

NISHANT PRAKASH LAW CLASSES

COMMON LAW ADMISSION TEST 2025-2026

MOCK CLAT 130

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Duration of Test: 2 Hours (120 Minutes)

Maximum Marks: 120

1. Detach and keep the carbon-copy OMR response sheet that comes with the question booklet; this is your only answer sheet.
2. If you spot any defect in your question booklet, immediately ask the invigilator for a replacement set along with a fresh OMR sheet—do not reuse the previous OMR.
3. Only one blank OMR sheet will be provided under any circumstance, so treat it carefully and avoid damage.
4. Answer every question; no queries or clarifications about the question paper will be entertained during the exam.
5. Electronic gadgets (phones, smartwatches, etc.) are strictly forbidden inside the examination hall.
6. Any attempt at using unfair means will lead to cancellation of your exam.
7. Impersonation is a serious offense: it results in disqualification and possible legal action.
8. The exam comprises 120 multiple-choice questions for a total of 120 marks; note that 0.25 marks are deducted for each incorrect answer or if more than one option is shaded.
9. Use only a black or blue ballpoint pen to fill in your roll number and other identification details on the OMR sheet.
10. Shade the chosen answer circle completely (with black/blue pen), selecting exactly one option per question—partial or multiple shading invalidates the response.
11. Since responses on the OMR cannot be erased or changed, be sure before you mark any circle.
12. Retain your admit card, duly signed by the invigilator; you will need to present it when required (e.g., at admission).
13. Handle the OMR sheet gently—do not fold it. Ensure both invigilator and you sign in the designated spaces. Also, write the question booklet number and the OMR sheet number as instructed, sign the attendance sheet, and after the exam, return the original OMR page to the invigilator. Only fill in information in the allotted fields—avoid any stray markings.

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SECTION - A : ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Passage:-1 When the Taliban took over Afghanistan in August 2021, India responded with caution. A few days into the takeover, New Delhi withdrew its ambassador and diplomatic staff from Kabul and suspended direct engagement. Realising that a stringent no-talk policy was impractical, India started to gradually open channels of communication. The reopening of the Indian embassy in June 2024 was followed by a public meeting in January this year between Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and Afghanistan's acting Foreign Minister, Amir Khan Muttaqi, in Dubai. Amidst these developments, since August 2021, India has been regularly delivering wheat, pesticides, medical supplies and other forms of aid. Even in the Union Budget for 2024-25, there was an allocation of Rs 100 crore for assistance to Afghanistan. The first-ever ministerial-level conversation between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Muttaqi on Thursday should be seen as the next logical step in the incremental outreach by both countries. The phone call took place days after the India-Pakistan ceasefire following the Pahalgam terror attack, which was unequivocally condemned by the Taliban regime.

Traditionally, Delhi and Kabul have had warm ties, barring the years of Taliban 1.0 (1996-2001), when India saw it as a proxy for Pakistan's strategic interests. But relations between the Taliban and Pakistan have been deteriorating rapidly, primarily driven by issues over the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan, operating along the Afghan-Pakistan border. Realising that it does not have a hold on the Taliban any more, Rawalpindi has been trying to drive a wedge between India and Afghanistan. In a post on X, Jaishankar welcomed Muttaqi's "firm rejection" of Pakistan's "recent attempts to create distrust between India and Afghanistan through false and baseless reports" — a reference to reports in Pakistan that Indian missiles had hit Afghanistan during Operation Sindoor. Amid a widening rift between Taliban 2.0 and Pakistan, India needs to keep communication lines open and prevent Afghanistan from becoming a sanctuary for anti-India terror groups.

There is no denying that the Taliban continues to be an autocratic regime with little regard for human rights, especially the rights of women. That is why India is yet to recognise the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. Indeed, increased engagement risks undermining India's moral stand. But to not engage at all carries risks, too. China has signed significant investment and security agreements with the Taliban, including a \$540-million oil extraction deal. Within the power politics of South Asia, given the China-Pakistan-Bangladesh axis, a Kabul-Beijing entente would be a matter of concern. India does not have the power to alter Afghan politics and society, but it has to deal with whoever sits in Kabul.

[Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/editorials/express-view-talking-to-taliban-10011368/>]

Q1 What is the primary purpose of the passage?

- A. To compare China's and Pakistan's relations with the Taliban.
- B. To outline India's evolving diplomatic engagement with the Taliban-led government.
- C. To highlight human rights abuses under the Taliban regime.
- D. To criticise India's moral stance in not recognising the Taliban regime.

Q2 In the phrase "Realising that a **stringent** no-talk policy was impractical" (line 3), the word *stringent* most nearly means:

- A. Excessively harsh
- B. Temporarily suspended
- C. Delicately balanced
- D. Partially effective

Q3 Which of the following is the **antonym** of *autocratic* as used in "the Taliban continues to be an **autocratic** regime"?

- A. Despot
- B. Authoritarian
- C. Absolute
- D. Democratic

Q4 What does the author imply by stating that the Jaishankar-Muttaqi ministerial conversation "should be seen as the next logical step in the incremental outreach by both countries"?

- A. That India's engagement is purely reactive to Pakistan's actions.
- B. That the meeting was orchestrated solely for public-relations benefit.
- C. That India's policy has steadily shifted from isolation to pragmatic engagement.
- D. That India and Afghanistan have already fully reconciled their differences.

Q5 Which of the following sentences is **grammatically correct** and preserves the original meaning?

- A. Realising that stringent no-talk policy was impractical, India started to gradually open channels of communication.
- B. Realising that a stringent no-talk policy was impractical, India started gradually to opening channels of communication.
- C. Realising that a stringent no-talk policy was impractical, India gradually started opening channels of communication.
- D. Realising that the stringent no-talk policy was impractical, India started gradually opening channels of communication.

Q6 Wheat delivered by India since August 2021 is to **aid/assistance** as the \$540-million oil extraction deal signed by China is to _____.

- A. deterrence
- B. investment
- C. mediation
- D. negotiation

Passage:-2 The Indian Space Research Organisation has added another feather to its cap with the Spadex mission, successfully docking two satellites in space. Docking is a critical capability without which India's future space projects, including the setting up of a permanent station in space or landing of human beings on the Moon, would not be possible. The immediate utilisation of this capability would be required in the Chandrayaan-4 mission which is supposed to bring back samples from the Moon. The fact that the ISRO is only the third or fourth space agency in the world to accomplish a certain feat is no longer a reason for surprise. In the last few years, it has firmly established itself as one of the leading space agencies of the world. From here on, it would be its failure that is unanticipated, not its success. Thanks to the spate of capabilities acquired and demonstrated by the agency in the last few years, India is comfortably placed in the top bracket of countries in terms of at least one of the technologies expected to reshape the global order in coming decades. Artificial Intelligence, quantum systems, clean energy are some of the other technologies that are likely to decide a country's fate and well-being in the immediate future. Unlike space, however, the gap between India's capabilities and the front-runners in these technology domains is significantly large. Scientists often attribute the success of the space and nuclear establishments in the country to the relative freedom that the ISRO and the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) have enjoyed in deciding their plans and programmes, recruitment and expenditure. The political class has generally approved of, and backed, the decisions taken by the scientific community. Of course, there are other factors contributing to their success, but as India makes efforts to close the gap on critical and emerging technologies, several scientists talk about recreating the ISRO and DAE models for other key scientific groups or departments. Building ISRO or DAE-like institutions for other key sectors in science might be easier said than done, but it might be worth the while to evaluate the main factors behind their success and assess whether some of these principles can be applied in other areas. The critical technology sectors which are likely to emerge as the key drivers of the Indian economy and form the backbone of its strategic self-reliance need support, nurturing and some special liberties. ISRO's success needs to be learnt from, replicated and spread widely.

[Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/editorials/express-view-isros-latest-success-an-example-to-follow-9783086/>]

Q7 What is the central argument of the passage?

- A. India's success in space technology makes it the unquestioned global leader in all critical emerging technologies.
- B. The ISRO and DAE models' relative autonomy has been key to their success and could inform other strategic sectors.
- C. India must prioritise clean energy and quantum systems over space exploration to secure its future.
- D. The Chandrayaan-4 mission is the only upcoming project that truly tests ISRO's docking capability.

Q8 In the phrase "Thanks to the **spate** of capabilities acquired and demonstrated by the agency" (line 3), the word *spate* most nearly means:

- A. scarcity
- B. sudden outpouring
- C. strategic alignment
- D. measured deployment

Q9 Which inference about India's technological standing is best supported by the passage?

- A. India's lead in space technology guarantees it will soon lead in AI and quantum systems.
- B. Political backing alone explains the successes of ISRO and DAE.
- C. Replicating ISRO's autonomy model is straightforward and will quickly bridge gaps in other tech domains.
- D. While India excels in space, it still lags significantly behind front-runners in AI, quantum, and clean energy.

Q10 Which of the following sentences **best preserves the meaning** and is grammatically correct?

- A. Unlike space, however, the gap between India's capabilities and the front-runners in these technology domains remain significantly large.
- B. Unlike space, however, the gap between India's capabilities and those of the front-runners in these technology domains is significantly large.
- C. Unlike space, however, the gap between India's capabilities and the front-runners in these technology domains are significantly large.
- D. Unlike space, however, the gap between India's capabilities and the front-runners in these technology domains has been significantly large.

Q11 ISRO is to **docking capability** as DAE is to _____.

- A. quantum computing
- B. nuclear energy
- C. artificial intelligence
- D. clean energy

Q12 Which of the following is a **synonym** for *autonomy* as implied in "relative freedom that the ISRO and the Department of Atomic Energy ... have enjoyed" (lines 5–6)?

- A. sovereignty
- B. dependence
- C. regulation
- D. subordination

Passage:-3 My eyes are like shining torches, penetrating the darkness when I would rather be asleep. Shapes emerge which I could not see ten minutes ago. Now everything is so clear that I might as well sit up and not pretend any longer that I'll drop off before morning comes. This is not the first night I've lain awake in the early hours. In fact, at one stage, I thought I might have to ask for sleeping tablets. But I resisted. Instead I increased my level of daytime exercise whenever I got the opportunity, using up all my energy as best I could, so I'd drop off the minute my head hit the pillow.

It worked for a while. But the benefits were short-lived. Now I'm back where I started, waking up at 3am, being forced to confront my misery at the most depressing hour known to man. Perhaps I should pull the blanket over my head and hope the cosiness lulls me into a state of drowsiness. Or maybe I should force my mind to switch thoughts – to the minutiae of daily life. Unfortunately, distraction of the mind, while useful in any sanity toolbox, is not infinite.

