

COMMON LAW ADMISSION TEST CLAT MOCK-153 [NPLC/2025/26]

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 India has allowed cotton imports at zero duty till December 31, 2025. The “temporary” exemption from the earlier chargeable 11 per cent tariff comes amid domestic production of the fibre falling to an estimated 311.4 lakh bales (lb) in 2024-25 (October-September), from 336.5 lb in the previous marketing year and the all-time-high of 398 lb of 2013-14. But it’s not just lower output — compounded by a 2.6 per cent dip in the area sown this kharif season — that may have prompted the Narendra Modi government’s decision. No less significant is the signal it sends out to the United States that has seen the value of its cotton exports slide from \$8.82 billion in 2022 to \$4.96 billion in 2024, largely because of reduced purchases by China (from \$2.79 billion to \$1.47 billion). With China further slashing imports to a mere \$150.4 million in January-June 2025, it means a huge loss of market. No wonder the US wants other countries to buy more. Vietnam, Pakistan, Turkey and India have all done that. India alone has imported \$181.5 million worth of US cotton in January-June, as against \$86.9 million during the first half of 2024. The duty removal is likely to give an added boost to that. The US Department of Agriculture has, indeed, welcomed the move. It sees this as not only increasing US cotton bookings, but also helping Indian textile exporters access cheaper and contamination-free fibre. Nearly 95 per cent of imported US cotton, the agency claims, is processed and re-exported as yarn, fabric and apparel. But it is the optics, more than anything else, in the context of a low moment for Delhi-Washington ties, that’s encouraging. Not reviving the stalled trade talks is in neither side’s interest. By making cotton imports duty-free, augmenting availability of fibre for its textile industry, India has shown willingness and flexibility to negotiate. It’s for the US now to reciprocate, by scrapping the unreasonable and irrational 25 per cent Russian oil import “penalty” on India.

There’s a loser in all this, though. The Indian cotton farmer has been deprived of any new cropping technology after genetically modified Bt hybrids, which drove up average lint yields from 302 kg to 566 kg per hectare between 2002-03 and 2013-14. Since then, yields have dropped to sub-450 kg levels, even as cotton has become susceptible to so-called secondary pests such as pink bollworm and whitefly in addition to boll rot fungal pathogens. The results of non-investment in breeding research and development are evident from record imports of 39 lb projected for 2024-25. This double-whammy situation, of technology denial alongside import inundation, has been witnessed even in mustard and soyabean. The Indian farmer can — and should be enabled to — compete, but not with hands tied.

[<https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/editorials/india-has-shown-flexibility-on-cotton-imports-its-for-us-to-reciprocate-10222844/>]

Q1. What is the main idea of the passage?

- A. India’s zero-duty cotton import is a protectionist ruse that will permanently shut out domestic growers while locking the country into long-term dependence on US fibre.
- B. The duty waiver chiefly aims to rescue US cotton exporters who have lost the Chinese market, with little to no benefit for India’s economy or diplomacy.
- C. India’s temporary duty-free window tackles a domestic fibre shortfall while doubling as diplomatic signalling to Washington; yet, it also exposes the policy’s domestic cost—farmers stuck with stagnating yields and technology denial.
- D. India’s new policy is a complete reversal of liberalisation and an embrace of autarky, telegraphing an intent to reduce all textile imports in favour of local production.

Q2. The word “**optics**” (...“it is the optics, more than anything else...”) most nearly means:

- A. The public and political **perception** created by a decision or gesture, irrespective of its detailed substance.
- B. The strict **physics** of light and vision, including refraction and reflection.
- C. The **microeconomics** of price signals observable in futures markets.
- D. The **legal** visibility of a measure under WTO transparency rules.

Q3. Choose the option that best gives a **synonym** for “**inundation**” (as in “import inundation”) and an **antonym** for “**reciprocate**.”

- A. Overflow / **retaliate** B. Deluge / **snub** C. **Scarcity** / **mirror** D. Drizzle / **reciprocate**

Q4. Which inference about India’s decision is **best supported** by the passage?

- A. It is primarily a covert attempt to re-peg the rupee to the US dollar via cheaper cotton imports.
- B. It guarantees a permanent restoration of US cotton exports to their 2022 levels regardless of Chinese demand.
- C. It is a calculated policy that both eases input costs for Indian textiles (via cleaner, cheaper fibre) and signals willingness to re-engage the US on stalled trade issues, thereby seeking a diplomatic quid pro quo.
- D. It is mainly a punitive action against Indian farmers to force rapid crop diversification away from cotton.

Q5. Which sentence is **grammatically** sound and faithful to the passage’s content?

- A. Removing the 11% duty, India, aimed at rescuing US exporters only, and the policy will permanently raise imports.
- B. India has removed the 11% duty because yields were highest after 2014, and because Washington insisted on it.
- C. While the duty is removed, and the farmers are losing technology, but India’s optics are improved with Washington.
- D. By removing the 11% duty till December 31, 2025, India aims to augment fibre availability for its textile industry and, at the same time, signals willingness to resume trade talks with Washington.

Q6. Which scenario reflects the same underlying logic as the passage's "double-whammy" of technology denial plus import inundation for domestic producers?

- A. A city bans private cars on one Sunday every month, leading to more bike-sharing for a day.
- B. A university offers generous fellowships and opens more research labs for local scholars.
- C. A coastal state bars small fisherfolk from using modern sonar/GPS gear while allowing large foreign trawlers extensive access to its waters, flooding the market with cheaper catch.
- D. A hospital upgrades ICUs and subsidises local medical device makers to win domestic tenders.

Passage:- 2 "Upon my word," said Colonel Laporte, "although I am old and gouty, my legs as stiff as two pieces of wood, yet if a pretty woman were to tell me to go through the eye of a needle, I believe I should take a jump at it, like a clown through a hoop. I shall die like that; it is in the blood. I am an old beau, one of the old school, and the sight of a woman, a pretty woman, stirs me to the tips of my toes. There!

"We are all very much alike in France in this respect; we still remain knights, knights of love and fortune, since God has been abolished whose bodyguard we really were. But nobody can ever get woman out of our hearts; there she is, and there she will remain, and we love her, and shall continue to love her, and go on committing all kinds of follies on her account as long as there is a France on the map of Europe; and even if France were to be wiped off the map, there would always be Frenchmen left.

"When I am in the presence of a woman, of a pretty woman, I feel capable of anything. By Jove! when I feel her looks penetrating me, her confounded looks which set your blood on fire, I should like to do I don't know what; to fight a duel, to have a row, to smash the furniture, in order to show that I am the strongest, the bravest, the most daring and the most devoted of men.

"But I am not the only one, certainly not; the whole French army is like me, I swear to you. From the common soldier to the general, we all start out, from the van to the rear guard, when there is a woman in the case, a pretty woman. Do you remember what Joan of Arc made us do formerly? Come. I will make a bet that if a pretty woman had taken command of the army on the eve of Sedan, when Marshal MacMahon was wounded, we should have broken through the Prussian lines, by Jove! and had a drink out of their guns.

"It was not a Trochu, but a Sainte-Genevieve, who was needed in Paris; and I remember a little anecdote of the war which proves that we are capable of everything in presence of a woman.

"I was a captain, a simple captain, at the time, and I was in command of a detachment of scouts, who were retreating through a district which swarmed with Prussians. We were surrounded, pursued, tired out and half dead with fatigue and hunger, but we were bound to reach Bar-sur-Tain before the morrow, otherwise we should be shot, cut down, massacred. I do not know how we managed to escape so far. However, we had ten leagues to go during the night, ten leagues through the night, ten leagues through the snow, and with empty stomachs, and I thought to myself...

[<https://americanliterature.com/author/guy-de-maupassant/short-story/the-colonels-ideas>]

Q7. What is the main idea that Colonel Laporte advances in this passage?

- A. The French army's defeats stem from strategic errors alone, which only strict discipline and logistics can remedy, irrespective of morale or sentiment.
- B. Frenchmen, by temperament, are stirred to bravado and extreme devotion in the presence of a pretty woman, a chivalric impulse that shapes private behavior and could even sway public events like war.
- C. Women's beauty is a dangerous distraction that inevitably weakens armies and nations, so France should insulate statecraft from feminine influence.
- D. The abolition of God has left a moral vacuum in France that only religious revival—not romantic sentiment—can fill.

Q8. In line with Colonel Laporte's self-description, the word "**beau**" most nearly means:

- A. A courtly, fashion-conscious admirer or suitor of women; a gallant of the "old school."
- B. A naïve youth inexperienced in love or war; a rustic.
- C. A professional soldier of fortune who courts danger rather than women.
- D. A cynical rake who despises romance and disdains etiquette.

Q9. Select the option that gives a **synonym** for "**follies**" (as used in "committing all kinds of follies on her account") and an **antonym** for "**abolished**."

- A. Prerogatives / rescinded B. Prudences / founded C. Indiscretions / instituted D. Solemnities / proscribed

Q10. Choose the sentence that is both grammatically correct and faithful to the passage:

- A. *Because France abolished God, Colonel Laporte concludes that love of women must be rejected so the army regains discipline and order.*
- B. *Laporte asserts that a pretty woman invariably defeats the Prussians, therefore the army only needed flirtation rather than strategy at Sedan.*
- C. *Laporte says that when he perceives a woman's gaze, and he smashes furniture, but this proves that France should return to religion.*
- D. *Laporte argues that Frenchmen remain "knights" of love and fortune; a pretty woman's presence can rouse daring, even to the point of imagining victory at Sedan under a female commander.*

Q11. Which historical reference does Colonel Laporte explicitly invoke to illustrate the galvanizing power of a woman's leadership or presence?

- A. The fall of Paris due to General Trochu's cautious strategy in the Commune.
- B. The conquest of Europe under Napoleon, who claimed to fight for Josephine.
- C. Joan of Arc's inspiration and the idea that, on the eve of Sedan when Marshal MacMahon was wounded, a "pretty woman" might have led a breakthrough.
- D. The storming of the Bastille where market-women urged the crowd forward.

Q12. Which scenario most closely mirrors Laporte's logic that a feminine presence catalyzes extraordinary valor in Frenchmen, sometimes beyond sober calculation?

- A. A demoralized regiment rediscovers ferocity when a beloved actress unexpectedly visits the front, prompting a reckless countercharge that succeeds largely because morale surges.
- B. A disciplined unit wins a battle after months of logistics reform and improved rations, with no change in public sentiment or symbolism.
- C. A commander suppresses all visitors to keep soldiers' minds on drill, resulting in incremental, methodical gains with minimal risk-taking.
- D. A regiment is inspired by a new chaplain's sermons about duty and sobriety, becoming cautious rather than daring.

