c) The declaration of an association as unlawful is subject to the public interest.
- (d) Any property intended to be used for terrorism can be seized by the authorized agency under UAPA.

Section D-Logical Reasoning

PASSAGE – XVIII

First introduced in Parliament by the H.D. Deve Gowda government in 1996, the women’s reservation bill, 2023 proposes to reserve 33% of seats in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies for women. The bill extends the quota to the seats reserved for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Even though women make up around 50% of the electorate in India, their representation in legislatures is appalling. In the 17th Lok Sabha in 2019, 14% of MPs were female, the highest number since India’s Independence. But the figure still fell short of the global average of 26.5%. When it comes to political representation of women who are marginalised, the picture is grimmer. Asaduddin Owaisi of the All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen claims that although Muslim women make up 7% of the population, they are only represented by 0.7% of the members of the Lok Sabha. Among the 131 seats allotted for SC/STs in the current Lok Sabha (84 for SCs and 47 for STs), there are only 20 women. The other backward classes are poorly represented because there is no reservation for them in Parliament or state assemblies. It would be interesting to view the bill through the prism of intersectionality. Intersectionality, according to Kimberlé Crenshaw, is a concept that highlights the dynamics of discrimination arising from various social, political, economic, and cultural identities. Crenshaw contends that because of women’s “intersecting identities”, they are “impacted by a multitude of social justice and human rights issues.” A joint parliamentary committee under Geeta Mukherjee had recommended reservation for OBC women prior to 2008 but this suggestion was not included in the

2008 bill. The women's reservation bill, 2023 continues to lack intersectionality because it makes no provisions for OBC or minority women.

The women's reservation bill is a perfect fit for Crenshaw's "basement" metaphor. Crenshaw recommended visualising discrimination as a basement where women at the bottom are marginalised on all conceivable grounds while women at the top are discriminated against only on the parameter of gender. Hence, whenever an escape in the form of a non-intersectional, anti-discrimination law is created, women at the top climb through while those at the bottom remain significantly worse off. Critics claim that if 33% reservation for women is implemented without taking intersectional inclusion into account, lower-caste men will be replaced by upper-caste women, changing the class and the social structure of the House. With the women's reservation bill passed — finally — it is critical to recognise that despite its current lack of intersectionality, the legislation reflects the 27 years of struggle it took for women to successfully assert their political rights. According to Professor Rukmini Sen, "Ambedkar's anti-caste politics led to affirmative action clauses in the Constitution and any politics of representation should connect itself with those roots to emphasise that even to get that little space years of struggles had to be fought." While the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, claims to be "the chosen one for empowering and strengthening women", we must remember that women are not a monolithic group and it is high time we let the subalterns take their rightful space.

Source: Fresh angle, The Telegraph Online, November 13, 2023

85. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the author's argument regarding the need for intersectionality in the women's reservation bill?

- (a) The representation of women in the Indian Parliament has steadily increased over the past decades without any reservation.
- (b) A significant number of OBC and minority women are already in powerful political positions in India.
- (c) Studies show that upper-caste women are more likely to represent the interests of lower-caste and minority women.
- (d) Many countries with higher female representation in their legislatures have implemented intersectional policies in their electoral systems.

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

- (a) The women's reservation bill, by not addressing intersectionality, adequately represents all women in India.
- (b) Affirmative action clauses for caste in India have historically been effective in promoting equality.
- (c) The current representation of women in the Indian Parliament is higher than the global average.
- (d) The implementation of the women's reservation bill will lead to a significant increase in the representation of minority women.

87. Which of the following is a correct expression of the author's opinion as stated in the passage about the representation of Muslim women in the Lok Sabha?

- (a) Muslim women are overrepresented in the Lok Sabha compared to their population percentage.
- (b) The representation of Muslim women in the Lok Sabha is proportionate to their percentage in the population.
- (c) Muslim women are underrepresented in the Lok Sabha, having a much lower percentage than their population share.
- (d) The percentage of Muslim women in the Lok Sabha is equal to the representation of women from other religious minorities.