I'm going to wrap the blanket tightly round me now, not because it'll help me sleep, but because it's a bit deathly cold at this hour. It's dark under here. I can feel the warmth from my breath. It's like central heating but more suffocating. I'm going to have to come up for air soon. It needn't have been like this. Me lying here on my own with useless morbid thoughts. I should be lying with my husband, feeling his comforting warm body when I wake up in the night, or listening to his deep relaxed breathing and the occasional snore when I can't drop off myself, at least on the nights he bothered to come home. All I can hear now are occasional footsteps. But they're reliable and regular.... more than can be said for him.

He's only been gone three months. It still doesn't feel real. It's like he's on holiday and could walk through the door any moment, except, of course, I know he won't. What I need is a fresh start. No more memories. Maybe by the time morning comes my imagination will transport me to the the perfect villa where I can enjoy cocktails on the verandah with a new man in my life. But that will only be in my dreams. There are those footsteps again. The prison wardens are pretty regular in this cell block. Maybe they think I'll break out and murder them too.

[Source: <https://writersbeat.com/insomnia-for-life-short-story-450-words-t45383.html>]

Q13 What best captures the passage's main theme?

- A. The health benefits of increased daytime exercise.
- B. The contrast between physical warmth and emotional coldness.
- C. Sleeplessness deepened by grief and symbolic confinement.
- D. Practical strategies for dealing with early-morning wakefulness.

Q14 Which inference is most strongly supported by the passage?

- A. The narrator's husband is in prison, and the footsteps belong to wardens.
- B. The narrator will soon resume taking sleeping tablets.
- C. The cold room temperature is the primary cause of insomnia.
- D. The narrator and her husband share these sleepless nights together.

Q15 In "force my mind to switch thoughts – to the **minutiae** of daily life," *minutiae* most nearly means:

- A. grand events
- B. trivial details
- C. imaginative scenarios
- D. significant milestones

Q16 Which word best describes the narrator's tone in "It needn't have been like this. Me lying here on my own with useless morbid thoughts"?

- A. Sardonic
- B. Regretful
- C. Jubilant
- D. Detached

Q17 "I can feel the warmth from my breath. It's like central heating but more suffocating." This is an example of:

- A. Metaphor
- B. Simile
- C. Personification
- D. Hyperbole

Q18 Which revision best preserves the original meaning and is grammatically correct?

- A. I can feel the warmth from my breath, like central heating but more suffocating.
- B. I can feel warmth from my breath; it's as central heating but more suffocating.
- C. I feel the warmth of my breath—like central heating but more suffocating.
- D. Feeling the warmth of my breath is like central heating but more suffocating.

Passage:-4 'Sir, there is someone who wants a loan'. Surrounded by a small pile of yellow passbooks, Jai, the loan officer, glanced up from filling out the ledgers for the day's collections. We were at a microfinance group meeting in Kolkata, India. Jai and I were seated on the raised single bed, the only piece of furniture save the narrow almirah (wardrobe) in one corner. The sole window to the room overlooked the entrance to the house next door. A small child clung to the window bars, observing

the ongoing proceedings. The 'someone' was Krishna, a woman in her late forties, her greying hair pulled into a neat bun, who stood at the entrance.

'Who wants the loan?' Jai asked, quickly getting to business. 'Me,' Krishna responded. 'And who will be your guarantor?' he continued. 'My jamai [son-in-law].' 'Don't you have a son?' demanded Jai. Krishna nodded yes. 'Why can't he be your guarantor?' he asked. She simply shook her head silently, unwilling to delve into the details of an absent son. The other women in the room shared knowing looks, aware to some extent of their neighbour's domestic situation. 'Where does your daughter live?' asked Jai. 'Just next door,' she responded, pointing to the adjoining room through the window. Another of the group members chimed in, 'Sir, he [the son] doesn't want another obligation. Why can't her jamai be the guarantor if he is willing?' Sighing, Jai thought for a second, finally asking: 'Can't your daughter take the loan instead? It will make things easier with her age and guarantor.' Krishna nodded, going off to find her daughter to put in the loan application.

Bad sons, good daughters, mothers cared and uncared for: microfinance loans not only operate through kinship networks, but also produce new forms of relationality in the service of financial profits. Commercial microfinance institutions (MFIs) in India often require women to have male kin guarantors in order to access loans that are ostensibly designed for women's empowerment. These guarantors are typically the borrower's husband, but it can also be an adult son (18 and above), brother, or if age permits, a father or father-in-law. This stipulation for male guarantors to access loans both binds families together and discloses places where they fall apart. As microfinance loans are normalized in the urban poor neighbourhoods of Kolkata, they have brought kinship relations under the gaze of financial institutions. What I call 'relations of guarantee' do not simply mirror kinship as a formal structure; rather, they call upon both borrowers and guarantors to also continuously reflect upon and provide signs of this relationship as it is lived for MFIs to assess. They reveal how underlying familial relationships are speculated upon and transformed by the process of financialization.

[Source: Sohini Kar, 'Relative indemnity: risk, insurance, and kinship in Indian microfinance']

Q19 What is the primary purpose of the passage?

- A. To celebrate microfinance as a tool of women's empowerment.
- B. To show how mandatory male guarantors reveal and reshape family relationships under microfinance.
- C. To argue that microfinance institutions should drop the guarantor requirement.
- D. To compare urban and rural loan practices in India.

Q20 In "underlying familial relationships are speculated upon and **transformed** by the process of financialization" (line 18), *transformed* most nearly means:

- A. preserved B. obscured C. altered D. documented

Q21 Which inference about gender dynamics in microfinance does the passage best support?

- A. Requiring male guarantors both empowers women borrowers and exposes patriarchal constraints.
- B. Women are preferred guarantors because they are seen as more reliable.
- C. MFIs allow female guarantors when male kin are unavailable.
- D. Guarantor rules are applied uniformly without regard to gender.

Q22 What is the author's tone in the phrase "bad sons, good daughters, mothers cared and uncared for"?

- A. Satirical B. Celebratory C. Indifferent D. Critical

Q23 The phrase "brought kinship relations under the gaze of financial institutions" (line 15) is an example of:

- A. Metaphor B. Simile C. Personification D. Oxymoron

Q24 What does the concept of "relations of guarantee" imply about the borrower-guarantor relationship?

- A. It remains a purely formal requirement, with no real effect on personal ties.
- B. It forces both parties to continuously perform and prove their familial bond.
- C. It eliminates the need for MFIs to verify kinship documents.
- D. It weakens the authority of male guarantors over female borrowers.

SECTION – B : GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Passage:-1 When the body of Pope Francis was moved from the simplicity of his home in Casa Santa Marta, the Vatican's guest house, on Wednesday morning to the opulence of St Peter's Basilica, another step was taken in the late pope's final journey. The Irish-born Cardinal Kevin Farrell supervised that transition as Camerlengo, the Vatican's caretaker in the absence of a ruling pope. On Saturday, the Dean of the College of Cardinals will preside at the papal funeral— an event that will be transmitted to the world on television, radio, and a bewildering array of digital platforms. Between now and then, there is space reflection as tens of thousands of people make their way to the basilica in hope of a final moment of their own as they stand in silence before the Pope's simple wooden coffin. [<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/czjn1pv3zymo>]

Q25. Which treaty led to the establishment of Vatican City as a sovereign state?

- A. Treaty of Tordesillas, 1494 B. Concordat of 1801 C. Lateran Treaty, 1929 D. Treaty of Rome, 1957

Q26. How is a new Pope elected in the Roman Catholic Church?

- A. Through a hereditary succession line decided by the Church's founding scriptures
B. By a conclave of cardinals who vote, typically selecting one of their own
C. By a global vote among practicing Catholic citizens in a papal referendum
D. Via appointment by the Archbishop of Canterbury and global bishops' conclave

Q27. What is the office of the Pope formally known as?

- A. The Papacy B. The Apostolic Chair C. The Roman Episcopate D. The Holy Synod

Q28 Which of the following is true about Vatican City's governance structure?

- A. It is governed by a constitutional monarchy with a separate Prime Minister and a Parliament.
B. It is under the administrative control of Italy's Ministry of Interior and Police.
C. It is jointly administered by the Pope and the College of Cardinals with annual elections.
D. It is governed by the Pope who exercises supreme legislative, executive, and judicial authority.

Q29. What is a key source of revenue for the Vatican City?

- A. Income taxes from its citizens and residents
B. Profits from agricultural exports and luxury goods sales
C. Donations from global Catholics, investments, and publication sales
D. Membership fees collected annually from cardinals and clergymen

Passage:-2 The massacre of 26 people, most of them tourists, in Pahalgam, Kashmir, by Islamist terrorists has jolted the conscience of the nation and the world. It is a tragic reminder of the constant threat of terrorism, which strikes without warning at innocent civilians. The mind-numbing reports of the attackers identifying victims by religion before executing them at close range mark a new low in the history of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism. Home Minister Amit Shah, who visited the attack site, asserted that "Bharat won't bend to terrorism," while Prime Minister Narendra Modi curtailed his visit to Saudi Arabia to return to New Delhi. India must speak in one voice in this period of national calamity.

[<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/unity-and-resolve-on-the-terror-attack-in-pahalgam/article69484027.ece>]

Q30. Under which bilateral treaty does India allocate the use of Eastern and Western rivers to India and Pakistan respectively?

- A. Indus Waters Treaty, 1960 B. Shimla Agreement, 1972 C. Tashkent Agreement, 1966 D. Treaty of Lahore, 1846

Q31. Which of the following was *not* one of the five-point actions announced by India in response to the Pahalgam terror attack?

- A. Imposition of economic sanctions on Pakistani banks operating in India
B. Cancellation of the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme for Pakistan
C. Reduction of diplomatic staff in the High Commission in Islamabad
D. Suspension of the Attari-Wagah Integrated Check Post for goods and people movement

Q32. What is the name of the terror group believed to be a proxy of Lashkar-e-Taiba and associated with the Baisaran meadow attack in Anantnag?

- A. Jaish-e-Mohammed B. Hizbul Mujahideen C. The Resistance Front (TRF) D. United Jihad Council

Q33. Which of the following best describes India's legal reasoning for suspending the Indus Waters Treaty?

- A. The treaty was due for a scheduled renegotiation under its sunset clause
B. Pakistan initiated violations of international water-sharing obligations
C. Article 62 of the Vienna Convention allows termination due to a fundamental change of circumstances
D. The treaty lacked enforcement provisions for counterterrorism clauses

Q34. Which of the following statements best describes the broader strategic goal behind targeting the Pahalgam region during the terrorist attack?

- A. It was a symbolic retaliation against Indian military operations in Udampur
B. It aimed to derail the Indian elections scheduled for mid-2025

- C. It exploited the region's terrain to delay rescue efforts and undermine perceptions of security near a pilgrimage site
- D. It intended to prevent international tourists from accessing the Buddhist monasteries in Ladakh

Q35. What is a major implication of India revoking the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme for Pakistani nationals?