Passage:- 3 On the first leg of his tour East, Prime Minister Narendra Modi travelled to Japan for a two-day visit for the 15th Annual Summit with Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba before moving to Tianjin to attend the SCO Summit. The last summit, in India, was in 2022. The two sides issued at least a dozen documents, aimed primarily at updating their agreements and giving them a "Next-Gen" focus. Japanese businesses have raised their investment targets in India to \$68 billion and signed about 170 MoUs with Indian partners. Apart from the Joint Statement, there was a 2035 Vision Statement, including eight areas of cooperation such as economic security, mobility and green technology transition. A "Next-Gen State-Prefecture Partnership" highlighted grassroots-level ties and a boosting of direct flight connectivity. India and Japan updated their 2008 Security partnership to include an annual NSA-level dialogue, more engagement over the Quad, Indo-Pacific cooperation and UN Security Council reform. Of interest is their Economic Security Partnership goal to build resilient supply chains and secure critical infrastructure, using Japanese technology to help manufacture and process semiconductor technology in India, as Indian companies face Chinese restrictions on the export of rare earth magnets. Japan's collaboration with India's High Speed Rail "Bullet Train" project was showcased, with Mr. Modi and Mr. Ishiba travelling to Miyagi province by train, where they also inspected a semiconductor factory. The joint statement included strong language condemning North Korea's missile tests and nuclear programme, and the Pahalgam attack and cross-border terrorism, albeit without mention of Pakistan. The leaders also stressed the importance of the upcoming Quad Summit of leaders in India this year, which has come under a cloud over Mr. Trump's actions against India.

While the text of the India-Japan meetings was largely bilateral, the subtext was geopolitical. Mr. Modi flew to Tokyo in the wake of the massive American tariffs which threaten to upturn the Indian economy. He also chose to make Japan his first stop before his talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping on Sunday (August 31, 2025) towards normalising relations after a four-year standoff. Japan too is concerned about the situation in the East China Sea, and has tensions over trade with the U.S., which led it to cancel a trade negotiation team visit to Washington. The message that Mr. Modi and Mr. Ishiba sent out was that amidst geopolitical turmoil caused by global powers, the India-Japan relationship remains stable and continues to grow.

[<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/renewed-focus-on-india-japan-ties/article69996812.ece>]

Q13. What best captures the main idea of the passage?

- A. The summit concentrated almost exclusively on condemning North Korea, with economics and connectivity largely sidelined by security concerns.
- B. India and Japan used a largely bilateral, "Next-Gen" agenda—investments, security updates, supply chains, semiconductors, and grassroots links—to project stability and continuity amid wider geopolitical turmoil (US tariffs, China talks), signalling resilience without escalation.
- C. The Quad Summit overshadowed all outcomes, as uncertainty driven by Mr. Trump's actions made other deliverables marginal.
- D. The joint statement marked a decisive turn to name-and-shame diplomacy against Pakistan, redefining regional counterterrorism policy.

Q14. In the sentence "While the text of the India-Japan meetings was largely bilateral, the **subtext** was geopolitical," **subtext** most nearly means—

- A. an underlying or implicit theme or message that sits beneath the overt content.
- B. a verbatim transcript of what leaders said behind closed doors.
- C. a confidential annex of classified commitments exchanged off the record.
- D. a formal diplomatic sanction that follows an official statement.

Q15. Pick the option that gives a **synonym** for “condemning” (as used for language on missile tests/terrorism) and an **antonym** for “restrictions” (as in Chinese restrictions on rare earth magnet exports).

- A. ratifying / embargo B. censuring / constraints C. denouncing / liberalisation D. lauding / limitations

Q16. Choose the sentence that is both grammatically sound and faithful to the passage:

- A. *Since the last summit was in 2023 and Japanese investment decreased, India pivoted away from security to condemn Pakistan directly.*
B. *Because Japan lowered its investment target to \$48 billion, both sides shelved semiconductor cooperation and delayed the bullet train visit to Miyagi.*
C. *While the leaders updated agreements, and they planned prefecture ties, but the American tariffs were ignored by the statement.*
D. *By updating their 2008 security partnership and shaping a “Next-Gen” agenda—from supply-chain resilience and semiconductors to prefecture links and direct flights—the leaders showcased stable ties even as US tariffs and China talks loomed.*

Q17. Which inference about the **intent** behind the deliverables is best supported?

- A. Omitting Pakistan’s name proves an imminent strategic partnership with Islamabad on counterterrorism.
B. Stress on the Quad implies the event will likely be cancelled due to Mr. Trump’s actions against India.
C. The package of economic-security and technology moves (resilient supply chains, semiconductors) signals hedging and steadiness amid US tariff shocks and China talks, aiming to reduce vulnerabilities without direct confrontation.
D. The principal aim was to revive Japan–US trade talks, explaining Tokyo’s cancellation of its Washington visit.

Q18. Which scenario most closely mirrors the passage’s text vs. subtext dynamic?

- A. A state signs many MoUs on green mobility, airports, district partnerships, and direct flights while, amid a national tariff shock and sensitive talks with a rival neighbour, its chief minister uses these updates to signal to investors that fundamentals remain stable.
B. A university releases only peer-reviewed science papers; there is no side message intended for donors or regulators.
C. A company cancels all bilateral contracts and publicly accuses suppliers by name to force compliance.
D. An NGO issues a statement naming both North Korea and Pakistan and calls for immediate sanctions, discarding broader cooperation themes.

Passage:- 4 Early in May, a thick cloud of dust swept across the National Capital Region. Flights were delayed and schools were forced to shut. As temperatures breached 45 degrees celsius, the air turned into a blanket of heat and particulate matter. Sudden heavy downpours – more frequent than usual – flooded streets, clogged drains and brought traffic to a standstill.

For many in Delhi, this is beginning to feel routine. These are not isolated weather events but warnings. And one of the most urgent signals is coming from the hills residents barely see anymore: the Aravallis.

The two-part Citizens’ Reports, published by the People for Aravallis in May, are an urgent public record of ecological degradation and institutional failure. Rich in maps, satellite imagery, testimonies from the ground, court rulings and scientific documentation, the reports offer not just a critique of state neglect but a clear-eyed account of what we are losing and why.

Several violations have been geo-tagged and catalogued across the seven Aravalli districts in south Haryana. These include new road constructions, forest clearances, illegal encroachments, mining activity and solid waste dumping in areas declared as Natural Conservation Zones that have been designated as such to protect natural features such as hills, rivers and forests.

The mapping includes active violations in Mangar Bani, Anangpur, Bandhwari and Khori Khurd, which are are sacred groves and forest patches within the Aravallis.

Perhaps the most visible symbol of this collapse is the Bandhwari landfill, which, since 2008, has grown into a festering mountain of untreated urban waste on the edge of a forest. Despite being within the Natural Conservation Zone and Aravalli hills, Bandhwari continues to receive waste from Gurgaon and Faridabad every day. The leachate has been seeping into the groundwater. Open burning is a regular occurrence.

In 2019, the Bandhwari landfill, with 35 lakh tonnes of waste, stood taller than the surrounding Aravalli hills. In April 2025, it was reported that the landfill size had reduced to 13 lakh tonnes of waste. In five years from 2020, it seems that 22 lakh tonnes of waste have disappeared. Where has all this waste gone?

Over the last few years, hazardous solid waste from Bandhwari landfill has been dumped in mining quarries and forest areas in various locations in the Aravallis in Gurugram and Faridabad districts, the reports found. These Aravalli areas are lifelines that recharge water in India’s National Capital Region and critical wildlife habitats that should not have any toxic waste in them.

In Mangar Bani in Faridabad district, known for its dense sacred groves, the encroachment has taken another form. Religious structures are springing up on forest land. Real estate projects continue to push boundaries, often in blatant violation of zoning norms. Aerial images show fresh roads carved out through previously intact hill tracts.

[<https://scroll.in/article/1085696/the-slow-destruction-of-delhis-forgotten-spine>]

Q19. Which of the following bundles matches the report’s numbers about Bandhwari landfill most accurately?

- A. **22 lakh tonnes** “disappeared” over **five years from 2020**. B. 15 lakh tonnes reduced since **2018**.
C. **22 lakh tonnes** “disappeared” since **2019**. D. 25 lakh tonnes reduced over **six years from 2019**.

Q20. Choose the option that gives a **synonym** for “**encroachments**” and an **antonym** for “**recharge**”

- A. annexations / replenish B. infringements / refill C. intrusions / drain D. invasions / irrigate

Q21. Select the sentence that is both **grammatically sound** and **faithful to the passage**.

- A. *Because schools stayed open and flights were on time, Delhi’s weather posed no immediate warning beyond isolated dust.*
B. *Since only four Aravalli districts were geo-tagged, sacred groves were excluded from mapping to protect anonymity.*
C. *While downpours were frequent, and drains were clogged, but the Aravallis remained largely pristine due to strict zoning.*
D. *Although Bandhwari lies within a Natural Conservation Zone, it keeps receiving daily waste from Gurgaon and Faridabad, and leachate has been seeping into groundwater.*

Q22. Which set of sites is **explicitly** listed as having **active violations** in the mapping?

- A. Asola Bhatti, Bhiwani, Badkhal, Sohna B. Mangar Bani, Anangpur, Bandhwari, Khori Khurd
C. Neemrana, Alwar, Kalka, Rewari D. Aravali Biodiversity Park, Najafgarh, Vasant Kunj, Nuh

Q23. In “**The leachate has been seeping into the groundwater,**” what does **leachate** most nearly mean?

- A. Contaminated liquid formed as water percolates through waste, carrying dissolved or suspended pollutants
B. Methane-rich off-gassing produced by anaerobic decomposition of municipal solid waste
C. Ash residues generated after high-temperature incineration of mixed refuse
D. Compacted waste that reconsolidates into denser strata after settlement

Q24. Which scenario most closely mirrors the passage’s logic about Bandhwari’s apparent reduction and the question “Where has all this waste gone?”

- A. A city’s air improves after rain; officials credit policy rather than the short-term washout effect.
B. A river’s flow increases in monsoon; authorities claim a dam upgrade when it’s actually seasonal snowmelt.
C. A municipality boasts a smaller landfill mound but achieves it by dumping hazardous loads into nearby protected quarries and forested hills, merely shifting the problem out of sight.
D. A town reports fewer heat-wave deaths after distributing leaflets, without any change in temperature or health services.

SECTION - B : CURRENT AFFAIRS (INCLUDING GENERAL KNOWLEDGE)

Passage:- 1 Two days after the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025, cleared the Lok Sabha, President Droupadi Murmu gave her assent to the much-talked-about bill, which aims to put a full stop to the entire real-money gaming industry in India, which employs thousands of people directly and indirectly.

Though touted as a death knell for RMG, a segment with which the big fish of India's gaming ecosystem are deeply associated, the bill brings cheers to esports and online social gaming companies. As PM Modi said, the government has all the big plans to make India a hub for e-sports and social gaming. But, for RMG, India is no more a market. The government has also completely banned ads and financial transactions related to RMG. Sources suggest the government's response to online money games was not instant, but one that followed after three years of deliberations and assessment of its negative impact on users.

[<https://www.fortuneindia.com/business-news/as-online-gaming-bill-becomes-law-rmg-companies-start-painful-pivots/125891>]

Q25. In India, which legal pairing and committee structure correctly governs the blocking of online content—including illegal betting and gambling sites—on grounds such as sovereignty, public order, or prevention of offences?