88. How does the author suggest the women's reservation bill, 2023 could impact the social structure of the Indian Parliament?

- (a) By promoting the representation of women from all social classes and communities equally.
- (b) By potentially replacing lower-caste men with upper-caste women, thus changing the class and social structure of the House.
- (c) By ensuring that women from minority and marginalized communities are given priority over upper-caste women.
- (d) By maintaining the current social structure of the Parliament without any significant changes.

89. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the author's arguments about the effectiveness of the women's reservation bill in addressing the representation of marginalized women?

- (a) There is substantial evidence that women, regardless of their social background, tend to represent the interests of all women equally.
- (b) Most countries with higher female representation achieved this without specific reservations for women from marginalized communities.

- (c) The representation of OBC women in Indian politics has increased significantly in recent years without any specific reservation.
- (d) The women's reservation bill includes a clause for periodic review to ensure fair representation of all women, including those from marginalized communities.

PASSAGE – XIX

The COVID-19 outbreak has impacted individuals in many ways, including impacting mental health, though the long-term effects are unknown. The effects of quarantines, isolation, sudden changes in routine, and potential loss of loved ones were anticipated and found to significantly impact children and adolescent's mental well-being. Specifically, adolescents have been considered a vulnerable population disproportionately affected by the socio-environmental stressors of the pandemic. Jiao et al. 2020 reported these stressors experienced by children and adolescents commonly manifested as changes in appetite or sleep, and increase in anxiety, irritability, and distractibility, to name a few. Further emerging research into the broad effects of the COVID-19 pandemic suggested disruptions to family life, schools, and routines may have led to feelings of helplessness. The compounding nature of these circumstances may have increased the presence of fear and stress within the general population, having even broader implications than the physical effects of COVID-19, as was the case in previous epidemic. These concerns were echoed by Galea et al. 2020 report regarding both the short- and long-term mental health consequences of the pandemic. In addition to the likely rise of depression and anxiety, Galea et al. noted a likely related increase in substance use, domestic violence, and child abuse as a result of prolonged school closures. While mental health and COVID-19 pandemic research is still emerging, mental health consequences can be inferred by evaluating past epidemics, including traumatic, natural, and environmental. When looking at past epidemics, researchers noted an increase in depression, substance use disorders, and even posttraumatic stress disorder. Adolescents have been described as an especially vulnerable population during the pandemic. A recent systematic review found COVID-19 to be associated with increased mental health symptoms in adolescents. Additionally, Octavius et al. reported some adolescents who experienced loneliness coupled with a history of trauma were more prone to experiencing anxiety and depression. Interestingly, the researchers also found several protective factors against the adverse mental health effects, including physical-psychosocial support, accurate COVID-19 information, and motivation to comply with distancing strategies.

[Extracted (with edits and revisions) an excerpt from the article titled "Impact of COVID-.....published at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>]

90. Which of the following is the primary purpose of the author in the passage?

- (a) To reflect the impact of anguish of pandemic on adolescents more than adults.
- (b) To state that the pandemic has deep rooted impact on life.
- (c) To bring the reader's attention to the mental health situation that has worsened at the time of pandemic.
- (d) To express concern that children and adults are exposed to distressing events caused by COVID-19.

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

- I. There can be long-term mental health issues arising from the stress from pandemic.
- II. Major impact is because of the news of pandemic which leads to the emotional trigger during pre-pandemic social gathering.
- III. Social alienation affected the mental health of the mass especially children.

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

92. Which of the following strengthens the author's statement that "some adolescents who experienced loneliness coupled with a history of trauma were more prone to experiencing anxiety and depression"?

- (a) There are few ways to relieve such stress and anxiety.
- (b) Everyone is going through some ill-mental health impact due to pandemic.
- (c) Parents should cooperate with their children during tough times.
- (d) Traumatic past can worsen the impact of mental stress during social isolation.