- A. It halts diplomatic and non-diplomatic travel for Pakistanis under SAARC privileges
- B. It gives India access to SAARC members' security cooperation mechanisms
- C. It forces Pakistan to withdraw from SAARC entirely
- D. It violates India's commitments under the SAARC Charter

Passage:-3 Reacting to news that the Finnish government has initiated the process of withdrawing from the Ottawa convention, a landmark treaty prohibiting the use of anti-personnel mines, Esther Major, Amnesty International's Deputy Director for Research in Europe, said:

"The Finnish government's move to leave the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention is a disturbing backward step that further undermines the global consensus aimed at minimizing civilian harm during armed conflict.

"Anti-personnel landmines are inherently indiscriminate weapons. They have devastating effects on civilians, sometimes decades after they are deployed, while unexploded anti-personnel landmines can blight whole regions for generations. The use of weapons which are by their nature indiscriminate is prohibited under customary international humanitarian law.

"This move, which follows the recent withdrawal from the Convention on Cluster Munitions by Lithuania, goes against decades of progress on eliminating the production, transfer and use of inherently indiscriminate weapons. As the world prepares to mark the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action this week, we call on the Finnish government to reverse this decision that will inevitably put civilian lives at risk."

[<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2025/04/finland-move-to-leave-convention-banning-anti-personnel-mines-could-put-civilian-lives-at-risk/>]

Q36. Which of the following countries is *not* a member of the Ottawa Convention (Mine Ban Treaty)?

- A. Norway B. France C. Japan D. United States

Q37. The Ottawa Convention, also called the Mine Ban Treaty, came into force in which year?

- A. 1997 B. 1998 C. 1999 D. 2000

Q38. Which one of the following is *not* cited as a reason by India for not joining the Ottawa Convention?

- A. Need for use of mines against maritime threats in Indian Ocean B. Security concerns arising from porous borders
- C. Threat of ongoing insurgencies D. Challenges in verifying non-state actors' mine use

Q39. Which European country, despite rising regional tensions, has decided to *remain committed* to the Ottawa Convention?

- A. Norway B. Poland C. Finland D. Latvia

Q40. Which of the following best captures the primary goal of the Ottawa Convention?

- A. To prohibit the use of chemical and biological weapons in armed conflict
- B. To regulate the manufacture and transfer of automatic firearms across borders
- C. To eliminate the use, stockpiling, production, and transfer of anti-personnel landmines
- D. To oversee post-war peacekeeping deployments and ceasefire monitoring

Q41. What is the stated primary justification by Poland, Finland, and the Baltic States for planning to withdraw from the Ottawa Convention in 2025?

- A. Rising threats from non-state actors in Africa and Middle East
- B. Financial burden of mine clearance obligations under the Treaty
- C. Need to retain landmines as deterrence against Russian aggression
- D. Opposition to victim rehabilitation clauses interfering with national laws

Passage:-4 The Jnanpith Award is India's highest literary honor, instituted in 1961 by the Bharatiya Jnanpith trust. It recognizes an author for their outstanding contribution to literature written in any of the official languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution. The award celebrates the richness and diversity of Indian literary traditions and has been conferred upon eminent writers such as G. Sankara Kurup, U.R. Ananthamurthy, and Mahasweta Devi. The recipient receives a cash prize, a citation,

and a bronze replica of Vagdevi (the goddess of learning). By honoring both modern and classical works across genres, the Jnanpith Award plays a crucial role in preserving linguistic heritage and promoting literary excellence in India.

Q42. Who received the 58th Jnanpith Award in 2025 for his contributions to Sanskrit literature and spiritual discourse?

- A) Gulzar B) Jagadguru Rambhadracharya C) Vinod Kumar Shukla D) Damodar Mauzo

Q43. Which renowned poet-lyricist was also honored during the 58th Jnanpith Award ceremony but could not attend due to health issues?

- A) Javed Akhtar B) Harivansh Rai Bachchan C) Gulzar D) Amitav Ghosh

Q44. What unique poetic form is Gulzar credited with popularizing?

- A) Sonnet B) Haiku C) Ghazal D) Triveni

Q45. The Jnanpith Award is administered by which institution?

- A) Sahitya Akademi B) Indian Council for Cultural Relations C) Bharatiya Jnanpith D) National Book Trust

Q46. Who is the first writer from Chhattisgarh to receive the Jnanpith Award (59th edition)?

- A) G. Sankara Kurup B) Nilmani Phookan Jr C) Ashapura Devi D) Vinod Kumar Shukla

Passage:-5 On 15 December 2024, the United Kingdom (UK) officially acceded to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), marking a significant step in its post-Brexit trade strategy. The UK's inclusion as the second-largest economy (after Japan) within the CPTPP. The CPTPP exemplifies the UK's independent stance in shaping its trade policy outside the perceived shackles of the European Union (EU). One year following Brexit, the UK formally applied to join the CPTPP in 2021.

The Integrated Review 2021, the British government's principal foreign policy paper, underscored the ambition for Global Britain to demonstrate the UK as an open and outward-looking geopolitical actor. The Indo-Pacific tilt forms a key pillar of this vision, reflecting a shift in global power dynamics towards the East. The UK's approach to the region is based on securing trade and investment opportunities and diversifying supply chains and economic linkages. In this context, Britain has attempted to strengthen its diplomatic & military ties in the region, signed FTAs with Indo-Pacific countries and become a dialogue partner of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

[<https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/uk-joins-cptpp-a-symbolic-move-or-a-strategic-shift>]

Q47. When did the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) officially come into force?

- A. December 30, 2017 B. December 30, 2018 C. March 8, 2018 D. April 15, 2019

Q48. Which of the following countries was initially part of the original Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) but later withdrew in 2017?

- A. France B. China C. United States D. India

Q49. Which of the following statements regarding CPTPP membership is correct?

- A. CPTPP currently includes 15 countries including India and China.
B. CPTPP membership includes European Union as a block member.
C. CPTPP membership includes 12 countries.
D. CPTPP includes only Asian countries.

Q50. Which city hosted the signing of the CPTPP agreement in March 2018?

- A. Santiago B. Tokyo C. Canberra D. Kuala Lumpur

Q51. What share of global GDP is accounted for by the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)?

- A. 10% B. 20% C. 15% D. 25%

Q52. According to NITI Aayog's view, joining groupings like CPTPP and RCEP would be most beneficial to which sector of India's economy?

- A. Agriculture sector B. Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) sector
C. Automobile manufacturing sector D. Pharmaceutical sector

SECTION - C : LEGAL REASONING

Passage 1: Economic duress involves a manipulation of the will of a person to do or not to something adverse to his commercial interests, which vitiates the consent of a party. It is characterized as ‘an unlawful coercion to perform an act by threatening financial injury at a time when one cannot exercise free will.’ It turns upon whether the commercial pressure exercised by one party on the other was such as to vitiate the other party’s consent by coercion of his will. In the leading case of *Pao On v Lau Yiu Long*, the Court laid down specific criteria to constitute economic duress in an attempt to provide an objective definition. The Court stated that “*the commercial pressure alleged to constitute economic duress must be such that the victim must have entered the contract against his will, must have had no alternative course open to him, and must have been confronted with coercive acts by the party exerting the pressure*”. Thus, any finding of economic duress must rest not only on the exclusion of consent but on the conjunction of pressure and lack of specific choice.

While the concepts of economic duress and commercial pressure have a very fine line of difference, many judicial attempts have been made to distinguish the two on certain objective criteria. One such is the test of ‘illegitimacy of pressure’. The ‘illegitimate pressure’ test postulated that the real determinant of duress in economic sphere is not commercial pressure, which is invariably present in commercial dealings, but it is the nature of the pressure. It does not suffice that the will of the plaintiff be overborne by coercive action. Rather, the coercive action must be ‘wrongful’ or ‘illegitimate’. According to this test, commercial pressure would amount to economic duress if three basic elements are proved; (1) that some illegitimate means of persuasion was used; (2) that a causal relationship existed between the illegitimate conduct and the plaintiff’s response; and (3) that the plaintiff’s response was self-conscious and he acted as he did because he was forced to do so.

In terms of the effect of economic duress on a contract, economic duress renders a contract voidable and not void. Underlying this is the fact that duress results in the impairment of consent and not in the absence of it. Duress, be it economic or not, gives room for compromise. A victim of economic duress may often submit to the illegitimate pressure simply because his commercial interests would be best served by consenting to the contract. The party whose consent was vitiated by duress may allow for honest claims in the contract by agreeing to vary the terms. In such situations, it would be more practical for the party under threat to renegotiate the terms of the contract after the illegitimate pressure is put to rest rather than reduce the contract to a nullity.

[Source: <https://ceerapub.nls.ac.in/economic-duress-and-its-effect-on-contractual-obligations-in-india/>]

Q53. Factual Matrix:

DevLuxe Realty was scheduled to receive 20,000 sq. ft. of marble slabs from StoneGrain Pvt Ltd. Just before dispatch, DevLuxe emailed that the slabs would be accepted only at 60% of the agreed price, or they’d shift to a competitor. StoneGrain had already mined and pre-cut the slabs, couldn’t resell in time, and was facing loan default. With no practical alternative, StoneGrain consented in writing. Months later, they sued to void the price reduction due to economic duress.

Which of the following best reflects the correct legal position?

- A. DevLuxe’s threat to switch vendors during fulfilment created illegitimate pressure leaving no viable choice for StoneGrain.
- B. StoneGrain accepted the change voluntarily and is therefore estopped from later claiming coercion.
- C. A party’s tough bargaining does not amount to coercion unless there’s physical threat or statutory violation.
- D. The economic hardship of one party is irrelevant if the contract was renegotiated without legal breach.

Q54. Factual Matrix:

An organic produce exporter, MiraAgro, had a fixed-rate contract with BigFresh Mart. Two weeks before shipment, BigFresh threatened to cancel unless MiraAgro reduced rates by 20% due to “seasonal oversupply.” BigFresh cited no contract clause but insisted this was standard industry response. MiraAgro had perishable stock and pending EMIs. With no alternative buyer abroad, it conceded. After delivery, it sought to recover the unpaid balance under the original contract.

Which is the most appropriate legal conclusion?

- A. MiraAgro’s agreement, while difficult, was made with awareness of business conditions and thus legally valid.
- B. The cancellation threat amid perishability and lack of market options constitutes economic duress under the ‘illegitimate pressure’ test.
- C. Price renegotiations due to oversupply are market-driven and cannot form the basis of coercion claims.
- D. Standard industry practice justifies last-minute renegotiation, regardless of contract terms.