- A. Section 79 of the Information Technology Act, 2000, read with the 2011 Intermediary Guidelines; review handled by a Press Information Bureau–Information & Broadcasting joint cell with advisory powers only
B. Section 5 of the Telegraph Act, 1885, read with the 2017 Internet Suspension Rules; decisions made by a Department of Telecommunications–NIC technical panel without cross-ministry representation
C. Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000, read with the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information by Public) Rules, 2009; screening by a committee comprising the Designated Officer and representatives from Law & Justice, Home Affairs, Information & Broadcasting, and CERT-In
D. Digital India Act, 2024, read with the Information Technology (Guidelines) Rules, 2024; determinations made by a MeitY–RBI risk council focused on financial harm in online ecosystems

Q26. BharatNet, the rural optical-fibre backbone to Gram Panchayats that complements the National Broadband Mission, is anchored in which ministry/implementing set-up?

- A. Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications; implementation via USOF and Bharat Broadband Network Ltd. (BBNL), with BSNL and others executing segments
B. NITI Aayog’s Digital Inclusion Mission under MeitY; implemented by NIC with consolidated-fund routing for last-mile Wi-Fi
C. Ministry of Information & Broadcasting; rollout through Prasar Bharati’s terrestrial network augmented by private fibre concessions
D. Ministry of Home Affairs; rural links delivered through a Digital Security Grid leveraging police telecom backbones and NICNET

Q27. As of September 2025, who is the Union Minister of State (MoS) responsible for Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY)?

- A. Rajeev Chandrasekhar B. Jitin Prasada C. Jayant Chaudhary D. Dr. Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani

Q28. Several states restricted or banned real-money online games. Before moving toward a “Chhattisgarh-like” framework in 2025, which state did not have an effective standing prohibition because its earlier blanket ban had been struck down by the High Court?

- A. Telangana B. Andhra Pradesh C. Karnataka D. Tamil Nadu

Q29. During debates around the 2025 central law banning real-money online games, industry associations warned of a potential annual tax-revenue loss (GST/TDS) of roughly:

- A. ₹6,909 crore B. ₹10,000 crore C. ₹31,000 crore D. ₹20,000 crore

Passage:- 2 Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said here today that the 30th July "NISAR" launch from Sriharikota will upscale ISRO's international collaborations. Briefing the media, the Minister for Science and Technology disclosed that the much-anticipated launch NISAR satellite mission is scheduled for July 30, 2025, at 17:40 hrs from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.

Dr. Jitendra Singh, who has been monitoring the mission closely, said the launch reflects the maturing of strategic scientific partnerships and India's emergence as a credible global player in advanced Earth observation systems. While expressing his wish to be physically present in Sriharikota to witness the historic event, the Minister acknowledged that the ongoing Parliament session may hold him back in Delhi.

“This mission is not just about a satellite launch—it is a moment that symbolises what two democracies committed to science and global welfare can achieve together. NISAR will not only serve India and the United States but will also provide critical data for countries around the world, especially in areas like disaster management, agriculture, and climate monitoring,” said Dr. Jitendra Singh.

Dr Jitendra Singh further noted that this mission lives up to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of India becoming a 'Vishwa Bandhu'—a global partner that contributes to the collective good of humanity.

[<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2149078>]

Q30. What does NISAR stand for?

- A. NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar, a joint L- and S-band Earth observation mission
B. National Indian Spaceborne Aperture Reconnaissance, an all-Indian ocean surveillance platform
C. NASA-India Space Agreements Repository, the bilateral registry for space MoUs and contracts
D. New Indo-US Satellite for Advanced Research, a multipurpose telecom and weather satellite

Q31. NISAR lifted off on 30 July 2025 aboard which launch vehicle?

- A. PSLV-XL B. GSLV Mk III C. GSLV F16 / Mk II configuration D. Falcon 9

Q32. When did India sign the Artemis Accords, the US-led principles for civil exploration beyond Earth?

- A. 2021 B. 2022 C. 2024 D. 2023

Q33. Which global policy framework (2015–2030) provides the principal UN roadmap for disaster risk reduction, to which Earth-observation missions can contribute data?

- A. Paris Agreement on Climate Change, under the UNFCCC secretariat for mitigation and adaptation
B. Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, adopted at the Third UN World Conference in Japan
C. New Urban Agenda (Habitat III), focused on inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities
D. Addis Ababa Action Agenda, centred on financing for sustainable development pathways

Q34. Which technical feature most distinctly positions NISAR among Earth-observation missions?

- A. The world's first spaceborne SAR to operate two frequencies (L-band ~25 cm and S-band ~10 cm) simultaneously for global mapping
B. A tri-frequency radar suite (L/S/C-band) plus passive microwave radiometer for ocean salinity
C. An optical hyperspectral imager with 1-m GSD integrated into a deployable 16-m mirror system
D. A Ka-band scatterometer paired with a laser altimeter for mesoscale ocean eddy monitoring

Q35. In the work-share for NISAR, which pairing is correct?

- A. ISRO supplied the L-band radar; NASA built the S-band radar and provided the LVM3 launcher
B. NASA built the spacecraft bus; ISRO built the L-band radar and procured a Falcon 9 launch
C. NASA provided the L-band radar & communications; ISRO provided the S-band radar, spacecraft bus, and GSLV launch
D. Both L- and S-band radars were NASA-built; ISRO contributed only ground segment & data relay

Passage:- 3 Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 12th consecutive Independence Day address from the Red Fort was notable not only for highlighting national security and self-reliance but also for laying stress on a communally coloured demographic threat to the country. While showering praise on the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, Mr. Modi repeated its refrain by saying that the seeds of a new crisis were being sown. The launch of a High-Powered Demography Mission, to address what he described as "a deliberate conspiracy" to alter the demography of the country, is little more than a thinly disguised effort to polarise the country on religious lines by pointing to the different rates of growth in population among different communities and to the "infiltration" of undocumented migrants from the neighbouring countries. However, the speech also dwelt on substantive issues with a considerable focus on self-reliance in all fields including the economy, defence and technology, and youth empowerment. Mr. Modi also presented an account of the developments in India's national security and developmental landscape in the last year, and previewed what to anticipate ahead.

[<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/figure-of-speech-on-the-prime-ministers-independence-day-address/article69937815.ece>]

Q36. In 2025, India will celebrate which numbered Independence Day on 15 August?

- A. 79th Independence Day B. 78th Independence Day C. 80th Independence Day D. 77th Independence Day

Q37. During the Red Fort ceremony, what is the traditional gun salute that accompanies the flag unfurling and National Anthem?

- A. A 19-gun salute fired by a naval battery stationed along the Yamuna floodplain
B. A 17-gun salute executed by tri-service gunners using vintage 25-pounders
C. A 25-gun salute reserved for Republic Day and foreign state visits only
D. A 21-gun salute by an Indian Army ceremonial field battery, synchronised with flag unfurling

Q38. For Independence Day 2025, which special guests did the Centre plan to invite to the Red Fort?

- A. 50 top-ranked NCC cadets from pan-India directorates, each accompanied by a guardian
B. 50 of Delhi's best-performing Swachhta Karamcharis, each with a spouse, nominated by zones and compiled by DEMS HQ
C. 50 national sportspersons from Olympic and Asian Games disciplines with coaching staff
D. 50 representatives from border villages identified under the Vibrant Villages Programme

Q39. Who designed the Indian National Flag that was adopted in its present form in July 1947?

- A. Nandalal Bose B. Rabindranath Tagore C. Pingali Venkayya D. Sarojini Naidu

Q40. How many spokes are there in the Ashoka Chakra at the centre of the Indian flag?

- A. 16 spokes B. 18 spokes C. 32 spokes D. 24 spokes

Q41. In the official programme flow at the Red Fort in 2025, which element marks the conclusion of the ceremony?

- A. Release of tri-coloured balloons into the sky after the post-speech National Anthem
B. A flypast by the IAF's Suryakiran team over Rajpath/Kartavya Path
C. A laser projection mapping show on Red Fort's façade
D. A march-past of NCC contingents and school bands on Kartavya Path

Passage:- 4 The property titled "Maratha Military Landscapes of India", comprising many Maratha forts, was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List during the session of the World Heritage Committee held in UNESCO Headquarters this year. The list of these forts is enclosed at Annexure I. The Maratha Military Landscapes of India has been inscribed under the necessary criteria as per UNESCO's Operational Guidelines.

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) takes up conservation and maintenance work of protected monuments and sites including provision of amenities like drinking water, toilet blocks, pathways and landscaping etc. throughout the country. Conservation and maintenance of monuments and archaeological sites is a continuous process and is taken up as per the need of monuments and availability of resources. However, funds are allocated as per the need of monuments.

Currently, 2 properties from Maharashtra and 11 properties from Madhya Pradesh have been included in the Tentative List of World Heritage Sites. However, no property from Jharkhand features in the Tentative List. Inclusion in the Tentative List is a mandatory prerequisite for proceeding with World Heritage nomination. Details of the properties included in the Tentative List are provided at Annexure II.

[<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2152148>]

Q42. After the 2025 inscription of *Maratha Military Landscapes of India*, how many World Heritage properties does India have on UNESCO's List?

- A. 44 sites in total B. 43 sites C. 45 sites D. 46 sites

Q43. Which option best describes the newly inscribed property?

- A. A serial group of ten forts, nine in Maharashtra and one in Goa, focused on inland hill warfare only
B. A set of twelve forts with three in Karnataka and nine in Maharashtra, all non-coastal

- C. A chain of forts entirely in Maharashtra, deliberately excluding any out-of-state component
D. A serial nomination of twelve forts—eleven in Maharashtra and one (Gingee) in Tamil Nadu—spanning hill, coastal, island and plateau terrains

Q44. Where is UNESCO Headquarters located?

- A. Geneva B. Paris C. Vienna D. New York

Q45. Which fort is NOT part of the *Maratha Military Landscapes of India* inscription?

- A. Raigad Fort B. Vijaydurg Fort C. Sinhagad (Kondhana) D. Salher Fort

Q46. Under which World Heritage criteria was the property inscribed?

- A. Criteria (ii) & (iii) as a mixed site showing exchange of values in natural settings
B. Criterion (vii) as a natural site noted for superlative scenic beauty
C. Criterion (vi) as a cultural site tied to historic events
D. Criteria (iv) & (vi) as a cultural serial property demonstrating outstanding military architecture and associative value

Q47. Which site was among the first Indian inscriptions on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1983?

- A. Ajanta Caves, Ellora, Agra Fort, and Taj Mahal B. Sun Temple, Konark
C. Khajuraho Group of Monuments D. Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus

Passage:- 5 Moldova has joined the International Solar Alliance, the Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson, Randhir Jaiswal said on Monday. Jaiswal said that India welcomes Moldova in its efforts to promote sustainability. The agreement was signed between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Moldovan Deputy Prime Minister Mihai Popsoi.

"Moldova joins the International Solar Alliance (ISA)! Moldova signed the ISA Framework Agreement. We welcome Moldova joining global efforts to promote clean energy and sustainability through the ISA platform," the post read. Earlier, Jaishankar and Popsoi signed the declaration of intent on Migration and Mobility in the national capital on Sunday. In a post on X, EAM Jaishankar shared the details of the talk between the two leaders. "Held productive talks with DPM & FM @MihaiPopsoi today in New Delhi. Discussed our growing bilateral and multilateral cooperation. And new opportunities in investment, education, technology and culture. Today's signing of declaration of intent on a Migration and Mobility partnership will open new avenues for our partnership," Jaishankar wrote on X.