93. Which of the following weakens the idea of the author?

- (a) Everyone is facing difficulties and adolescents are one of them. All of us are vulnerable.
- (b) Pandemic has given a few children chance and time to build indelible bond with their parents and their families.
- (c) Pandemic cost mental illness and psychological anxiety of looking forward.
- (d) Both (a) and (b)

94. Which of the following is the author's assumption in "*the compounding nature of the circumstances arisen out of pandemic may have increased the presence of fear and stress within the general population*"?

- (a) Pandemic caused distress and feeling of bond to each other as human.
- (b) Chunks of people get separated physically and they realised worth of each other.
- (c) Isolation and unpredictability could considerably impact the mental health.
- (d) All of the above.

PASSAGE – XX

The Central Vista project in India, undertaken by the present government, has stirred significant debate and concern. Initiated with the redevelopment of Rajpath, the project's first phase, costing 600 crore rupees, involved refurbishing the main avenue and enhancing the surrounding lawns. The second phase saw the construction of a new Parliament building, reportedly within its 1200 crore rupees budget. However, the government has yet to disclose the grand plan or total expenditure for the entire project. Information about further developments, including the demolition of the National Museum and other government buildings to make way for new bureaucratic offices, comes primarily from the website of the project's favored architect. This redevelopment, costing approximately 1000 crore rupees per building, raises questions about its necessity and the financial burden it imposes. Moreover, the project has already exacerbated traffic congestion and air pollution in Delhi. A major concern is the planned demolition of the National Museum and the risk it poses to its collection of 2.06 lakh antiquities. The relocation involves two transfers, first to an interim storage and then to the North and South Blocks. The complexity and sensitivity of moving these priceless, irreplaceable artifacts raise alarms, especially given the lack of information about the interim storage and the duration of the museum's closure.

The handling of these antiquities requires specialized care, as many items need specific environmental conditions. The risk of pilferage and substitution during transfer is also high, given that nearly half of the National Museum's artifacts are not photo-documented or digitally recorded. The staffing situation at the National Museum is critical, with significant vacancies and abolished posts, raising doubts about the capacity to manage such a massive transfer. Entrusting this task to temporary staff could be risky and demands careful consideration. The feasibility of housing the National Museum in the North and South Blocks, originally designed for bureaucratic purposes, is questionable. Modern museums are typically built around their exhibits, not vice versa. The claim of 80,000 square meters of display space in the relocated blocks seems implausible, considering the current floor area of the North Block is only 13,700 square meters. The Central Vista project's impact goes beyond urban development; it involves the stewardship of a civilization's heritage. The government must be transparent about the master plan, including detailed calculations and estimates, recognizing that the treasures of the National Museum are the heritage of India, not just assets of the current administration. The project, while ambitious, must be executed with the utmost care and responsibility to safeguard India's rich historical and cultural legacy.

Source: Treasures in trouble, The Telegraph Online, November 5, 2023

95. Which of the following supports the author's opinion regarding the transparency of the Central Vista project?

- (a) The government has been fully transparent about the project's grand plan and total expenditure.
- (b) Information about the project's developments and expenses is readily available and clearly communicated to the public.
- (c) There is a lack of disclosure by the government regarding the total expenditure and the complete plan of the project.
- (d) The project's favoured architect's website provides comprehensive and reliable information about the redevelopment.

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

- (a) The relocation of the National Museum and its antiquities will enhance the preservation and display of India's historical artifacts.
- (b) The Central Vista project will alleviate traffic congestion and air pollution issues in Delhi.
- (c) Specialized care and proper environmental conditions are crucial for the handling of antiquities during their transfer.
- (d) The new Parliament building and other bureaucratic offices will occupy less space than the current National Museum.

97. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the author's argument regarding the risk involved in relocating the National Museum's collection?
- (a) The National Museum has a proven track record of successfully relocating large collections without any damage or loss.
 - (b) Recent advancements in technology have significantly reduced the risks associated with the transfer of antiquities.
 - (c) There have been instances in the past where the transfer of artifacts led to significant damage and loss of historical items.
 - (d) The staff responsible for the relocation have undergone extensive training in the handling and preservation of antiquities.
98. Which of the following strengthens the author's views regarding the staffing situation at the National Museum?
- (a) The presence of significant vacancies and abolished posts at the National Museum poses no risk to the relocation of its collection.
 - (b) The National Museum's current staffing levels are adequate for managing the complexity of relocating its vast collection.
 - (c) Entrusting the transfer of the National Museum's artifacts to temporary staff could jeopardize the safety and integrity of the collection.
 - (d) The staffing issues at the National Museum have been exaggerated and do not affect its operational capabilities.
99. Which of the following does not disagree with the author's opinion regarding the feasibility of housing the National Museum in the North and South Blocks?
- (a) The North and South Blocks are ideally suited for a modern museum, offering ample space and suitable conditions for exhibits.
 - (b) Converting bureaucratic buildings into museum spaces is a practical solution to accommodate the National Museum's collection.
 - (c) The relocation of the National Museum to the North and South Blocks may compromise the display and preservation of its collection.
 - (d) The North and South Blocks will provide more display space for the National Museum's collection than its current location.

PASSAGE – XXI

My main hypothesis was that medical marijuana legalization would not increase the number of first time users or past month users because legal penalties do not deter consumers of marijuana. Enforcement against consumers is impractical because as established by the literature, marijuana transactions mainly occur in the privacy of one's residence. Considering the difficulty for law enforcement to accurately guess when marijuana transactions are occurring within a home, law enforcement needs to violate civil liberties in order to curb these kinds of transactions. And unlike for dealers of harder drugs, who commit large amounts of violent crime and reap much bigger profits, law enforcement has little support for invading the homes of potential marijuana dealers. Given a near non-existent risk of consuming marijuana, I maintained that marijuana legalization does not make it significantly easier for demanders of marijuana to consume it for the first time or on a regular basis.

While those 18 or older can obtain a medical card with relative ease by claiming ailments that are difficult to verify, I predicted that the number of first time and past month users in this age group would remain stable. This is because the legal protection afforded by medical marijuana legalization would only significantly benefit those who already consume marijuana frequently. If that were the case, intensity of marijuana use among already frequent users might increase, but not necessarily the number of people who want to use marijuana for the first time or on a monthly basis. For the latter types, such modest use makes the expected risk of consumption quite small and the fixed cost of purchasing a medical card unjustifiable.

Since marijuana use is more common among 12-17 year olds and 18-25 year olds, it may be argued that 26+ year olds lack the underground networks to consume marijuana in the absence of a medical legalization. While this may be the case, 26+ year olds who have not tried marijuana for the first time would not want to at their current age.

[Extracted (with edits and revisions) an excerpt from the article titled "published at <http://www.inquiriesjournal.com/>]

100. Which of the following is most supported by the author's argument?
- (a) It is impossible to catch marijuana transactions taking place at homes.
 - (b) Potential marijuana dealers are a less lucrative catch than actual marijuana dealers.

- (c) Legalization of marijuana is actually beneficial for society.
 (d) Medicinal marijuana has a different effect than actual marijuana.
- 101.** All of the following can be inferred except?
- (a) First time consumers are not going to increase with legalization of marijuana.
 (b) Frequent consumers are not going to increase with legalization of marijuana.
 (c) Old people are going to consume more marijuana after its legalization.
 (d) Monthly users are not going to consume additional marijuana after its legalization.
- 102.** Which of the following assumptions has been made by the author?
- (a) Not a lot of people consume marijuana.
 (b) Most marijuana consumers are unaffected by its legalization.
 (c) Legalisation of marijuana does not ease the process for first timers or regulars.
 (d) Consumption of marijuana depends on its acceptability in the society.
- 103.** Which of the following, if true, would seriously undermine the author's argument?
- (a) Marijuana is a gateway drug that leads to addiction.
 (b) Majority of the society does not accept the use of marijuana.
 (c) Older people have more diseases that may be treated by marijuana.
 (d) Medicinal marijuana can be purchased only few times in extremely limited quantity.