Q55. Factual Matrix:

MobiChain Tech Ltd. supplied blockchain security software to FinEdge Capital. Mid-contract, FinEdge stopped monthly payments and demanded a 50% licensing fee cut, stating “cost optimization” policy. MobiChain couldn’t sever ties as it had custom-coded systems reliant on FinEdge’s infrastructure. Moreover, FinEdge withheld 3 months’ dues, threatening breach suits if MobiChain exited. MobiChain reluctantly agreed but later sought to void the modified fee terms.

Which statement best applies to this scenario?

- A. Duress exists as the consent was extracted through coercive tactics and lack of alternatives.
- B. The renegotiation arose from business strategy and both parties acted commercially.
- C. The delayed dues were unrelated to the modification and cannot support a duress claim.
- D. Software dependency was known, and MobiChain should have anticipated negotiation risks.

Q56. Factual Matrix:

Kairavi leases out fabrication machines to ProEdge Engineering. As part of the lease agreement, servicing was included. During the third month, ProEdge unilaterally withheld payments and asked Kairavi to add two new machines under the same price citing "market downturn." Kairavi declined but was warned the lease would be terminated and damage claims filed. Her workshop was heavily reliant on that contract. She agreed to modify the terms but later sued.

Which option most accurately reflects the law?

- A. Since Kairavi modified the contract knowingly, duress is ruled out.
- B. The lack of force or fraud removes any ground for economic duress.
- C. The coercive threat to end a critical contract and initiate damage suits qualifies as illegitimate pressure.
- D. A party's reliance on a single contract cannot be used to invalidate a revised deal.

Q57. Factual Matrix:

Nautix Seals agreed to supply waterproof coating to AquaDams Ltd. Just before installation, AquaDams threatened to replace them unless Nautix provided five extra engineers without added compensation. Nautix had already flown in the team and rented equipment. Replacement would mean financial ruin. Under pressure, they agreed, but then sued under economic duress to recover costs.

Which legal analysis is most appropriate?

- A. The demand lacked coercion since no legal right was violated.
- B. Nautix's choice to comply does not prevent a claim for duress if consent was overborne.
- C. The financial risk faced by Nautix is irrelevant as they agreed in writing.
- D. Additional staffing demands are normal in the engineering industry and not coercive.

Q58. Which of the following best explains why economic duress does not render a contract void but only voidable?

- A. Because pressure leads to complete lack of consent, making the contract legally suspect but not illegal.
- B. Because the contract remains lawful but the consent was impaired by coercive pressure, making it voidable.
- C. Because coercion only makes part of the contract defective, not the entire agreement.
- D. Because once a contract is performed, the opportunity to render it void no longer exists.

Passage 2: According to Section 4 of The Indian Easements Act, 1882, an easement is a right possessed by the owner or occupier of a property to do or continue to do something in connection with or in respect of another person's land. This right is granted to ensure the beneficial enjoyment of the owner's own property. The concept of easements includes the right to do or continue to do something, or to prevent or continue to prevent something, in relation to another piece of land. The term "land" refers to everything permanently attached to the earth, and "beneficial enjoyment" encompasses convenience, advantage, amenity, or necessity. Easements can take various forms and serve different purposes. To establish an easement, certain essential elements must be met. These include:

1. Dominant and Servient Heritage: For an easement to exist, there must be two separate properties: the dominant heritage (the property benefiting from the easement) and the servient heritage (the property on which the easement is imposed). The two properties must be distinct and separate from each other.

2. Separate Owners: The owners of the dominant and servient heritages must be different individuals or entities. A single person cannot hold both properties and establish an easement.

3. Beneficial Enjoyment: The purpose of an easement is to provide beneficial enjoyment to the dominant owner. The easement should confer express or implied benefits on the dominant heritage.

4. Positive or Negative: Easements can be either positive or negative in nature. Positive easements allow the dominant owner to perform certain acts on the servient land, while negative easements prohibit or restrict certain acts by the servient owner. However, the dominant owner cannot bind the servient owner to perform any actions.

Easements can only exist between adjacent properties. They are rights in rem, which means they are enforceable against the whole world. Easements are always attached to the dominant tenement and cannot be exercised on one's own land. An easement can be acquired through an express grant. This involves the explicit inclusion of the right of easement in a deed of sale, mortgage, or any other form of transfer. The grantor must clearly express their intention to grant such a right. Easements can also be acquired in implied circumstances, which include:

1. **Easement of Necessity:** When the owner or occupier of a property cannot use their property without exercising the right of easement over the servient heritage. This arises out of absolute necessity and convenience.

2. Quasi Easements: In cases where common properties are converted into tenements through various forms of transfer such as sale, mortgage, or partition, easements can be implied. This occurs when the properties are divided, and certain rights are inherent in the new tenements.

Additionally, easements can be acquired by prescription, through open, continuous, and uninterrupted enjoyment for a specified period without the owner's permission. This method recognizes long-term use as a basis for establishing legal rights.

[Source: <https://legalstixlawschool.com/blog/An-Overview-of-the-Law-of-Easements-in-India>]

Q59. Factual Matrix:

Radha owns a farmhouse surrounded on three sides by land owned by Mahesh. The fourth side abuts a river but has no road access. To reach the public road, Radha crosses a narrow track on Mahesh's land. There is no formal agreement, but Radha has been using the path since her purchase 7 years ago. Recently, Mahesh installed a gate, restricting her access. Radha argues she has a right of way under easement of necessity.

Which of the following is the correct legal outcome?

- A. Radha cannot claim an easement as no express agreement was made in writing or deed.
- B. Since Radha can potentially build a bridge to the river, she has not shown absolute necessity.
- C. Radha's long use and lack of road access establish an easement of necessity due to absolute need.
- D. Easement of necessity cannot arise unless the property was originally held by both parties jointly.

Q60. Factual Matrix:

Ajay and Bhavna co-owned a large ancestral home with a shared well. Upon partition, Bhavna got the front half with the well, and Ajay got the rear portion without water access. Ajay continues using the well as he had always done. Bhavna now wants to build a boundary wall cutting off the well. Ajay claims a quasi-easement.

Which is the most accurate legal position?

- A. Ajay has no rights post-partition unless a registered easement was specifically granted.
- B. Ajay can claim an implied quasi-easement since the properties were severed from a unity of ownership.
- C. Easement rights over water sources cannot arise unless backed by government permission.
- D. A co-owner cannot claim easement over previously shared facilities unless express terms exist.

Q61. Factual Matrix:

Sneha sold the rear half of her property to Farid but included no clause about continued use of the front driveway. Sneha's remaining land is now landlocked. Farid refuses passage through the front portion. Sneha argues that her right to access the road persists by implied easement.

Which of the following correctly applies the law?

- A. Sneha has no claim as she failed to explicitly reserve a right of passage during sale.
- B. Since Sneha's plot is now landlocked, a right of necessity arises despite omission in the deed.
- C. Easements cannot be claimed by former owners once they transfer the access point to others.
- D. The buyer's refusal to allow access is valid as the dominant and servient heritage were never separate.

Q62. Factual Matrix:

Kiran owns two adjacent plots—Plot A has a septic tank that drains through Plot B. She sells Plot B to Dev, without mentioning the drainage pipe. Dev constructs a wall blocking the outflow. Kiran demands restoration of the pipe's path, citing continued enjoyment under implied easement.

What is the correct legal resolution?

- A. Dev is within rights to build as no express easement was recorded during transfer.
- B. The right to drain sewage cannot form the subject of an easement under the law.
- C. Kiran may claim a quasi-easement due to apparent and continuous use that existed prior to sale.
- D. Easement rights are extinguished once properties pass to different owners, unless re-created contractually.

Q63. Factual Matrix:

Meera lives in a house that opens into a shared alley owned by her neighbor Raghu. She has used the alley to park her scooter for 10 years without objection. Raghu now puts up a fence, citing ownership. Meera claims an easementary right to use the alley for convenience.

What is the legally correct position?

- A. Meera can claim a positive easement based on long-term peaceful enjoyment and convenience.
- B. Meera's act was permissive, and convenience does not equate to beneficial enjoyment in law.

- C. Raghu is barred from fencing the alley since Meera's enjoyment was open and continuous.
- D. Parking scooters is not connected to land enjoyment and cannot give rise to an easement.

Q64. Which of the following most accurately summarises the essential requirements for a valid easement under Section 4?

- A. Use of a neighbor's land in a way that grants convenience to either party for economic benefit.
- B. A legally enforceable right over another's property that benefits the dominant tenement and burdens the servient one.
- C. A mutual arrangement between landowners that allows shared use and enjoyment of each other's land.
- D. A personal right of a property owner to walk across their own land or allow others to do so.

Passage 3: Section 9 of the Civil Procedure Code, 1908, forms the cornerstone of civil adjudication in India. It declares that civil courts shall have the jurisdiction to try all suits of a "civil nature" except those which are either expressly or impliedly barred. This provision affirms a presumption in favour of civil jurisdiction. Unless a statute specifically excludes the authority of a civil court, or such exclusion can be inferred by necessary implication, the civil court retains the power to adjudicate the matter. The burden of proving such exclusion rests entirely upon the party who seeks to oust the court's jurisdiction. Thus, Section 9 ensures that courts remain accessible for the resolution of disputes over private rights, barring only those domains which the legislature has clearly reserved for specialised forums.

A "suit of a civil nature" generally includes claims relating to property rights, contracts, torts, succession, office-holding, or any other private legal entitlement. Section 9 includes two explanations that expand this definition: suits involving rights to property or office, even if they involve elements of religious practice, are still deemed civil if they concern a legal right rather than a matter of personal belief. For example, a dispute over the right to manage the affairs of a temple or to receive offerings may be treated as a civil matter, despite its religious overtones, so long as the claim pertains to legal entitlements and not mere theological doctrine.

However, this jurisdiction is not unlimited. Certain statutes—such as the Industrial Disputes Act, the Land Acquisition Act, or the Armed Forces Tribunal Act—either expressly or implicitly exclude the jurisdiction of civil courts. An express bar typically appears in statutory language that directly states that civil courts shall not entertain disputes under the Act. An implied bar, on the other hand, may be inferred when a statute creates a complete and self-contained mechanism for adjudicating disputes, and permitting parallel civil proceedings would defeat the legislative intent. The Supreme Court has consistently held that such exclusions must be construed narrowly. In *Dhulabhai v. State of Madhya Pradesh*, the Court laid down principles to assess when civil jurisdiction can be ousted. Even where a statute offers a special remedy, if it does not provide an adequate relief or if there is a violation of natural justice, civil courts may still exercise jurisdiction.

[Source: <https://lawcrust.com/section-9-civil-courts-cpc/>]

Q65. (Hard) – Fact-Based

Factual Matrix:

A temple priest filed a suit in the civil court asserting his right to collect offerings made at the deity's altar. The temple trust argued that the dispute is religious in nature and should be decided by the Charity Commissioner. The priest maintained that the issue pertains to his entitlement under a customary office, not theology.