[<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/renewable/moldova-joins-international-solar-alliance/116350693>]

Q48. What is the capital of the Republic of Moldova?

- A. Chişinău (also spelled Kishinev) B. Bălţi C. Tiraspol D. Cahul

Q49. Where and by whom was the International Solar Alliance launched in 2015?

- A. Launched by India and the United Kingdom at COP21 in Paris as a G7-supported green power pact
B. Launched by France alone in Paris, later joined by India during COP22 in Marrakesh
C. Launched by India and France at the UN General Assembly high-level week in New York in 2015
D. Launched jointly by India and France at COP21 in Paris (2015), unveiling a coalition to accelerate solar deployment worldwide

Q50. At the New Delhi meeting marking Moldova's accession, which diplomatic pairing correctly describes the handover?

- A. Moldova's Foreign Minister to India's Foreign Secretary, witnessed by the ISA Director-General at Hyderabad House
B. Ambassador Ana Taban (Moldova) to P. S. Gangadhar, Joint Secretary (Economic Diplomacy) in MEA & Head of Depositary for the ISA Framework Agreement
C. Moldova's Ambassador to the ISA's Country Partnership Director at ISA Headquarters in Gurugram
D. Moldova's Energy Minister to India's Power Minister in the presence of France's Climate Envoy

Q51. The headquarters of the ISA is located at which campus?

- A. International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) HQ, Masdar City, Abu Dhabi
B. UN Office in Geneva (UNOG), Palais des Nations
C. National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), Gwal Pahari, Gurugram (Haryana)
D. UNESCO House, 7 Place de Fontenoy, Paris

Q52. Which of the following is NOT a core sectoral focus of ISA programmes?

- A. Solar applications in agriculture (irrigation, cold-chain/cold storage)
B. Health facilities (clinics, vaccine refrigeration), including reliability in remote areas
C. Transport & e-mobility, solar rooftops/mini-grids, and enabling finance at scale
D. Upstream fossil-fuel exploration, coal-based peaker plants, and gas midstream pipelines as transition enablers

SECTION C: - LEGAL REASONING

Passage:- 1 Double jeopardy is a constitutional shield that bars a second criminal prosecution and punishment for the same offence. Article 20(2) states that no person shall be prosecuted and punished for the same offence more than once. The guarantee sits beside the other protections in Article 20 against ex post facto laws and compelled testimony. Indian statutes echo the idea. Section 26 of the General Clauses Act and Section 300 of the Code of Criminal Procedure reinforce finality in criminal process and guard against repeated exposure to criminal peril for one and the same offence.

Courts look for two essentials before the bar applies. First, there must have been a prior prosecution before a court or a judicial tribunal that culminated in punishment. Second, the later proceeding must be for the same offence, not merely the same facts. The inquiry is legal rather than narrative. It asks whether the ingredients of the offences match, not whether the story behind them overlaps. If the offences are distinct in law, a fresh trial may proceed even if they arise from the same transaction.

Important limits maintain balance between individual protection and public enforcement. Departmental or administrative proceedings do not amount to prosecution, so disciplinary penalties in service law do not bar a later criminal case. Civil remedies may be pursued alongside criminal liability because they serve different purposes. An appeal is treated as a continuation of the same case, not a fresh prosecution, so an appeal from an acquittal does not offend Article 20(2). Continuing offences may attract separate punishment for each day of default, and this does not amount to punishing the same offence twice.

Three decisions mark the boundaries with clarity. In *S A Venkataraman v Union of India*, the Court held that an inquiry by a commissioner into workplace misconduct, even if it led to the end of employment, was not a prosecution. The later criminal charges under the Penal Code and the Prevention of Corruption Act were therefore not barred. In *Leo Roy v Superintendent District Jail*, a prior conviction under the Sea Customs Act did not prevent a subsequent trial under the Penal Code because the two offences had distinct ingredients in law. Finally, in *Mohammad Ali v Sri Ram Swaroop*, the Allahabad High Court confirmed that a continuous offence may be punished day by day, with each day treated as a separate crime, without violating the protection against double jeopardy. Read as a whole, the doctrine guards against repeated exposure to criminal jeopardy while permitting the state to prosecute distinct offences and to pursue appeals within the same case. Its calibrated scope makes it a precise rather than a blanket immunity.

[Source: https://blog.ipleaders.in/the-doctrine-of-double-jeopardy/#Judicial_perspective_on_the_doctrine_of_double_jeopardy]

Q53. Vineet was convicted by a customs tribunal for smuggling high-end electronics under the Customs Act, 1962, and sentenced to a fine of ₹10 lakhs. Six months later, the CBI registered an FIR against him under Sections 420 (cheating) and 468 (forgery) of the IPC based on the same import transaction, alleging he forged invoices and cheated the government of tax revenue. Vineet challenged the second prosecution, arguing it violated Article 20(2) as he had already been punished for the same offence. Which of the following correctly determines the applicability of double jeopardy?

- A. Article 20(2) applies because the facts arise from the same transaction, and Vineet has already been punished.
- B. Vineet cannot be prosecuted under the IPC because he has already been punished under the Customs Act and it would amount to double punishment.
- C. The second prosecution is barred because Vineet has already faced criminal liability in the previous proceeding.
- D. The second prosecution is valid because the IPC offences have distinct legal ingredients from the Customs Act and therefore are not the “same offence”.

Q54. Rohini, a government employee, was found guilty in a departmental inquiry of leaking sensitive information to a contractor. She was suspended and later dismissed from service. Two years later, the Anti-Corruption Bureau filed a charge-sheet against her under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. Rohini claims that her prior departmental punishment bars this prosecution. Which of the following best applies the doctrine of double jeopardy?

- A. Rohini cannot be prosecuted criminally as she has already been punished by her department for the same misconduct.
- B. Since the dismissal was based on the same conduct, the criminal trial amounts to punishing the same offence again.
- C. The criminal prosecution is permissible because the departmental inquiry is not equivalent to a judicial prosecution.
- D. Double jeopardy applies because the underlying factual narrative is identical in both cases.

Q55. Kartik was tried and acquitted by a sessions court for house trespass and theft under the IPC. The state appealed the acquittal. Kartik challenges the maintainability of the appeal, claiming it violates Article 20(2) as he should not be prosecuted again. Which of the following correctly assesses the legal position?

- A. An appeal after acquittal is a fresh prosecution and hence barred by Article 20(2).
- B. Double jeopardy applies because he has already faced judicial trial and cannot be retried in appeal.
- C. The appeal is maintainable because it is a continuation of the same case and not a new prosecution.
- D. The protection under Article 20(2) bars any further criminal proceeding, including appeals.

Q56. Zahra failed to file her company’s annual return for a period of 120 consecutive days, a continuing default under the Companies Act. She was prosecuted and fined ₹5,000 for each day of default. She now claims this amounts to repeated punishment for the same offence and is thus unconstitutional. Which of the following statements is legally correct?

- A. Zahra’s punishment violates Article 20(2) as she is being penalised repeatedly for the same failure.
- B. The daily penalty is valid as each day of default constitutes a distinct continuing offence.

- C. She can only be punished once for the entire span of default, not per day.
- D. She can only be penalised once unless the default is repeated in a new financial year.

Q57. Vishal was prosecuted and sentenced to 1 year's imprisonment under Section 188 IPC for violating pandemic-related government orders. Later, a fresh FIR was registered under the Disaster Management Act, 2005 based on the same event. Vishal argues that he has already been punished once, and this new proceeding violates his constitutional protection under Article 20(2). What is the correct legal outcome?

- A. The second proceeding is barred because it arises from the same factual incident.
- B. The state can continue the second proceeding only if there was no final punishment earlier.
- C. If the ingredients of the DM Act offence differ from Section 188 IPC, the second prosecution is valid.
- D. The new prosecution is invalid as it would amount to re-litigating a decided matter under the same facts.

Q58. Which of the following best captures the doctrinal approach of Indian courts towards double jeopardy under Article 20(2), as described in the passage?

- A. The doctrine is an absolute protection against any second legal proceeding once a person is punished for any set of facts.
- B. Courts broadly interpret "same offence" to include same facts, evidence, and transactions.
- C. The doctrine protects against repeated criminal punishment for the same legal offence, not merely overlapping factual stories.
- D. The double jeopardy protection bars both civil and criminal actions once a person is punished for one.

Passage:- 2 The doctrine of adverse possession stands as one of the most debated concepts in Indian property law. It refers to a situation where a person who is not the legal owner of a property acquires ownership rights over that property by continuous, hostile, and uninterrupted possession for a specified period, typically 12 years under the Limitation Act, 1963. The key principle behind adverse possession can be encapsulated by the Latin maxim "*Vigilantibus non dormientibus jura subveniunt*", meaning that the law helps those who are vigilant, not those who are asleep on their rights. While this concept incentivises the active use of land, it also has significant implications for property owners, who may lose their rights due to inaction. The doctrine of adverse possession is based on the idea that ownership of land should not remain static if it is not being utilised effectively by the rightful owner. The law presumes that land should be put to productive use, and if a trespasser possesses the land openly and continuously for a specific period without being challenged, they acquire ownership rights.

To claim ownership by adverse possession, certain conditions must be met. The possession must be actual, continuous, exclusive, and uninterrupted for the statutory period. It must be open and notorious, meaning the true owner could, with reasonable diligence, discover the occupation. Most importantly, the possession must be hostile to the interests of the true owner, not permissive or based on consent. If the possession is under a lease, license, or acknowledgment of the owner's title, it cannot be adverse. Courts often test hostility by asking whether the occupant's conduct clearly asserted a claim inconsistent with the title of the owner.

The Supreme Court has clarified these essentials in several rulings. In *Karnataka Board of Wakf v Government of India*, it was held that a person claiming adverse possession must show that their possession was adequate in continuity, publicity, and extent to give a reasonable notice to the true owner. Similarly, in *Annakili v A Vedanayagam*, the Court reiterated that *animus possidendi*—the intention to possess and exclude the true owner—is critical to sustain the claim. Mere possession, however long, is insufficient unless it carries this element of hostile assertion.

The doctrine remains controversial because it allows a trespasser, by mere lapse of time, to defeat the rights of the true owner. Critics argue that it rewards dishonesty and penalises negligence. Defenders of the doctrine maintain that it promotes certainty in land titles, discourages frivolous claims by absentee owners, and ensures productive use of land. Indian courts have attempted to strike a balance by demanding strict proof from those who claim adverse possession.

[Source: <https://lawbhoomi.com/concept-of-adverse-possession/>]

Q59. Ramesh entered a vacant agricultural plot belonging to Mr. Yadav in 2010 and began cultivating the land. He erected a boundary wall and installed a tube well. Mr. Yadav, who had migrated abroad, was unaware of this. Ramesh continued to use the land until 2024 without any interruption. In mid-2024, Mr. Yadav returned and filed a suit for recovery of possession. Which of the following is most accurate in law?