PASSAGE – XXII

The UK Parliament is increasingly resembling a setting for a dark comedy, with its recurring episodes of MPs facing allegations of sexual misconduct. The Conservative party's "suspected-scumbag protocol" is getting a workout, with MPs like Crispin Blunt and Peter Bone recently losing the whip due to allegations of rape and bullying, respectively. The term "losing the whip" itself seems like a euphemism that belies the gravity of the accusations. It's as if the party is more concerned with in-group etiquette than the alleged crimes. The media's framing of these incidents often trivializes the issue, reducing it to a "headache" for party leaders. This narrative not only minimizes the experiences of the victims but also perpetuates a culture that treats these allegations as mere inconveniences for the powerful. The term "by-election headache," frequently used by media outlets, is particularly problematic. It suggests that the real issue is the inconvenience caused to the Prime Minister or party leaders, rather than the alleged misconduct itself. One could argue that the media's focus on how these scandals affect political leaders is part of the problem. It shifts the conversation away from the alleged victims and the toxic culture that allows such behavior to persist. Instead of discussing the impact on those who have been wronged, the narrative becomes about how one powerful man has caused a minor annoyance for another powerful man. This framing is not only insensitive but also misleading, as it implies that the alleged misconduct is part of some grand political strategy to undermine the party in power.

The frequency of these allegations raises serious questions about the culture within the UK Parliament. Is it that the environment corrupts individuals, or are individuals with a predisposition for such behavior attracted to this seat of power? Or is it a toxic combination of both? Whatever the answer, it's clear that the issue goes beyond individual MPs and speaks to a systemic problem that needs urgent attention. The UK Parliament's reputation is at stake, and the issue is too grave to be reduced to political manoeuvring or media soundbites. It's high time to shift the focus from the political implications for party leaders to the root causes of this disturbing trend. The percentage of MPs facing such serious allegations seems disproportionately high compared to other workplaces, making it imperative to address the issue head-on.

Source: Dear Mr Speaker,?, October 27, 2023

- 104.** Which of the following would support the author's conclusion that the media's framing of the incidents often trivializes the issue?
- (a) The media focuses on how the allegations affect the political leaders rather than the victims.
 (b) The media frequently uses the term "by-election headache" to describe the situation.
 (c) The Conservative party has a "suspected-scumbag protocol" for dealing with allegations.
 (d) The term "losing the whip" is a euphemism that belies the gravity of the accusations.
- 105.** Based on the author's arguments, which of the following must necessarily be true?
- (a) The Conservative party is more concerned with in-group etiquette than the alleged crimes.
 (b) The media is part of the problem for focusing on the inconvenience caused to political leaders.
 (c) The percentage of MPs facing allegations is disproportionately high compared to other workplaces.
 (d) The UK Parliament's reputation is at stake due to these allegations.

- 106.** Which of the following is a correct expression of the author's opinion, as stated in the passage?
 (a) The term "losing the whip" accurately reflects the severity of the allegations against MPs.
 (b) The issue of MPs facing allegations is too grave to be reduced to political manoeuvring or media sound bites.
 (c) The media's framing of these incidents is sensitive and focuses on the victims.
 (d) The Conservative party's "suspected-scumbag protocol" is an effective way to deal with allegations.
- 107.** Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the author's arguments?
 (a) The media has started a campaign to focus on the experiences of the victims.
 (b) The term "losing the whip" is universally understood to signify a grave offense.
 (c) The percentage of MPs facing allegations is actually lower than in other workplaces.
 (d) The Conservative party's "suspected-scumbag protocol" has been highly effective in addressing allegations.
- 108.** Which of the following, if true, would strengthen the idea given in the first paragraph that the Conservative party is more concerned with in-group etiquette than the alleged crimes?
 (a) The Conservative party has a detailed legal procedure for handling allegations.
 (b) The term "losing the whip" is often used lightly within the Conservative party.
 (c) MPs like Crispin Blunt and Peter Bone were quickly reinstated after losing the whip.
 (d) The media often focuses on the experiences of the victims rather than the political implications.