Which of the following is the correct legal position?

- A. The suit concerns religious beliefs and cannot be adjudicated by civil courts under Section 9.
- B. Since the claim involves customary rights over property-like entitlements, it is a suit of a civil nature.
- C. As a statutory body is involved, only the Charity Commissioner can decide disputes relating to the temple.
- D. Civil courts cannot decide cases where religious institutions are involved unless both parties are private individuals.

Q66. Factual Matrix:

Chandra filed a civil suit seeking reinstatement after dismissal from a Hindu religious trust's administrative board, alleging mala fide removal. The trust challenged jurisdiction, citing that office disputes in temples involve internal spiritual discipline and are outside court jurisdiction. Chandra argued he had a legal right to the office.

Which is the most appropriate outcome?

- A. The civil court has no jurisdiction as spiritual bodies are governed by religious autonomy.
- B. Disputes over temple appointments are ecclesiastical and cannot be treated as civil matters.
- C. The suit is maintainable since legal entitlement to office, even in a religious institution, is a civil right.
- D. Civil courts lack jurisdiction because trusts are governed under state-endowed religious laws.

Q67. Factual Matrix:

An ex-employee of a factory filed a civil suit claiming back wages and permanent reinstatement. The factory moved to dismiss the case, citing the Industrial Disputes Act (IDA), which provides a full remedy via the Labour Commissioner and Industrial Tribunal. The ex-employee argued civil courts should hear it as his fundamental right was violated.

What is the correct legal position?

- A. The IDA creates an exclusive mechanism, so civil court jurisdiction is impliedly barred.
- B. Civil courts always retain jurisdiction in cases involving constitutional rights like equality.
- C. Since the IDA provides only partial relief, the suit must proceed before a civil judge.
- D. Jurisdiction is shared unless the law expressly excludes it.

Q68. Factual Matrix:

A villager filed a civil suit alleging unfair compensation for acquired agricultural land. The state opposed the suit, citing the Land Acquisition Act's express provision that compensation disputes be raised only before the Collector and Reference Court. The villager argued the procedure denied him a hearing, and thus natural justice was violated.

Which is the most likely result under law?

- A. Civil court jurisdiction is barred because the Land Acquisition Act creates a special remedy.
- B. The Collector's process is binding, and civil suits cannot override statutory compensation.
- C. Civil courts can still intervene if the procedure violated natural justice, per the Dhulabhai test.
- D. No civil court can hear compensation disputes once the land has vested with the state.

Q69. Factual Matrix:

A woman filed a civil suit against the Army alleging wrongful denial of family pension after her husband's combat death. The Army objected, saying the Armed Forces Tribunal Act gives the Tribunal exclusive power to decide all such service-related matters. She argued the Tribunal had not granted her adequate hearing.

Which conclusion is best supported by Section 9 principles?

- A. The suit must be dismissed, as pension is a military matter under the exclusive Tribunal regime.
- B. Civil courts can intervene only where there is complete lack of remedy in the special forum.
- C. If the Tribunal's procedure was inadequate or unjust, civil court jurisdiction may revive.
- D. Since compensation claims relate to state policy, the court cannot interfere.

Q70. Which of the following best summarises the position of law under Section 9 CPC?

- A. Civil courts can try all cases unless the parties have agreed in writing to settle through another forum.
- B. Civil courts may adjudicate any suit that involves rights of private citizens unless expressly or impliedly excluded.
- C. All civil claims must go first to alternative forums created under special laws before reaching civil courts.
- D. Civil courts cannot entertain suits involving government entities or religious organisations.

Passage:-4 Article 22 of the Indian Constitution pertains to the protection of a person's right to personal liberty and safeguards against detention or arrest without proper legal procedure. This article is considered to be one of the fundamental rights guaranteed to citizens of India. Article 22 applies to both citizens and non-citizens and protects individuals in cases of arrest and detention in certain cases by providing certain important rights. The core object behind this clause is to ensure the personal liberty of individuals is maintained by preventing arbitrary arrests and detention. Preventive detention refers to the detention of a person to prevent them from committing a crime in the future. This provision ensures that preventive detention is not misused by the government to suppress dissent or opposition.

Article 22(1) states that any person who is arrested and detained shall be informed of the grounds for such arrest and shall have the right to consult and be represented by a legal practitioner of their choice. This provision ensures that an arrested person is not kept in the dark about the reason for their arrest and has the right to legal assistance. The first right states that the person who has been arrested or detained needs to be informed of the grounds of such arrest or detention thereby ensuring that the arrest/ detention is not arbitrary. In the case of *Joginder Kumar v. State of U.P.* it was held that a detained person should know the cause of his detention and is entitled to let any third person know the location of his detention. The second right enables the arrested person/detenu to get a chance to be represented by a legal practitioner of their choice. This right is available right from the moment a person has been arrested. This enables the arrested person to get a fair trial. The Supreme Court in *Hussainara Khatoon v. State Of Bihar* has held that the right to a speedy trial is a constitutional right.

Article 22(2) states that any person who is arrested and detained must be produced before the nearest magistrate within 24 hours of their arrest, excluding the time required for transportation. This provision is aimed at preventing arbitrary detention and ensuring that the detained person is produced before a judicial authority within a reasonable time. These 24 hours are not inclusive of the time of travel from the place of arrest to the magistrate's court. Article 22(3) is an exception to clauses (1) and (2) of Article 22 and it states that none of the rights mentioned in clause 1 and 2 of the Article would be applicable for a person who is deemed to be an enemy alien and anybody who is arrested or detained under the law providing for preventive detention.

[Source: <https://lawctopus.com/clatalogue/clat-pg/article-22-under-the-indian-constitution/>]

Q71. (Hard) – Fact-Based

Factual Matrix:

Aareb, a student activist, is arrested during a peaceful protest. He is neither informed of the reasons for arrest nor allowed to contact a lawyer. He is kept at a local police station for two days without being produced before a magistrate. His family files a writ petition under Article 226 alleging violation of fundamental rights.

Which of the following best describes the situation?

- A. Since preventive detention wasn't invoked, none of Article 22's exceptions apply and his rights were violated.
- B. Police action is justified because arrest during public protests does not need prior explanation.
- C. Aareb's rights under Article 21 may be infringed but Article 22 does not apply in protest arrests.
- D. Arrests in political matters fall under sovereign functions and cannot be questioned in court.

Q72. Factual Matrix:

Muneer, a foreign national from a country with which India is at war, is detained during a national emergency under preventive detention laws. He claims a right to consult a legal practitioner and to be informed of the reasons for arrest.

Which of the following is most accurate in law?

- A. His rights under Article 22(1) and 22(2) remain intact despite his foreign nationality.
- B. Being an enemy alien under Article 22(3), he is excluded from protections under clauses (1) and (2).
- C. Even enemy aliens are entitled to the right to be produced before a magistrate under Indian law.
- D. The preventive detention law overrides Article 22 altogether.

Q73. Factual Matrix:

Karuna is arrested on suspicion of theft. She is informed of the arrest but is denied access to legal counsel for the first 48 hours. She is produced before a magistrate within 24 hours but pleads that her constitutional rights were breached due to denial of legal assistance.

What is the correct legal position?

- A. No constitutional right is violated as she was produced before a magistrate in time.
- B. Karuna's right to legal counsel arises only during the trial phase, not pre-trial.
- C. Denial of legal counsel immediately after arrest violates Article 22(1), as representation must be allowed from the moment of arrest.
- D. The magistrate's oversight cures any prior violation of procedure.

Q74. Factual Matrix:

Aditya is taken into police custody and detained for 30 hours without being produced before a magistrate. The police justify the delay on the grounds of heavy rain disrupting transportation. No record of efforts made to reach a magistrate is provided.

Which of the following is the most correct application of the law?

- A. Article 22(2) was violated unless the State can prove the delay was reasonable and travel time was factored.
- B. No violation occurred as logistical issues can override procedural timelines during emergencies.
- C. Since no confession was obtained during detention, no harm was caused and Article 22 was not triggered.
- D. Detention under 48 hours does not attract constitutional review under Article 22.

Q75. Factual Matrix:

Ritika is arrested in connection with a drug trafficking case under a law that permits preventive detention. She is served an order stating that she is detained to "prevent unlawful activities" but is not given the grounds for her detention. Her lawyer challenges the detention in the High Court.

Which of the following best applies?

- A. Preventive detention laws override Article 22(1), and no further information needs to be given to the detainee.
- B. She must still be informed of the grounds of detention even under preventive detention laws.
- C. Article 22(3) suspends all procedural safeguards for preventive detainees.
- D. The validity of preventive detention orders cannot be challenged in civil courts.

Q76. Factual Matrix:

Sameer, a taxi driver, is picked up by the police during a citywide anti-terror raid. His family is not informed of his location. He is held at an undisclosed place for three days. Later, he is released without charges. His wife files a petition alleging arbitrary detention.

Which of the following is the best legal response?

- A. As no charges were filed, no violation occurred under the Constitution.
- B. The family's right to know Sameer's location is protected under *Joginder Kumar v. State of U.P.*, and secrecy amounts to a rights violation.

- C. The police have discretion in terror-related cases to detain without procedural compliance.
- D. Detention without formal arrest does not come under the purview of Article 22.

Q77. Which of the following statements best summarises the scope and limitations of Article 22 as interpreted by Indian courts?

- A. Article 22 ensures due process after arrest, including trial, evidence production, and judicial review.
- B. Article 22 prohibits all forms of preventive detention unless approved by Parliament under national security grounds.
- C. Article 22 provides safeguards against arbitrary arrest but excludes protections in certain categories like enemy aliens and preventive detainees.
- D. Article 22 applies only to citizens and provides partial protections to non-citizens.

Passage:-5 The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (BNS), enacts comprehensive provisions for the *right of private defence*. This legal doctrine empowers individuals to protect their person and property from imminent threats, where otherwise an assault or offence is in progress. It recognises the basic principle that the State cannot always be present to prevent every crime, and thus individuals must be allowed to take lawful steps to protect themselves and others in times of emergency.

Section 35 confirms that every person has the right of private defence *both* of their own body and that of another, as well as of movable or immovable property, against offences such as theft, robbery, mischief, criminal trespass, or attempts thereof. This reflects a continuation of long-standing criminal jurisprudence. The right is not unfettered. Section 37 imposes strict *restrictions*: there is **no right** of private defence against non-deadly acts by public servants acting in good faith under colour of law, or when victims have the opportunity to seek help from authorities. Crucially, any defensive act must not *exceed what is reasonably necessary* to repel the threat.