- A. Ramesh may succeed in an adverse possession claim as his possession was continuous, hostile, and open for more than 12 years.
- B. Ramesh's claim will fail as he was aware the land belonged to Mr. Yadav and hence acted in bad faith.
- C. Mr. Yadav will succeed since he did not expressly permit Ramesh to possess the land.
- D. Ramesh's occupation was not adverse since it was on agricultural land and cannot be claimed against a private individual.

Q60. Sonal occupied an old shed in a commercial plot in 2012 with the oral permission of the owner, who later moved to another city. Sonal began using the shed as a small workshop and paid no rent. In 2023, the original owner demanded that she vacate the premises. Sonal claimed she had acquired ownership through adverse possession. Which of the following is legally correct?

- A. Sonal's claim is valid since she used the property openly and continuously for over 11 years.
- B. Her claim will fail because permissive possession cannot ripen into adverse possession.
- C. She may succeed since the owner made no efforts to evict her for over a decade.
- D. The length of possession alone makes the claim of adverse possession sustainable in her favour.

Q61. Abdul, a tenant, continued to occupy a warehouse even after the lease expired in 2009. He paid no rent thereafter and continued to use the space for storage. In 2023, he filed a suit claiming adverse possession over the warehouse, arguing that the landlord took no legal action for 14 years. Which of the following best applies the law on adverse possession?

- A. Abdul's possession is adverse since he stayed without paying rent or acknowledging the landlord's title for over 12 years.
- B. Since he stayed after the lease ended, his possession is neutral and could turn adverse after 12 years.
- C. His possession is not adverse because it began under a landlord-tenant relationship and lacked animus possidendi.
- D. He can succeed because the landlord failed to initiate eviction proceedings within the limitation period.

Q62. Radha fenced a piece of unclaimed land adjacent to her own plot in 2008, planted trees, and used it as an extension of her backyard. She made no formal claim but consistently maintained it. In 2021, a government agency marked the land as state property and issued her an eviction notice. She contested the notice, citing adverse possession. What is the most likely legal outcome?

- A. Radha's claim will fail as she did not formally notify the government of her occupation.
- B. The government can repossess the land as adverse possession does not apply to public land.
- C. Her maintenance of the land for over 12 years gives her a valid adverse possession claim.
- D. Since the land was unclaimed, she automatically became its rightful owner through use and care.

Q63. Ajay entered into an informal agreement with his uncle in 2005 to live in a second house on the family property. No rent or written terms were agreed upon, but Ajay lived there continuously, paid property tax in his name from 2010, and undertook renovations. In 2023, the uncle's son filed a suit to evict him. Which of the following is most appropriate in law?

- A. Ajay may succeed if he proves his possession was hostile, open, and for the statutory period without acknowledgment of the uncle's title.
- B. Ajay's possession cannot be adverse because of the family relationship and informal consent at the beginning.
- C. Ajay cannot claim adverse possession unless he denied the uncle's title in a legal notice.
- D. Adverse possession does not apply in family disputes due to presumed permissive entry.

Q64. Which of the following best represents the doctrinal justification behind adverse possession under Indian law?

- (A) It ensures that long and continuous possession, even if unlawful, creates certainty in ownership by extinguishing stale claims.
- (B) It protects only those occupants who mistakenly believe they are the rightful owners of the land.
- (C) It allows courts to transfer ownership whenever land is put to economically productive use for over 12 years.
- (D) It primarily safeguards government lands by preventing private persons from encroaching on them.

Passage:- 3 Quashing an FIR is a preventive remedy that allows a High Court to halt criminal proceedings at the threshold where continuing them would amount to injustice. The source of this power is Section 482 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, which preserves the inherent powers of the High Court to prevent abuse of the process of any court and to secure the ends of justice. The power is extraordinary and is used sparingly. The court does not conduct a mini trial or weigh evidence; it asks whether, taking the allegations at face value, the complaint discloses the basic ingredients of any offence and whether the prosecution is a legitimate use of criminal law.

Over time, courts have articulated recurring situations where quashing may be justified. First, when the uncontroverted averments, even if fully accepted, do not make out any offence known to law. Second, where the allegations are absurd or inherently improbable so that no prudent person could conclude there is sufficient ground to proceed. Third, where the materials do not disclose a cognizable offence that would permit police investigation under Section 156, or where the case is only of a non-cognizable nature and there is no prior order of a Magistrate under Section 155(2). Fourth, where there exists an express legal bar to institution or continuation of proceedings, or where a specific statute provides an efficacious alternate mechanism that the complainant should pursue. Fifth, where the proceeding appears manifestly tainted by mala fides or instituted with an ulterior motive to wreak vengeance.

The power can be invoked at various stages, including after filing of a charge sheet. The court then looks to whether the materials collected, even if taken at their best for the prosecution, fail to disclose the commission of an offence or reveal fatal legal infirmities. Quashing on the basis of a compromise is also recognised, particularly in disputes that are essentially private and civil in flavour, such as many commercial and matrimonial matters. The court examines the settlement for genuineness, the nature of the accusations, and the impact on society. As a rule, serious crimes that carry a pronounced public element are not quashed only because the parties have settled.

Related remedies exist alongside Section 482. A person facing false accusation may move an application under Section 156 sub section three to seek a direction for proper investigation, or file a private complaint under Section 200. Where a fabricated case has been lodged, Section 211 of the Penal Code punishes false charges. Section 250 of the Code permits compensation where the Magistrate finds the accusation lacked reasonable cause. Together, these routes deter misuse of criminal process while ensuring that genuine grievances are investigated and tried in accordance with law.

[Source: <https://lawctopus.com/clatalogue/clat-pg/quashing-of-an-fir-under-crpc/>]

Q65. An FIR was filed against Parag by his business partner alleging that he failed to pay an agreed share in profits and used forged invoices in the company accounts. The FIR invoked Sections 420, 468, and 471 of the IPC. Parag filed a petition before the High

Court under Section 482 CrPC for quashing, arguing that the matter was entirely civil in nature and arose from a partnership dispute now settled through arbitration. He also submitted that all financial disputes between the parties had been amicably resolved and mutual withdrawals had been filed in connected civil suits. The complainant, however, insisted that criminal liability existed for the fraudulent use of forged documents and that the arbitration award did not exonerate him from prosecution. What is the correct legal position on Parag's quashing petition?

- A. The FIR should be quashed because the parties have reached a compromise and the matter is entirely civil in nature.
- B. The High Court must allow criminal prosecution to continue since forged documents are involved, which indicates a public dimension.
- C. The FIR can be quashed only if Parag proves that no forgery occurred, irrespective of the compromise.
- D. The High Court must examine whether the allegations disclose ingredients of forgery, and whether the compromise justifies quashing in a civil-commercial context.

Q66. Priya lodged an FIR against her former boyfriend Aryan, alleging that he had promised to marry her, cohabited with her for six months, and then abruptly cut off all contact. She accused him of cheating and criminal intimidation. The investigating officer filed a charge sheet under Sections 417 and 506 of the IPC. Aryan filed a quashing petition, arguing that the allegations did not disclose the ingredients of cheating, and that the complaint was filed due to personal disappointment rather than criminal conduct. Which of the following is legally most appropriate?

- A. The FIR should be quashed because the allegations relate to breach of trust in a romantic relationship, not a penal offence.
- B. The court should examine if the allegations, taken at face value, make out ingredients of cheating before deciding on quashing.
- C. The FIR should be quashed as it arises from a private relationship that ended without criminality.
- D. Quashing should not be granted because charge sheet has already been filed and trial must now proceed.

Q67. A news reporter filed an FIR under Sections 153A and 505 of the IPC alleging that a podcast hosted by comedian Veer contained comments that incited enmity between communities and promoted public disorder. Veer moved the High Court under Section 482 CrPC, seeking quashing on grounds that the statements were satirical, taken out of context, and did not meet the threshold for any cognizable offence. The State argued that satire can still cross legal limits and that the podcast had attracted widespread complaints. What is the correct legal position?

- A. The FIR should be quashed if the allegations do not disclose a cognizable offence even if satire is misunderstood.
- B. The FIR must not be quashed because satire can provoke violence in sensitive regions.
- C. The High Court should conduct a trial to determine whether satire amounts to incitement.
- D. Quashing is not permitted at this stage because public order is a matter of State concern.

Q68. Ritika lodged an FIR against her neighbour Renu, alleging that Renu regularly accused her of witchcraft and spread defamatory rumours in the community. The police invoked Sections 500 and 509 of the IPC. However, Renu filed for quashing, submitting that the FIR lacked any specifics—there were no dates, no witnesses, and the claims were vague. She argued that even if the allegations were accepted in full, no offence could be said to be made out under the IPC. What is the correct legal approach in such a case?

- A. The FIR must be quashed since defamation requires specific imputations, which are absent here.
- B. The matter should go to trial to examine evidence and witness testimony.
- C. The High Court cannot quash since witchcraft accusations are culturally serious and cause public humiliation.
- D. The High Court must reject the petition as it cannot evaluate the evidence at this stage.

Q69. A public servant filed an FIR against a local activist alleging that she had deliberately filed false charges of corruption against him. He claimed this amounted to an offence under Section 211 of the IPC. The activist filed a quashing petition, arguing that she had made the complaint in good faith and under statutory mechanisms for whistleblowers. She pointed out that the FIR was a retaliatory act filed after the Lokayukta began an investigation into the public servant. The High Court found that the FIR made no mention of any material to show that her complaint was knowingly false. Which of the following is the correct legal outcome?

- A. The FIR must proceed since Section 211 is a penal provision and should be interpreted strictly.
- B. The High Court must quash the FIR as it appears to be tainted by mala fides and used to silence whistleblowing.
- C. The FIR can be allowed to continue if the public servant insists that he suffered reputational loss.
- D. The FIR must be referred to the trial court to determine veracity.

Q70. A landlord filed an FIR against his tenant for criminal trespass under Section 447 IPC after a rent dispute escalated. The tenant refused to vacate despite repeated notices. The FIR alleges that the tenant was unlawfully occupying the premises after the tenancy was terminated. The tenant files for quashing, arguing that the matter is entirely civil in nature and amounts to a dispute over possession and not criminal trespass. The landlord argues that once the tenancy ended, the tenant became a trespasser in law. What should the High Court do under Section 482?

- A. The FIR must be quashed because a landlord-tenant dispute is governed by civil law, not criminal process.
- B. The court must examine whether the allegation of "criminal intent" to trespass is made out prima facie.
- C. Quashing should be refused since the landlord has already served legal notices and termination.
- D. The FIR must proceed because unlawful occupation always amounts to criminal trespass.

Passage:- 4 Unfair trade practice under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 captures deceptive or unethical methods used to promote the sale, use, or supply of goods or services. The Act's definition in Section 2(47) is broad: it targets practices that mislead or confuse consumers through false statements, concealment of material facts, or other unfair means. Typical illustrations include misrepresenting quality or grade, bait advertising that dangles a bargain price without a real intent to sell at that price, spurious endorsements, and manipulating reviews in a way that distorts consumer choice. The statutory lens is functional: what matters is whether the practice is likely to mislead an average consumer acting with ordinary prudence.