Section E-Quantitative Techniques

PASSAGE – XXIII

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

In ICC cricket test championship, two matches were played between India and Australia. In each match, there were two innings. Here were some details about runs scored by two Indian players, Vidhan and Vidyut. In first inning of first match, Vidhan scored 75% of runs scored by Vidyut, which is the LCM of 20 and 30. The respective ratio between runs scored by Vidhan in first and second inning of first match was 9:17. The respective ratio between runs scored by Vidyut in first and second innings of first match was 15:14. Average runs scored by Vidhan in all four innings was 65. In second match, the ratio between runs scored by Vidhan in first and second innings was 6:7 respectively. In second innings of second match, Vidhan scored 40% more runs than Vidyut. In first inning of second match, runs scored by Vidhan was 20% more than Vidyut.

- 109.** What is the respective ratio between runs scored by Vidyut in 2nd inning of both matches together and runs scored by Vidhan in 1st inning of both matches together?
 (a) 105 : 106 (b) 105 : 104 (c) 104 : 105 (d) 106:105
- 110.** What is the average runs scored by Vidyut in all four innings?
 (a) 54 (b) 56 (c) 52 (d) 58
- 111.** Runs scored by both of them in first inning of 2nd match is approximately what percentage of runs scored by both of them in second inning of 1st match?
 (a) 28% (b) 68% (c) 78% (d) 98%
- 112.** What is the difference between the total runs scored by Vidyut and Vidhan in all four innings together?
 (a) 54 (b) 44 (c) 34 (d) 24

PASSAGE – XXIV

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

In an organization, a certain number of people are working on the two different project. The following information pertains to the time taken to complete the project and the relationship between their work efficiency: For project P1, the respective ratio between the time taken by P and the time taken by Q to complete the project alone is 3:4. The respective ratio of efficiencies between P and R is 8:9. Q takes 24 days to complete the project alone. Similarly, for project P2, the respective ratio between the time taken by A and the time taken by B to complete the project alone is 4:5. The respective ratio of efficiencies between A and C is 7:8. B takes 20 days to complete the project alone.

- 113.** Find the time taken to complete 63% of project P2 when A, and B will work together?
 (a) 2.8 days (b) 5.6 days (c) 4.2 days (d) 1.2 days
- 114.** Find the time taken to complete $\frac{7}{9}$ of project P1 when P, and Q will work together?
 (a) 8 days (b) 6 days (c) 12 days (d) 16 days

115. What is the respective ratio between efficiency of P and Q together and efficiency of Q and R together?

- (a) 12:13 (b) 15:14 (c) 14:15 (d) 13:12

116. If A works on project P2 for 3 days and B works for 5 days, what fraction of the work is left?

- (a) 5/15 (b) 5/16 (c) 9/15 (d) 9/16

PASSAGE – XXV

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

Vidhan is a shopkeeper who sells three different types of articles: A, B, and C. the information provided is about their cost price, selling price, and marked price. For article A, there is a Rs. 200 difference between the cost price and selling price. The markup percentage is 20% and the discount percentage is 10%. Similarly, for article B, there is a Rs. 300 difference between the cost price and selling price. The markup percentage is 30% and the discount percentage is 20%. For article C, there is also a Rs. 570 difference between the cost price and selling price. The markup percentage is 40% and the discount percentage is 15%.

117. What is the average selling price of all three articles together?

- (a) Rs. 4960 (b) Rs.4660 (c) Rs.4690 (d) Rs.4990

118. Find the respective ratio between the profit earned by shopkeeper on selling article A and the discount offer on article C by shopkeeper?

- (a) 20:36 (b) 36:20 (c) 63:20 (d) 20:63

119. The cost price of article A is how much percent more or less than the cost price of article B?

- (a) 66.66% more (b) 66.66% less (c) 50% more (d) 50% less

120. Find the difference between the marked price of article B and marked price of article C?

- (a) Rs. 5550 (b) Rs. 5050 (c) Rs. 5505 (d) Rs. 5500

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