The principle of *proportionality* is central to the exercise of private defence. It ensures that the force used by a defender must be commensurate with the nature and gravity of the threat faced. For example, if an individual is confronted with a minor theft that poses no threat of bodily harm, using lethal force would be deemed excessive and unjustified. Courts examine whether the defender had *reasonable apprehension* of serious injury or death and whether there were alternative, less harmful means to avert the danger. This test prevents abuse of the right of private defence and maintains a balance between personal liberty and social order.

Sections 36 and 38–39 refine the scope of valid defence. Under Section 36, even if the attacker suffers from unsoundness of mind, intoxication, youth, or a misconception, the defender retains full rights as if facing a sane and culpable offender. Sections 38 and 39 delineate when lethal force is proportionately justified: defence of life is available against assaults causing *reasonable apprehension of death or grievous hurt*, including attempts at rape, kidnapping, or confining a person. Regarding property, Sections 41–43 permit *deadly force* in specific circumstances such as robbery, house-breaking at night, or mischief judged likely to endanger life. In all other property offences, the defender is limited to non-lethal harm as long as the threat persists.

Section 40 specifies that the right to private defence *commences* with a reasonable apprehension of danger and continues until the threat recedes or the wrongdoer is restrained. In high-stakes exigencies, where a defender cannot avoid harming innocent bystanders, the law offers protection to the defender so long as the danger could not have been averted otherwise. [Source: https://www.legalserviceindia.com/legal/article-18134-right-of-private-defence-under-bns-bharatiya-nyaya-sanhita-.html#google_vignette]

Q78. Factual Matrix:

During a nighttime burglary, Kabir discovers three masked intruders attempting to ransack his home. Fearing for his life, he wields a kitchen knife and fatally stabs one intruder who lunges at him. The other two flee. Kabir argues he acted in private defence under BNS.

Which of the following best describes Kabir's right under BNS?

- A. Kabir's lethal response is justified under Section 35 read with Sections 38–39 because he reasonably feared grievous harm.
- B. Kabir's act exceeds private defence since deadly force is never allowed in property offences, even at night.
- C. Kabir should have restrained them non-lethally, as BNS prohibits killing in theft situations.
- D. Nighttime burglary alone cannot justify lethal force; he must show threat to life under Section 38.

Q79. Factual Matrix:

Priya sees her young nephew wrongly accused of shoplifting by a security guard. She attacks the guard with a mild blow to free the child, causing no serious injury. The guard sued her for assault. Priya relies on private defence.

Which is the correct application of BNS?

- A. Priya's mild blow is excessive because Section 35 permits defence only against theft when property is being carried away.
- B. Priya's action is justified under Section 35 and proportionality: non-deadly force to protect another's person from wrongful assault.

- C. No defence applies, since a public servant acting in good faith cannot be resisted under Section 37.
- D. She must have called police first; BNS requires opportunity to seek help before using force.

Q80. Factual Matrix:

Rahul, intoxicated, charges at Sameer with a stick. Sameer, fearing grievous hurt, strikes Rahul with a rock, causing a skull fracture. Rahul later sues. Sameer argues that under Section 36, he need not consider Rahul's intoxication.

Which statement correctly reflects the law?

- A. Sameer had to moderate force because intoxication reduces the attacker's culpability under Section 36.
- B. Under Section 36, Sameer's defence is unaffected by Rahul's intoxication and remains full private defence.
- C. Intoxication bars private defence since the attacker's mental state negates reasonable apprehension of harm.
- D. Sameer's use of a rock is excessive because non-lethal force always suffices against intoxicated persons.

Q81. Factual Matrix:

Naina witnesses a pickpocket attempt and grabs his arm, twisting it painfully but not causing permanent injury. The pickpocket sues for assault. Naina contends her response was proportionate under Section 35 and proportionality.

Which is the most legally sustainable position?

- A. Naina's use of force is justified as non-lethal and proportionate to prevent theft under Section 35.
- B. Naina's act is unprotected, because she could have called nearby guards instead of using force.
- C. She loses defence, since BNS requires only verbal warning before physical intervention.
- D. Private defence against pickpocketing is barred; Section 37 excludes defence when theft can be reported.

Q82. Factual Matrix:

At dawn, Rohan sees two masked men attempting arson on his workshop. He throws a heavy tool, injuring one assailant's leg. The second suspect flees. Rohan pleads private defence of property and life.

Which reflects correct BNS application?

- A. Rohan's response is justified: arson threatens life, so deadly force under Sections 38–39 is lawful.
- B. Rohan must limit to non-fatal force for property defence; arson alone doesn't justify leg-breaking.
- C. Throwing a heavy tool is disproportionate because Sections 41–43 allow deadly defence only at night.
- D. He must show the second attacker actually threatened his life before using force.

Q83. Factual Matrix:

During a violent mob attack, Sameeta defends her boundary and accidentally injures an innocent passer-by while repelling aggressors. She claims Section 40's "compellable harm to bystanders" shield.

Which is the best statement?

- A. Section 40 protects Sameeta, since injury to bystanders is excused if threat could not be averted otherwise.
- B. Section 40 offers no protection for bystander harm; any injury to innocents vitiates private defence.
- C. She must compensate the passer-by; BNS imposes civil liability even if criminal defence applies.
- D. By harming a bystander, she exceeds private defence, as Section 40 does not cover unintended injuries.

Q84. Which of the following best summarises the principle of proportionality in BNS private defence?

- A. Force used must match the gravity of the threat, with no allowance for mistakes in perception.
- B. Defender may use any force to protect property so long as no death occurs.
- C. Force must be commensurate with the threat's seriousness, considering less harmful alternatives first.
- D. Lethal force is permitted whenever property or life is threatened, irrespective of severity.

SECTION - D : LOGICAL REASONING

Passage:-1 The Supreme Court judgment delivered on April 8 in State of Tamil Nadu vs The Governor of Tamil Nadu and Another, marks a golden day in the history of India. It is a landmark judgment in strengthening federalism as the basis for the Indian Constitution — the "Union of States" concept enshrined in law.

Our founding fathers wrote the Constitution as a vision statement of how we govern ourselves rather than an operational manual. This has required a lot of interpretation and operationalisation over time — a fact attested in the more than 100 amendments we have had in the last 75 years, as well as several landmark Supreme Court judgments.

Since 2014, capitalising on the operational grey areas in the Constitution, the Union government has attempted an unprecedented centralisation of power along with constant interference in the functioning of democratically elected state

governments — most often through the appointment of obdurate governors to states where the NDA has not been elected to office.

Such actions have led to multiple states approaching the Supreme Court seeking justice, or at least reprieve, from the actions of their governors. For example, Kerala has had to take its Governor to court. Punjab did the same and won — including for a matter as routine as the Governor interfering with the convening of the Assembly session. This judgment, based on a similar litigation by Tamil Nadu concerning 10 bills that the Governor had held in abeyance for years, greatly limits the ability of governors to obstruct state legislation, and thereby removes a lacuna in the procedural implementation of the Constitution, which has been exploited unscrupulously in the past.

Judgments like this refine the interpretations of the Constitution and provide operating guidelines. At one level, this is a simple extension of the judgment delivered by the SC in November 2023 in *State of Punjab vs Principal Secretary to the Governor of Punjab and Another*, where it reaffirmed that in a parliamentary democracy, real power lies with elected representatives, and that the Governor cannot indefinitely withhold his assent to bills or obstruct the legislative process. But at another level, several aspects of this landmark litigation merit detailed attention. First, the duration for which the 10 bills had been kept pending was an aggravated assault on democracy. The first obstructed bill dates back to 2020, and was passed by the then AIADMK administration. It renamed the Tamil Nadu Fisheries University after the former chief minister J Jayalalithaa. All the bills relate to universities, whose functioning has been deeply affected by the Covid crisis. What universities vitally require in their attempts to recover are firm hands and immediate governance, not the deep freeze that came from the Governor's inaction.

[<https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/with-verdict-on-governor-r-n-ravi-supreme-court-gives-indian-states-and-india-a-victory-9948454/>]

Q85. Which statement most clearly encapsulates a foundational premise underlying the passage's discussion of the April 8 Supreme Court judgment?

- A. The Constitution is an operational manual that requires no judicial interpretation.
- B. Governors act as neutral appointees who never interfere in state legislation.
- C. Since 2014, the Union government has exploited constitutional grey areas—especially through governor appointments—to centralize power and obstruct state governments, necessitating judicial intervention.
- D. Approaching the Supreme Court is an ineffective way for states to address executive overreach.

Q86. Based on the passage, which inference can most reasonably be drawn about the Supreme Court's role in India's constitutional framework?

- A. The Supreme Court's interventions are largely symbolic and have no real effect on the balance of power.
- B. Supreme Court judgments are crucial for operationalizing the Constitution's vision, closing procedural loopholes, and reinforcing federalism by limiting executive overreach at the state level.
- C. The Supreme Court favors the Union government over state governments in all federal disputes.
- D. The Supreme Court should defer all questions of state governance to legislative bodies rather than issue binding interpretations.

Q87. Which conclusion best summarizes the passage's overall message about the impact of the *State of Tamil Nadu vs The Governor of Tamil Nadu* judgment?

- A. The judgment will likely encourage governors to continue delaying state legislation.
- B. The judgment represents an overreach of judicial power into the legislative domain.
- C. The judgment merely rehashes earlier decisions without adding meaningful guidance.
- D. The judgment not only reaffirms that real authority rests with elected representatives but also closes a constitutional lacuna by curbing governors' power to indefinitely withhold assent to state bills, thereby strengthening India's federal structure.

Q88. Which of the following best represents the argument developed in the passage regarding state–Governor relations?

- A. The passage argues that Supreme Court rulings are necessary to refine constitutional interpretations and provide clear operational guidelines that prevent governors from exploiting procedural ambiguities to stall democratically enacted state legislation.
- B. The passage argues that governors should have unchecked discretion to delay any state bill they personally oppose.
- C. The passage argues that centralization of power is an inevitable and desirable trend in a unitary state.
- D. The passage argues that state legislatures lack the competence to draft bills without executive interference.

Q89. Which assumption is implicit in the passage's reasoning about the necessity of the April 8 judgment?

- A. That governors are always well-intentioned and only occasionally make errors in judgment.
- B. That states can easily enact legislation without any risk of executive obstruction.
- C. That without judicial limits on governors' power to withhold assent, state governments cannot implement laws in a timely manner, undermining democratic governance.
- D. That written constitutional provisions alone are sufficient to prevent executive overreach without the need for judicial enforcement.

Q90. Which statement, if true, would most strengthen the passage's argument that the recent Supreme Court judgment was essential to protect state democracy?