The 2019 Act created the Central Consumer Protection Authority to police systemic violations. The CCPA may inquire into unfair trade practices, order discontinuation or modification of misleading advertisements, direct corrective advertising, recall unsafe goods or services, and mandate reimbursement or compensation to affected consumers. It can also impose monetary penalties and, where appropriate, proceed against endorsers who fail to exercise due diligence before making claims. These remedial powers aim not only to stop the particular violation but also to neutralise lingering misimpressions in the market.

Misleading advertisements receive special attention. A claim that omits material information, exaggerates efficacy, or makes guarantees without a reasonable basis can be restrained, corrected, and penalised. The penalty framework allows fines up to ten lakh rupees for a first violation and up to fifty lakh rupees for repeat contraventions, with endorsers facing liability if they did not verify the truthfulness of the claims they promoted. The underlying policy is deterrence through swift market facing remedies rather than leaving consumers to slow, case by case litigation alone.

The Act's reach extends into the digital economy. E commerce rules and subsequent guidance caution against dark patterns, fake scarcity, and search result manipulation that nudge consumers into choices they did not autonomously make. Disclosures around sponsored listings and paid partnerships are part of the fairness architecture, reflecting how presentation and design can mislead as effectively as spoken or written claims.

Recent enforcement shows the doctrine at work. The CCPA has penalised prominent brands and platforms for promises that could not be substantiated or that guaranteed outcomes within a fixed time frame; orders have required both fines and consumer redress, underscoring that unlawful claims can be costly even when the product itself is lawful. These actions signal to manufacturers, advertisers, and influencers that compliance is not optional and that omissions are as actionable as outright falsehoods. For consumers, the structure offers layered remedies—administrative orders to halt and correct the unfair practice, restitutionary directions, and the traditional route of complaints before Consumer Commissions.

[Source: <https://lawfullegal.in/unfair-trade-practices-in-india-under-consumer-protection-act-2019-introduction-definition-examples-remedies-and-cases/>]

Q71. Ravix Corp released a fitness smartwatch with the slogan “Drop 5 kilos in 7 days—backed by science!” The packaging made no mention of any study, and the “science” cited on the website turned out to be a 2013 blog post by a fitness influencer. A complaint was filed with the CCPA, which discovered that the product was essentially a regular fitness band with no weight-loss mechanism. The celebrity endorser admitted he used the band for a week but offered no evidence of weight loss. What is the appropriate legal outcome under the 2019 Act?

- A. No action is warranted as the product is not harmful and did not cause injury.
- B. The endorser is immune from penalty as he personally used the product.
- C. Both company and endorser are liable for misleading advertisements lacking due diligence and scientific basis.
- D. The slogan was aspirational, not factual, and thus not subject to consumer law.

Q72. An online furniture store advertised a ₹12,000 coffee table as being available for ₹4,000 “only till midnight!” The site, however, kept displaying the ₹4,000 price for five days straight, resetting the countdown every few hours. A consumer filed a complaint alleging that this was an artificial urgency tactic. The platform claimed this was a ‘promotional algorithm’ and the low price still benefitted consumers. Which of the following best applies the legal principle?

- A. The site committed no unfair practice since no customer was forced to buy the table.
- B. False scarcity tactics that distort decision-making amount to an unfair trade practice under the Act.
- C. The advertisement is valid promotional puffery and not subject to regulation.
- D. Algorithmic urgency is protected commercial speech and cannot be regulated unless fraudulent.

Q73. A popular dental care brand advertised its new toothpaste as “Clinically Proven to Remove 99.9% of Plaque in Just 2 Uses.” The disclaimer in small print noted: “Based on in vitro testing.” The CCPA found that no human trials had been conducted and the claim was not distinguishable from routine toothpastes. The brand defended itself by saying “in vitro” was disclosed and consumers could interpret that. What is the correct legal position?

- A. There is no violation if the technical basis of the claim was disclosed.
- B. Omitting that the testing was not conducted on humans constitutes misleading advertisement and invites liability.
- C. Scientific claims cannot be regulated under consumer law without prior scientific adjudication.
- D. Consumer understanding is irrelevant if the product itself is effective.

Q74. During a festive season, a digital marketplace sent push notifications reading: “All Orders Delivered Within 24 Hours – Guaranteed!” Users who placed orders found the delivery estimate to be 3–5 days due to logistics delays. The platform later added a disclaimer: “Delivery time may vary depending on PIN code.” A class complaint was filed before the CCPA. What is the correct outcome in law?

- A. No violation exists as logistics delays are beyond the seller's control.
- B. Since a disclaimer was added post-facto, no retrospective liability arises.
- C. The guarantee was misleading as it omitted material limitations and must be restrained.
- D. The complaint should be dismissed since most customers eventually received their products.

Q75. A protein powder was endorsed by a celebrity with the tagline "Recommended by National Dietitians Association." On inquiry, it was found that no such association existed. The endorser claimed they had not verified the claim and were unaware it was fabricated. The brand admitted to creating a fictitious name to "sound credible." Which of the following reflects the statutory consequence?

- A. The CCPA may fine the manufacturer but not the celebrity endorser.
- B. Endorsers are not liable unless they are paid for the endorsement.
- C. Fabricated endorsements amount to deceptive practice and both parties may be penalised.
- D. The ad is not actionable since consumers were not compelled to rely on the claim.

Q76. A cosmetics company released a fairness cream ad showing a model's "before" and "after" skin tone transformation, promising "guaranteed results in 10 days." It used image filters and makeup to exaggerate the transformation. Upon investigation, the company stated that no filter disclosures were necessary because "everyone knows ads are stylised." The CCPA initiated proceedings. What is the most appropriate legal conclusion?

- A. Stylisation is permitted in ads unless it leads to physical harm.
- B. Use of undisclosed filters to exaggerate outcomes constitutes a misleading trade practice.
- C. Visual manipulation is a protected form of commercial creativity.
- D. Since no side effects were proven, no case of misleading advertisement exists.

Q77. An online platform ranked consumer electronics based on "top reviews," but it was found that some sellers paid for preferential rankings. The site disclosed "may contain sponsored products" in a collapsible FAQ section. Complaints alleged that buyers were misled into assuming top-ranked products were the best-rated. The platform insisted that commercial arrangements are standard across industries. What is the correct legal consequence?

- A. Vague or hidden disclosures about sponsorship mislead consumers and are penalised under the Act.
- B. Since no false claims were made, no consumer law violation arises.
- C. Platforms are immune unless they directly manufacture the goods in question.
- D. Consumer ratings are subjective and not subject to legal regulation.

Passage:- 5 Restrictive covenants are contractual promises that limit one party's freedom to trade, compete, or solicit. Indian law treats such restraints with suspicion. Section 27 of the Indian Contract Act declares agreements in restraint of trade void, subject to narrow exceptions. Courts recognise that businesses may need to protect confidential information, trade secrets, customer connections, and goodwill, but they test covenants against this statutory bar rather than a free-standing standard of reasonableness.

Employment agreements attract the strictest scrutiny. A negative covenant that operates during the term of employment, such as an obligation to serve exclusively or not deal with competitors while the contract subsists, is usually valid. But once the relationship ends, a clause that restrains an employee from working in the same field or joining a competitor is ordinarily void under Section 27. The Supreme Court upheld in term restraints in *Niranjan Shankar Golikari* while striking a conservative note on post term restraints in *Percept D Mark* and later cases. Recent Delhi High Court decisions continue to hold that post employment non-compete clauses are unenforceable because they impair the right to seek work.

Commercial agreements are treated more liberally because parties are usually on an equal footing and negotiate at arm's length. Exclusivity and non-compete promises that operate during the life of a franchise, distribution, or joint venture arrangement have been upheld where they facilitate the underlying collaboration and do not amount to a blanket prohibition. Gujarat Bottling approved a clause that prevented the franchisee from dealing in competing beverages during the agreement. Courts also recognise the statutory exception for sale of goodwill, under which a seller may agree not to start a competing business for a reasonable period and area.

The subject matter of restrictive covenants is wide and varies with context. Some covenants focus on confidentiality, preventing disclosure of sensitive business information, client lists, or technical know-how acquired during employment or collaboration. Others concern exclusivity, obligating one party to deal only with the other in a defined field or territory. Non solicitation clauses seek to prevent one party from poaching the other's customers, suppliers, or employees. Non-compete covenants go further by restraining a party from engaging in a competing business altogether. Indian courts have generally upheld confidentiality and exclusivity clauses and, in some cases, non-solicitation provisions, while remaining hostile to broad post-employment non-compete restrictions. This subject matter analysis shows that not all restraints are treated equally; their enforceability depends on the precise interest sought to be protected and the timing of the restraint.

[Source: <https://www.klaw.in/validity-of-restrictive-covenants-in-contractsve-2/>]

Q78. Ravi worked as a senior data analyst at QuantNext and signed an employment contract requiring him not to work with any rival data consulting firm for 12 months after resignation. Six weeks after quitting, he joined a competitor. QuantNext initiated proceedings to enforce the clause, arguing that Ravi had access to sensitive market models and client strategies during his tenure. What is the correct legal position?

- A. The clause is valid as Ravi had access to trade secrets and joined a direct competitor.
- B. The clause is void as it restrains post-employment opportunities, which are generally not enforceable under Section 27.
- C. The clause is enforceable only if Ravi disclosed confidential information after joining the competitor.
- D. The clause is valid because Ravi was in a senior role and voluntarily signed the agreement.

Q79. Saffron Hotels and YumWay entered a franchise agreement under which YumWay could not operate or promote any other restaurant chain within the hotel premises during the 5-year term. YumWay later partnered with a rival food brand and claimed the exclusivity clause restricted its trade. What is the correct legal outcome under Indian law?

- A. The clause is valid as it supports the functioning of the franchise during the agreement term.
- B. The clause is void as it restricts YumWay from expanding its business even during contract period.
- C. The clause is void because there is no specific geographic limit to the restriction.
- D. The clause is valid only if YumWay is compensated for opportunity loss due to exclusivity.

Q80. Ananya resigned from Enzene Labs, a pharma research firm. Her contract barred her for two years from soliciting or hiring former colleagues to join her new venture. Six months later, she hired two ex-colleagues. Enzene sued to enforce the non-solicitation clause. Ananya argued the clause restricted her right to build a team. What is the correct legal position?

- A. The clause is void because it limits employment choice for both parties after termination.
- B. The clause is valid as non-solicitation clauses, unlike broad non-compete terms, are enforceable in some contexts.
- C. The clause is valid only if it applies to technical staff and not administrative employees.
- D. The clause is enforceable only if Ananya offered higher salaries to lure the employees away.

Q81. A publishing firm sold its school textbook division along with the goodwill to a larger education conglomerate. The seller agreed not to engage in textbook publishing for 4 years within India. Two years later, it launched a new imprint publishing similar content under a different brand. The buyer sued for breach. What is the correct legal position?

- A. The clause is void because 4 years is an unreasonable time restraint.
- B. The clause is valid only if expressly approved by a consumer court
- C. The clause is void unless the new imprint sells identical books.
- D. The clause is valid as it falls under the statutory exception for sale of goodwill.

Q82. Lata signed an employment contract with InnovFin that included a clause preventing her from joining any competing fintech startup for 18 months after termination. She challenged the clause, arguing it violated her right to seek livelihood in the same industry. What is the legal outcome under Section 27?

- A. The clause is enforceable because fintech involves access to highly sensitive data and client portfolios.
- B. The clause is void as it imposes a post-employment restriction that curtails her ability to work in her chosen field.
- C. The clause is valid if InnovFin can prove actual business loss due to Lata's new employment.
- D. The clause is enforceable if Lata was paid severance or garden leave during the restraint period.

Q83. OmniChem and HelioLab entered into a collaboration to develop a new pesticide formulation. A confidentiality clause barred HelioLab from disclosing any formulation data to third parties both during and after the project. HelioLab later argued that this clause amounted to a lifelong trade restraint. What is the correct legal position?

- A. The clause is void because it restricts business engagement indefinitely.
- B. The clause is enforceable as it protects proprietary information, not market competition.
- C. The clause is void unless it specifically names the duration of confidentiality.
- D. The clause is enforceable only if the formula is patented.

Q84. A beverage distributor had an agreement with a multinational soda company granting exclusive rights for the northern zone. The agreement stated that the distributor could not deal in competing soft drink brands during the agreement. The distributor violated the clause in the final year, prompting legal action. What is the correct legal outcome?

- A. The clause is void because it restricts trade across an entire geographic region.
- B. The clause is enforceable only if the brand was the market leader.
- C. The clause is valid as it promotes exclusivity and applies only during the agreement term.
- D. The clause is invalid unless the distributor had signed a non-compete post termination.

SECTION D: - LOGICAL REASONING

Passage:- 1 India has allowed cotton imports at zero duty till December 31, 2025. The "temporary" exemption from the earlier chargeable 11 per cent tariff comes amid domestic production of the fibre falling to an estimated 311.4 lakh bales (lb) in 2024-25

(October-September), from 336.5 lb in the previous marketing year and the all-time-high of 398 lb of 2013-14. But it's not just lower output — compounded by a 2.6 per cent dip in the area sown this kharif season — that may have prompted the Narendra Modi government's decision. No less significant is the signal it sends out to the United States that has seen the value of its cotton exports slide from \$8.82 billion in 2022 to \$4.96 billion in 2024, largely because of reduced purchases by China (from \$2.79 billion to \$1.47 billion). With China further slashing imports to a mere \$150.4 million in January-June 2025, it means a huge loss of market. No wonder the US wants other countries to buy more. Vietnam, Pakistan, Turkey and India have all done that. India alone has imported \$181.5 million worth of US cotton in January-June, as against \$86.9 million during the first half of 2024. The duty removal is likely to give an added boost to that. The US Department of Agriculture has, indeed, welcomed the move. It sees this as not only increasing US cotton bookings, but also helping Indian textile exporters access cheaper and contamination-free fibre. Nearly 95 per cent of imported US cotton, the agency claims, is processed and re-exported as yarn, fabric and apparel. But it is the optics, more than anything else, in the context of a low moment for Delhi-Washington ties, that's encouraging. Not reviving the stalled trade talks is in neither side's interest. By making cotton imports duty-free, augmenting availability of fibre for its textile industry, India has shown willingness and flexibility to negotiate. It's for the US now to reciprocate, by scrapping the unreasonable and irrational 25 per cent Russian oil import "penalty" on India.

There's a loser in all this, though. The Indian cotton farmer has been deprived of any new cropping technology after genetically modified Bt hybrids, which drove up average lint yields from 302 kg to 566 kg per hectare between 2002-03 and 2013-14. Since then, yields have dropped to sub-450 kg levels, even as cotton has become susceptible to so-called secondary pests such as pink bollworm and whitefly in addition to boll rot fungal pathogens. The results of non-investment in breeding research and development are evident from record imports of 39 lb projected for 2024-25. This double-whammy situation, of technology denial alongside import inundation, has been witnessed even in mustard and soyabean. The Indian farmer can — and should be enabled to — compete, but not with hands tied.

[<https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/editorials/india-has-shown-flexibility-on-cotton-imports-its-for-us-to-reciprocate-10222844/>]

Q85. Which option lists statements that function primarily as **premises (factual grounds)** supporting the passage's argumentative arc, rather than intermediate or final conclusions?

- A. India's zero duty till Dec 31, 2025; domestic output fall (311.4 lb vs 336.5 lb; below 2013–14 peak 398 lb); US export slump as China cuts buys; India's Jan–Jun 2025 imports of US cotton at \$181.5m (vs \$86.9m H1-2024); USDA welcomes move; 95% of imported US cotton is re-exported as yarn/fabric/apparel.
- B. India has shown willingness and flexibility to negotiate; the US must reciprocate by scrapping the 25% "penalty"; therefore, talks will revive soon.
- C. Lower output plus a 2.6% sowing dip may have prompted the decision; thus, the measure is strictly domestic in purpose and not geopolitical.
- D. Farmers were helped by Bt seeds earlier, but because yields later fell, India should reverse the duty waiver immediately.

Q86. Which statement is best supported by the passage, though not stated verbatim?

- A. The duty waiver will permanently restore US cotton export values to 2022 levels regardless of China's demand.
- B. Because optics matter, India will maintain zero duty beyond December 2025 even if domestic production rebounds.
- C. In the absence of renewed technology access and R&D, higher cotton imports that benefit textile exporters can simultaneously worsen the relative position of Indian cotton farmers.
- D. The 2.6% dip in sown area is the sole cause of the decision; diplomacy played no role.

Q87. Which option best captures the author's principal conclusion/policy upshot?

- A. India must immediately hike tariffs to shield farmers from foreign cotton.
- B. The US oil "penalty" is irrational because Russian crude is cleaner and cheaper than all alternatives.
- C. The textile export channel is more important than farm incomes during downturns.
- D. Indian farmers should be enabled with technology so they can compete—rather than be exposed to import inundation with their "hands tied."

Q88. The author contends that "It's for the US now to **reciprocate**" by scrapping the 25% oil "penalty." Which is the **most necessary** assumption underlying this call?

- A. US cotton exporters have formal authority over energy sanctions and will lobby to remove the penalty.
- B. US policymakers both (i) perceive the zero-duty move as a goodwill signal linked to broader ties, and (ii) possess discretionary latitude to lift the oil penalty in response.
- C. Global cotton prices will fall if the US removes the oil penalty.
- D. China will increase US cotton purchases once India alters tariffs on oil.

Q89. The passage suggests the waiver helps India's textile exporters (cheaper, cleaner fibre; 95% re-export) **and** simultaneously portrays the farmer as a "loser" (technology denial + import inundation). Which option **best resolves** this apparent tension?

- A. The policy benefits different segments differently: the export-oriented textile chain gains from cheaper imported fibre, while primary producers—lacking new technology and facing price competition—are hurt; these outcomes can co-exist without contradiction.
- B. Since the US welcomed the move, farmers will eventually gain too, so there is no real tension.
- C. The farmer loses only if China stops buying entirely; otherwise both farmers and exporters win.
- D. The 2.6% sowing dip cancels out all benefits to exporters, so everyone loses equally.

Q90. Which new fact would **most strengthen** the author’s policy stance that farmers must be **enabled** technologically rather than left to face import pressure?

- A. A one-year fall in global cotton prices coincided with a rise in India’s apparel exports.
- B. Several mills report that US cotton has slightly lower contamination, improving machine uptime by 2%.
- C. A credible multi-state field study shows next-gen seed traits and integrated pest management lift average yields back to ~600 kg/ha and cut bollworm/whitefly losses by ~40% within three seasons in Indian cotton belts.
- D. A think-tank projects that zero duty will raise yarn output by 3% even if farm yields continue to decline.

Passage:- 2 From an outside and older perspective, Generation Z is looked down upon as immature. The screenagers of today are presumed to have no social skills beyond typing on a cell phone and no professional skills beyond styling a vintage blazer. These popular notions amongst our elders are mostly easy to brush off — doesn’t everyone have a silly side and a cell phone? While these assumptions may be in good fun and faith, they’re seeping into the minds of hiring managers — just as Gen Z is reaching hiring age.

Nearly half of hiring managers say Gen Z is the worst generation to deal with in the workplace, and six in ten employers say they’ve already fired their recent college graduate hires for unprofessionalism. These statistics worried Gen Z students, as the already slowing job market looks more and more impossible to navigate. Yet what others might say is all Gen Z’s own fault, is the result of a market older generations created.

The dire states of the economy and the job and housing markets are scenarios most Gen Zers are not taught how to navigate, not in early education nor university. A majority of the entry-level job listings still require a good chunk of professional experience, which most new graduates do not have. The most integral moments of our childhood were impacted by an economic recession, and the COVID-19 pandemic claimed our adolescence. Both tragedies impacted us economically, socially and mentally, as many families struggled with unemployment, illness and death. As a result, many Gen Z-ers are unsure on how to handle their finances. The reality many older hiring managers will not come to terms with — at least for now — is the fact that businesses will not survive if they do not hire Gen Z applicants. Besides the obvious fact that Gen Z is the next generation entering the workforce, but because of what we are most criticized for: our use of social media.

Growing up alongside social media, Gen Z naturally knows how to market to a younger generation — a generation that includes consumers that will finance a company into the future. While Gen Z can surely seem immature and unprofessional from an outsider’s perspective, it doesn’t mean we don’t know when to shut it off. Making assumptions about how a Gen Z applicant will perform in a position, just because of their age, is unprofessional and unfair. Gen Z is the future. Instilling confidence and strategic career skills in younger generations isn’t just good for us — it’s good for business.

Q91. Which option lists statements that primarily function as **premises (factual grounds)** supporting the author’s argument, rather than intermediate or final conclusions?

- A. Gen Z is immature but easily trainable; therefore, employers should mandate year-long probation and delay full employment till age 25.
- B. Hiring managers’ stereotypes are harmless jokes; thus, they cannot influence firing decisions in any measurable way.
- C. Many hiring managers rate Gen Z poorly and report firing them for “unprofessionalism”; entry-level ads often require experience; the recession and the COVID-19 years shaped Gen Z’s formative period; Gen Z natively understands social media marketing to future consumers.
- D. If businesses want long-term profits, they must replace older workers with Gen Z because only Gen Z can sell online.

Q92. Which statement is **best supported** by the passage, though not said verbatim?

- A. Allowing age-based stereotypes to shape hiring risks making already tight job markets even harder for Gen Z while also denying firms the social-native marketing advantages Gen Z brings.
- B. Because jokes about “screenagers” are light-hearted, their effect on employment outcomes is negligible in the aggregate.
- C. The recession affected only older generations, whereas Gen Z was insulated from economic harm.
- D. Nearly all Gen Z applicants lack any social skills whatsoever outside their phones.

Q93. Which option **best captures the author’s main conclusion/policy upshot**?

- A. Universities should replace academic curricula with mandatory TikTok courses for all majors.
- B. Employers should blacklist candidates who wear “vintage blazers” to interviews.
- C. Firms should abandon all experience requirements in entry-level postings immediately.