- A. Historical precedent shows that states rarely challenge their governors in court, indicating general satisfaction with governors' conduct.
- B. Data from multiple states reveal that governors' prolonged withholding of assent to bills caused severe administrative paralysis—especially in universities—harming public services and underscoring the need for clear judicial constraints.
- C. Surveys indicate that most citizens are unaware of the governor's formal role in state legislation, suggesting public indifference to the issue.
- D. Comparative studies show that federal systems without gubernatorial assent powers are unstable, implying governors' sweeping discretion is necessary.

Passage:-2 The proud words that I had a 'library room' in my house remains etched in my memory. I was telling my teacher about the secret place that I relished, tucked away on the first floor of my home. Here was a room that never failed to attract footsteps. It had various names such as book room, study room and grandma's room till it became the library room.

Sunlight pierced through two big windows as if whispering to the books that they deserved a bit of cheer. Bright curtains swinging merrily with the wind ensured that beads of sweat glistening on the forehead disappeared quick. There was a small step stool, to reach the 'hard-to-reach' books on the top. Aunt decided that the many shelves deserved a makeover. They were draped in old white dhotis to keep off dust. An easy chair and soothing music from a collection of cassettes doubled the joy of poring over books.

Here, English, Tamil, Sanskrit, French and Hindi jostled for space. Of course, not all the occupants of the shelves were new. There were very old books competing with the latest ones. A discerning eye could even spot 1940/1950s editions of books by famed authors. The covers look faded, the pages moth-eaten and yellowed but once you open the book you are transported to another world and wonder at the countless hands that browsed these pages.

It had bound editions of popular, vernacular, historical fiction which were serialised in local magazines, the pages painstakingly arranged in order and bound together at the local binding unit, for those who craved mystery and intrigue. I could even spy school books with scribbles which transported me back to my school days.

The room also harboured secrets and the lucky ones could spot a few lurking inside the pages. It could be an old recipe book lost inside a big fat encyclopaedia or granddad's laundry bill lying unnoticed between the pages or even a list of daily expenses in grandma's scrawny hand on the back cover of a book or a flower, dried and stuck between the pages.

It was considered a lucky room by the exam takers who considered the atmosphere conducive to earning showers of praise from the teacher when results arrived. For others, beset by insomnia, the serene environment soothed nerves and a fat book from the shelf would soon whisk them away to the Land of Nod. It was also a favourite spot for tricksters. Exam time meant spending hours in the library room with the much-maligned science textbook with a comic secretly tucked inside.

It was a place to relax, to enjoy the humour/drama in the pages and where love for the Sanskrit language blossomed afresh. It was where grandma plaited children's hair while spinning tales, where traditional board games were played and elders engaged in bookish talk or gossip.

[[https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/open-page/the-saga-of-a room/article67760182.ece](https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/open-page/the-saga-of-a-room/article67760182.ece)]

Q91. Which of the following statements most clearly encapsulates a foundational premise underlying the passage's portrayal of the "library room"?

- A. The passage assumes that a library room requires high-tech gadgets and digital resources to be truly effective.
- B. The passage assumes that only children use the library room for academic purposes and that adults do not benefit from it.
- C. The passage assumes that a space dedicated to books must remain austere and free of any personal or familial touches.

D. The passage assumes that a comfortable, well-appointed physical environment—complete with natural light, seating, and personal mementos—fosters a multifaceted space for learning, relaxation, memory-keeping, and family bonding.

Q92. Based on the passage, which inference can most reasonably be drawn about the role of personal artifacts (e.g., recipes, laundry bills, pressed flowers) found within the books?

- A. The passage implies that these artifacts are merely random bits of paper with no connection to the library room's purpose.
- B. The passage implies that these hidden items serve as tangible links to personal and family histories, enriching the reading experience by connecting readers to past generations.
- C. The passage implies that placing such artifacts in books is an unacceptable practice that damages the volumes.
- D. The passage implies that hidden artifacts distract from the serious study and should be removed to preserve academic integrity.

Q93. Which of the following conclusions best summarizes the overall message of the passage about the "library room"?

- A. The passage concludes that the library room is an expensive luxury with little practical use.
- B. The passage concludes that the library room should strictly be used for quiet reading and nothing else.
- C. The passage concludes that the library room is a dynamic, multi-purpose sanctuary—simultaneously a study space, memory repository, family gathering spot, exam refuge, and playground for imagination.
- D. The passage concludes that the library room's primary function is to store old, forgotten books without any ongoing relevance.

Q94. Which of the following best represents the argument developed in the passage regarding the significance of the library room?

- A. The passage argues that the library room, with its combination of natural light, comfortable seating, diverse books, and family artifacts, creates an ideal environment that supports scholarly pursuits, nostalgic reflection, creative escape, and social interaction.
- B. The passage argues that all family rooms should be converted into library rooms to foster academic excellence.
- C. The passage argues that reading physical books is inferior to digital media in promoting learning and memory.
- D. The passage argues that a private library room is unnecessary if public libraries are available.

Q95. Which of the following assumptions is implicit in the passage's reasoning about the library room's atmosphere and its effects?

- A. The passage assumes that any room filled with books will automatically inspire relaxation and learning without further enhancements.
- B. The passage assumes that only rare, antique volumes can impart a sense of wonder and nostalgia to readers.
- C. The passage assumes that environmental factors—such as sunlight, comfortable furniture, and personal touches—are key to making readers feel at ease, thereby enhancing concentration, creativity, and emotional connection.
- D. The passage assumes that reading in silence is the only effective way to absorb information from books.

Q96. Which of the following best captures a paradox presented in the passage about the library room?

- A. The library room is described as both a dusty storage area and a state-of-the-art reading laboratory.
- B. The library room is simultaneously a serious academic retreat—complete with study materials and a calm environment—and a playful hideaway where secret recipes, comic books, and mischief flourish.
- C. The library room is portrayed as the sole place for family gatherings yet is forbidden to guests.
- D. The library room is said to be a site of intellectual rigor and also the only location where no reading at all takes place.

Passage:-3 India's March retail inflation was down to a near six-year low of 3.34%, making it almost certain that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will cut its banks' lending rate further over the next few Monetary Policy Committee meetings. The repo rate has already been cut twice in a row, by 25 basis points (bps) each, in February and April, bringing it down from 6.5% to 6%, signalling the emphasis on growth, amid global trade uncertainties, as the RBI's concern over non-core inflation eases. Vegetable prices have plummeted over the past four months from the highs of October 2024, when food inflation peaked at 10.87%, the highest since November 2013. Food inflation in March fell to 2.69% aided by a contraction in the prices of vegetables (-7.04%), eggs (-3.16%) and pulses (-2.73%). The repo rate reduction has already begun translating into lower interest on bank loans. In normal times, this would translate into greater capital flows into businesses, thereby raising jobs, incomes and consumption. But it comes at a time of dampening investor confidence: U.S.-led tariff uncertainty is forcing exporters to scramble for newer markets, amid a concern over near-term demand contraction, as America has been India's largest buyer of merchandise goods since fiscal year 2022. Easing inflation could raise domestic consumption and India's sluggish industrial production.

What must concern policymakers more should be the steep fall in food prices, as this means lower farmer incomes, directly impacting rural consumption demand. Last December, the government procured eight tonnes of tomatoes in Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh, as prices in the local market plummeted to ₹1 a kilogram. In February this year, in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, an 80% fall in tomato prices forced farmers to dump produce or use them as cattle feed. A 2022 study by the Ministry of Food Processing pegged India's post-harvest loss at a whopping ₹1.52 trillion annually, ranging between 6% to 15% of produce depending on the crop and region. This is due to widespread shortages in cold storage facilities and temperature-controlled transport for perishables, and market inaccessibility for farmers. A significant 86% of Indian farmers make a living from less than two hectares of land. A 2021-22 NABARD survey pegged average monthly agricultural household income at ₹13,661. A more comprehensive NSSO 2019 survey estimates this to be ₹10,218. These figures are lower than those in other emerging economies such as China, Mexico and Brazil for the corresponding years. While rural consumption has been rising since the COVID-19 pandemic years, monthly per capita consumption expenditure for rural areas in fiscal 2024 was ₹4,122, while in urban areas, it was ₹6,996, indicating the significant gap that must be viewed as an opportunity, at a time when export growth is expected to be sluggish.

[<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/good-news-and-bad-on-the-economy/article69456873.ece>]

Q97. Which of the following statements most clearly encapsulates a foundational premise underlying the passage?

- A. Even though India's retail inflation has fallen and the RBI is cutting rates to boost growth, the simultaneous steep fall in food prices threatens farmer incomes and rural consumption demand, demanding policymakers' urgent attention.
- B. Only the RBI's rate cuts matter for economic health—agricultural price collapses are unrelated and need no policy focus.
- C. Export uncertainties are the single greatest risk to India's economy, eclipsing all domestic concerns, including rural distress.
- D. Falling retail inflation uniformly benefits every sector, including agriculture, without any adverse effects.

Q98. Based on the passage, which inference can most reasonably be drawn?

- A. Low inflation and rate cuts alone will guarantee robust nationwide consumption and economic recovery without additional support measures.
- B. RBI rate cuts will automatically raise rural incomes and eliminate the need for targeted agricultural intervention.
- C. The persistent rural-urban consumption gap, combined with export sluggishness, implies that boosting rural demand could be a vital lever for sustaining overall growth.
- D. Declining food prices have no bearing on rural consumption because of government procurement programs.

Q99. Which of the following conclusions best summarizes the passage's overall message?

- A. The RBI should suspend further rate cuts until farmgate prices recover to protect farmers.
- B. Policymakers must continue easing monetary policy to support growth but simultaneously implement measures to shore up farmer incomes and rural consumption in the face of collapsing food prices.
- C. Focusing solely on export diversification is sufficient to offset any domestic demand shortfalls caused by rural distress.
- D. The recent fall in food prices is a transient phenomenon that warrants no policy intervention.

Q100. Which of the following best represents the argument developed in the passage?

- A. The RBI should focus exclusively on inflation targeting, leaving agricultural distress issues to state governments.
- B. Exporters must find new markets abroad, with domestic rural incomes left to adjust without support.
- C. Government procurement of vegetables is the primary solution to price collapses in farm produce.
- D. While low inflation and rate cuts can spur broad economic growth, they must be paired with targeted interventions—such as better storage, transport, and support for farmers—to prevent rural incomes from collapsing and eroding consumption demand.

Q101. Which of the following assumptions is implicit in the passage's reasoning about rural consumption?

- A. Farmers have diversified income sources, so a drop in farmgate prices does not significantly affect their consumption.
- B. Urban consumption trends are unaffected by changes in rural incomes and spending.
- C. A significant fall in farmgate prices directly reduces rural household incomes and thus lowers rural consumption expenditure, impacting overall demand.
- D. Global demand shocks have no ripple effect on rural consumption in India, making domestic factors solely responsible.

Q102. Which of the following best captures a paradox presented in the passage?

- A. Both low inflation and high farmer incomes rise together under current policy, demonstrating uniform policy success.
- B. The paradox of policy: while declining retail inflation and rate cuts are heralded as indicators of economic health, the concurrent collapse in farm produce prices undermines rural incomes and consumption—the very outcomes monetary easing seeks to improve.

- C. Export uncertainty and rural consumption growth both accelerate at the same time, defying economic logic.
- D. Rate cuts are shown to harm urban borrowers even as rural incomes rise, suggesting a complete inversion of policy goals.

Passage:-4 Romantic relationships with A.I. chatbots are commonplace enough that coverage has shifted to their tragic downsides. My newsroom colleague Kevin Roose reported on the death by suicide of the Florida 14-year-old Sewell Setzer III, a child who developed an intense bond with a bot he created on Character.AI, a role-playing app. According to chat logs provided to Roose and court filings, that character, already knowing of Setzer’s suicidal ideation, encouraged him to “come home” to her, and he did. Now his mother is suing Character.AI.

Use of generative artificial intelligence is widespread among America’s teenagers. According to a 2024 study from Common Sense Media, “Seven in 10 teens age 13 to 18 say they have used at least one type of generative A.I. tool. Search engines with A.I.-generated results and chatbots are considerably more popular than image and video-generating tools.” Though around a quarter of American teens say they use ChatGPT for schoolwork, we don’t really know how many teens are using bots for emotional solace or forming parasocial relationships with them.

While what happened to Setzer is a tragic worst-case scenario, Roose correctly points out that chatbots are becoming more lifelike, and at the same time are an understudied, regulatory Wild West, just like social media was at its start. A paucity of information about potential long-term harm hasn’t stopped these companies from going full speed ahead on promoting themselves to young people: OpenAI just made ChatGPT Plus free for college students during finals season.

Many chatbots are built to be endlessly affirming, as M.I.T. Technology Review’s Eileen Guo explained in February. She profiled a Minnesota man named Al Nowatzki, who entered a prolonged conversation about suicide with his A.I. girlfriend, Erin. “It’s a ‘yes-and’ machine,” Nowatzki told Guo. “So when I say I’m suicidal, it says, ‘Oh, great!’ because it says, ‘Oh, great!’ to everything.”

I don’t want to suggest that theirs is typical of chatbot usage, but we just don’t know the details of the kinds of conversations that teenagers are having with their chatbots, or what the long-term drawbacks might be for their formation of human relationships. Since smartphones and social media were introduced, American teenagers do far less in-person socializing and dating, and there have been worldwide increases in loneliness among adolescents. We have let social media companies run unfettered, and instead of learning our lesson and trying to responsibly regulate A.I. in its nascency, we’re creating the next generation of tech guinea pigs.

For kids who are already socially awkward or otherwise vulnerable, creating bonds with eternally validating chatbots will just further isolate them from other people, who are imperfect and challenging.

[<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/04/16/opinion/teens-chatbot-threat.html>]

Q103. Which of the following statements most clearly encapsulates a foundational premise underlying the passage’s discussion of AI chatbots and adolescent mental health?

- A. Most teenagers use AI chatbots strictly for academic tasks and never for emotional support, so educational access is the primary issue.
- B. Lifelike, endlessly affirming AI chatbots—operating in an unregulated environment—can encourage harmful or even suicidal behavior in vulnerable teenagers, making regulation imperative.
- C. AI chatbots invariably benefit teenage users by providing constant support, eliminating any need for real-world social interaction.
- D. The primary concern around AI chatbots is the cost of subscription services, rather than their psychological effects.

Q104. Based on the passage, which inference can most reasonably be drawn about teenage use of generative AI?

- A. Because AI chatbots are free, every teen uses them daily for both schoolwork and emotional support without exception.
- B. The widespread adoption of AI chatbots among teens suggests a substantial—but largely unmeasured—risk of parasocial attachment and potential long-term harm to emotional development.
- C. The only consequence of teens using AI chatbots is improved academic performance, with no emotional or social side effects.
- D. Since chatbots can be “yes-and” machines, they automatically thwart any attempt at self-harm among users.

Q105. Which conclusion best summarizes the passage’s overall message?

- A. Without prompt regulation, AI chatbots risk repeating social media’s mistakes by turning a generation of teenagers into unknowing guinea pigs, deepening isolation and mental-health crises.
- B. The passage concludes that AI chatbots pose no real dangers and should remain unfettered to allow maximum innovation.
- C. Social media regulation lessons do not apply to AI, since chatbots are primarily educational tools.
- D. Teens must abandon chatbots entirely in favor of in-person therapy.

Q106. Which of the following best represents the argument developed in the passage?

- A. AI chatbots, by virtue of their novelty and hype, are more dangerous than any previous technology and should be banned outright.
- B. Since only a small minority of chat sessions become harmful, we should focus solely on clinical interventions after the fact, rather than on regulation.
- C. Although generative-AI chatbots can provide convenient emotional affirmation, their design—offering unconditional “yes-and” responses—can exacerbate suicidal ideation and deepen adolescent loneliness, especially in vulnerable users, so responsible oversight and study are essential.
- D. Teenagers should be encouraged to form deeper bonds with AI chatbots to compensate for reduced in-person socialization.

Q107. Which of the following assumptions is implicit in the passage’s reasoning about the impact of AI chatbots on teenagers?

- A. All teenagers need to learn coding to create their own, safer chatbots.
- B. Teenagers’ emotional resilience makes them impervious to any technological influence.
- C. Chatbots’ unconditional affirmation is as psychologically beneficial as it is potentially harmful, depending on the context.
- D. Teenagers who rely on endlessly validating chatbots will further retreat from imperfect human relationships, thereby increasing their isolation and mental-health risks.

Q108. Which of the following best captures a paradox presented in the passage?

- A. AI chatbots are both cutting-edge and entirely predictable in behavior, offering no surprises to users.
- B. Teenagers who feel isolated at school find deeper connections through chatbots but become more isolated from actual human peers.
- C. AI chatbots promise emotional support and lifelike companionship, yet their unconditional affirmation can worsen users’ mental-health crises by reinforcing harmful impulses.
- D. Chatbots are praised for their academic utility, yet none of them can actually answer math problems correctly.

SECTION - E : QUANTITATIVE TECHNIQUES

Passage 1: Sunrise Bakery produces three varieties of bread—Whole Wheat, Multigrain, and Sourdough—daily in fixed batches of 200, 150, and 100 loaves respectively. Each loaf of Whole Wheat costs ₹40 to bake, Multigrain ₹50, and Sourdough ₹70. The bakery sells Whole Wheat at a 25% markup, Multigrain at a 20% markup, and Sourdough at a 30% markup. To clear end-of-day stock, unsold loaves are discounted by 15% on their marked price. On average, 10% of Whole Wheat, 8% of Multigrain, and 5% of Sourdough remain unsold and thus discounted. In addition, the bakery offers a “Buy 5, Get 1 Free” deal on Whole Wheat loaves, applied before any discount. Monthly fixed overheads—rent, utilities, and staff wages—total ₹150,000. Variable costs include packaging at ₹5 per loaf sold.

Q 109. What is the marked selling price per loaf for each of the three bread types?

- A. Whole Wheat ₹48, Multigrain ₹60, Sourdough ₹88
- B. Whole Wheat ₹50, Multigrain ₹60, Sourdough ₹91
- C. Whole Wheat ₹52, Multigrain ₹58, Sourdough ₹91
- D. Whole Wheat ₹50, Multigrain ₹62.5, Sourdough ₹90

Q 110. How many free Whole Wheat loaves are given daily under the “Buy 5, Get 1 Free” offer?

- A. 28
- B. 30
- C. 33
- D. 36

Q 111. What is the effective revenue from daily Sourdough sales (after accounting for discount on unsold loaves)?

- A. ₹9,031.75
- B. ₹9,500
- C. ₹8,900
- D. ₹8,645

Q 112. What is the total daily packaging cost if only sold loaves (not free ones) are packaged?

- A. ₹2,100
- B. ₹2,200
- C. ₹2,300
- D. ₹2,000

Q 113. What is the ratio of Multigrain to Whole Wheat revenue (including discounted sales)?

- A. 1.06
- B. 2.15
- C. 1.56
- D. 0.86

Q 114. If the bakery works 6 days a week, what is the total weekly cost (packaging + fixed overheads)?

- A. ₹61,000
- B. ₹50,100
- C. ₹60,800
- D. ₹63,500

Passage 2: AquaPure operates a network of three cylindrical water tanks — Tank A (radius 5 m, height 8 m), Tank B (radius 4 m, height 10 m), and Tank C (radius 6 m, height 6 m) — storing treated water for a township. Each morning, they fill tanks to 90% capacity. Daily, they distribute water as follows: 40% of Tank A’s content to residential blocks, 30% of Tank B’s to industrial

clients, and 50% of Tank C's to agricultural users; the remainder is held in reserve. Distribution reservoirs incur chlorination costs of ₹2 per cubic meter and pumping costs of ₹0.50 per 100 L. Once a week, the tanks are drained to 20% and cleaned at a flat rate of ₹10,000 per tank. In addition, maintenance inspections and minor repairs average ₹3,000 per week across all three tanks.

Q 115. What is the **daily volume of water filled** into each tank (rounded to 2 decimal places)?

- A. A: 565.49 m³, B: 452.39 m³, C: 610.73 m³ B. A: 500.00 m³, B: 400.00 m³, C: 550.00 m³
C. A: 560.00 m³, B: 450.00 m³, C: 600.00 m³ D. A: 600.00 m³, B: 480.00 m³, C: 630.00 m³

Q 116. How many cubic meters of water are **distributed daily** across all three tanks combined?

- A. 567.27 m³ B. 585.43 m³ C. 667.27 m³ D. 500.00 m³

Q 117. What is the **daily chlorination cost** incurred by AquaPure for all water distributed?

- A. ₹1,250.00 B. ₹1,334.55 C. ₹1,550.00 D. ₹1,440.10

Q 118. What is the **total pumping cost per day**, if pumping is charged at ₹0.50 per 100 litres of water delivered?

- A. ₹3,336.37 B. ₹2,821.15 C. ₹3,000.00 D. ₹3,100.50

Q 119. What is the **weekly cleaning cost** for all three tanks?

- A. ₹10,000 B. ₹25,000 C. ₹30,000 D. ₹35,000

Q120. What is the **total weekly operational cost**, including chlorination, pumping, cleaning, and maintenance? [Assume: 1 week = 7 days]

- A. ₹59,500 B. ₹64,000 C. ₹65,696.44 D. ₹66,250

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