D. Stereotype-driven hiring is unfair and self-defeating; businesses should hire Gen Z and invest in building confidence and career skills, because Gen Z's social-native strengths are critical to future customers and long-run viability.

Q94. Which assumption must **hold true** for the author's survival claim to be persuasive?

- A. Gen Z's social-native fluency yields commercially meaningful access to future consumers that older cohorts cannot **fully** replicate at comparable cost/scale.
- B. Entry-level jobs will always require multi-year experience, regardless of market conditions.
- C. Hiring managers intend to fire a fixed share of Gen Z recruits each year for unprofessionalism.
- D. Gen Z's supposed immaturity will vanish entirely upon graduation.

Q95. The passage reports that Gen Z is widely viewed as immature/unprofessional and argues that firms need Gen Z to survive. Which option best resolves this tension?

- A. The immaturity charges are fabricated; there has never been any evidence of unprofessional behavior by Gen Z.
- B. The same cohort can appear immature in informal contexts yet switch off such behaviors at work; with training and norms, firms can harness Gen Z's social-native strengths without tolerating unprofessionalism.
- C. Because Gen Z grew up online, soft skills are irrelevant to business outcomes.
- D. If a generation is criticized by elders, it cannot possibly be valuable to companies.

Q96. Which new finding would **most strengthen** the author's position that hiring (and upskilling) Gen Z is good for business?

- A. An opinion poll shows older customers prefer email newsletters to short-form video.
- B. A think-piece argues that social media is "overrated," without data.
- C. A multi-industry study finds firms with above-median Gen Z hiring **and** structured onboarding/coaching grew next-gen customer revenue via social channels **28% faster** over three years than peers, with lower cost-per-acquisition.
- D. A survey reports that most managers enjoy mentoring but rarely hire entry-level candidates.

Passage:- 3 On August 11, 1940, Mahatma Gandhi wrote a short article in his weekly magazine Harijan, beginning it with high praise: "Who does not know little Aundh? Little it is in size and income, but it has made itself great and famous by its Chief having bestowed, unasked, the boon of full self-government on his people."

Gandhi was referring to a remarkable decision by the Raja of the princely state of Aundh. In November 1938, the ruler, Bhawanrao Shrinivasrao Pant Pratinidhi – popularly known as Balasaheb Pant Pratinidhi – had granted "full self-government to his subjects". To implement this change, a state constitution for Aundh was drafted by Gandhi, Balasaheb's son Appasaheb Pant, and a mystic-engineer of Polish-Jewish origins, Maurice Frydman. It was enacted on January 14, 1939.

Despite its size – it was about four pages long – the constitution was a deeply progressive document. It guaranteed people of Aundh freedoms of speech, press, assembly and worship besides promising them non-discrimination and universal and free primary education. Most importantly, it decentralised power.

The state constitution established village democracy – a cause dear to Gandhi's heart – with a tiered governance system. It included five-member village panchayats, taluka panchayats, and an assembly made up of panchayat presidents, elected representatives and five nominees of the ruler.

Gandhi admired this change, writing in Harijan magazine: "This small State has always been progressive. The Ruler of Aundh has but anticipated the wants of his people and has even been in advance of them in social matters. The declaration of full responsibility was the natural result of the past acts of the Ruler."

Balasaheb's accession in 1910 was unexpected. Aundh, a small state formed from the remnants of the Maratha kingdom, had come under British control in 1849 after the Peshwa's defeat. By the early 20th century, it was fragmented, with villages in Satara and Bijapur scattered among British-administered lands.

In 1907, Balasaheb's uncle and then-ruler Gopalkrishnarao Parashuram (Nanasaheb) was implicated in a conspiracy to assassinate the British-appointed kharbari (prime minister), Jacob Bapuji. Two associates of the ruler and a prison warden were also accused. To add to the mystery, the investigating officer died of arsenic poisoning. Nanasaheb was forced to abdicate, and, after a two-year interregnum, Balasaheb, then 43, became the Pratinidhi or ruler.

Educated at Deccan College, Poona, Balasaheb was among the few Indian princes with a degree. His teacher, the historian and reformer Ramakrishna Gopal Bhandarkar, left a lasting impression on him. At one of the first meetings of the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Balasaheb donated Rs 1 lakh to produce a popular illustrated Mahabharata.

[<https://scroll.in/magazine/1085341/the-indian-raja-who-gave-away-his-powers-to-the-praja>]

Q97. Which set consists primarily of **premises (factual grounds)** that the passage uses to scaffold its narrative about Aundh's experiment?

- A. Gandhi's village-centrism is superior to any constitutional model; therefore the British should have mandated village panchayats across all princely states.
- B. Aundh's constitution was progressive only because other states were reactionary; hence decentralisation elsewhere was impossible.
- C. The Raja granted "full self-government" in November 1938; a constitution drafted by Gandhi, Appasaheb Pant and Maurice

Frydman was enacted on January 14, 1939; the four-page text guaranteed civil freedoms, non-discrimination and free primary education; power was decentralised via five-member village panchayats, taluka panchayats, and an assembly; Gandhi publicly praised Aundh's progressiveness in Harijan.

D. Because the constitution was brief, it must have been vague and thus undemocratic, so Gandhi's praise was purely rhetorical.

Q98. Which statement is **best supported** by the passage, though not stated verbatim?

- A. Aundh's decentralisation was intended to embed real local authority aligned with Gandhi's ideal of village democracy, rather than merely creating a symbolic assembly in the capital.
- B. The British drafted most of the Aundh constitution and then asked Gandhi to endorse it for legitimacy.
- C. The constitution curtailed freedom of the press to protect village elders' prestige.
- D. Because Aundh was fragmented geographically, the constitution avoided setting up taluka-level institutions.

Q99. Which option best captures the passage's overarching conclusion about Aundh's reform?

- A. Aundh's brief constitution proves that short documents are always superior to longer ones.
- B. The British fragmentation of Aundh made constitutional reform unnecessary and mostly ceremonial.
- C. The real achievement was Appasaheb Pant's mysticism rather than any constitutional change on the ground.
- D. Aundh represents a genuinely progressive and pioneering princely-state experiment in self-government and village democracy, praised by Gandhi and institutionally realised through a rights-guaranteeing, decentralised constitution.

Q100. Gandhi's claim that Aundh's "declaration of full responsibility" was a **natural result** of the ruler's past acts depends on which **necessary assumption**?

- A. The transfer of power was substantive and voluntary—not a token gesture coerced by British authorities—and it rested on a genuine prior track-record of socially progressive action.
- B. The constitution would have functioned even without any village panchayats because Gandhi's reputation alone could compel compliance.
- C. Decentralisation can work only in states with continuous, compact territory.
- D. Any four-page constitution is, by definition, more legitimate than longer ones.

Q101. Aundh was small, fragmented and under British sway, **yet** it produced an unusually progressive, decentralised constitution that Gandhi lauded. Which option **best resolves** this tension?

- A. The constitution's brevity meant it was never applied, so there was no real progress to explain.
- B. Leadership and design bridged structural limits: an educated ruler receptive to reform, aided by Gandhi, Appasaheb Pant and Maurice Frydman, could craft and enact village-centred institutions even in a small, fragmented princely state.
- C. Every princely state produced a similar constitution, so Aundh's case is not unusual.
- D. The ruler's accession after a conspiracy scandal guaranteed that reform would fail, making Gandhi's praise ironic.

Q102. Which new piece of evidence would **most strengthen** the passage's implicit claim that Aundh's model was substantively progressive (not merely declaratory)?

- A. A British memo from 1939 criticises Aundh's donation to a research institute as wasteful.
- B. A travelogue admires Aundh's scenery but does not mention governance.
- C. Archival district records (1939–1944) show village panchayats met regularly, resolved local disputes, increased primary-school enrolment, and enforced non-discrimination directives, with taluka panchayats escalating only complex cases.
- D. A later prince in a different state quoted Gandhi but never created panchayats.

Passage:- 4 Around one-third of people exposed to stressful life events experience symptoms of psychological distress and mental health disorders. One person in three is a striking proportion — especially when life-threatening events such as natural disasters, wars and pandemics impact millions of people.

The traditional view has been that, after experiencing potential trauma, a person either develops or does not develop a mental disorder and, if they do, the symptoms will remain relatively stable for the rest of their life. Despite the undeniable achievements that this binary view of psychopathology has so far facilitated (defining vulnerability profiles for specific mental conditions, identifying modifiable risks and developing effective therapies), a binary lens limits scientific knowledge about the array of potential psychological responses after exposure to risks or traumatic events.

There are seven possible trajectories of mental health response after exposure to trauma. This broad spectrum of possible outcomes suggests that responses to potential trauma are dynamic processes that depend on multiple influences. The authors identify that a stable trajectory of healthy functioning after exposure to a potentially traumatic event (which they define as resilience) is the most common of all potential responses. After examining possible predictors of this outcome, the authors conclude that interventions to promote resilience must shift their focus from single strategies (for example, avoiding a single risk exposure to prevent the onset of a given condition) to dynamic processes. Specifically, Bonanno et al. propose that regulatory flexibility — a process of dynamic adjustment to situational demands — is crucial to promoting resilience after potential trauma. Psychological science is leaving behind a binary and risk-based view of mental health. The shift to a resilience-based approach reveals that individuals' responses to risk or trauma are non-binary and change over time, and opens new avenues for research

about the psychological processes that underlie these changes. Most importantly, this shift from risk to resilience has deeper implications for future psychological science. If individuals' responses to risk and trauma are multiple and transitory, research about single transient pathological outcomes and their treatments might become irrelevant. Thus, the shift to a resilience-based approach will force psychology to revise its objectives — traditionally linked to psychopathology and curing — to include diversity and coping.

Q103. Which set consists primarily of **premises (factual grounds)** that the passage uses to support its move away from a binary lens of psychopathology?

- A. Binary models always fail to help patients; therefore, they should be discarded immediately in favour of resilience coaching alone.
- B. About one-third of exposed people report distress/disorders; there are seven possible post-trauma trajectories; resilience is the most common outcome; interventions should shift from single-risk tactics to dynamic processes; regulatory flexibility helps promote resilience.
- C. Resilience is rare; therefore, most people remain chronically symptomatic for life; dynamic processes are a distraction from proven therapies.
- D. Because wars and pandemics affect millions, binary models must be retained unchanged to maintain therapeutic stability.

Q104. Which statement is **best supported** by the passage, though not stated verbatim?

- A. Because binary models helped create therapies, they remain sufficient for all future research aims.
- B. Regulatory flexibility is useful only for children and not for adults exposed to trauma.
- C. A binary case/no-case frame misclassifies or overlooks many time-varying response patterns, since responses are dynamic, span seven trajectories, and often remain healthy (resilient).
- D. Resilience is common solely because modern disasters are less severe than past ones.

Q105. Which option **best captures the passage's overarching conclusion** about the discipline's direction?

- A. Therapies for single disorders should be outlawed and replaced with national resilience curricula.
- B. The field must ignore pathology and study only wellness.
- C. Researchers should keep the binary model but add a resilience glossary for completeness.
- D. Psychology should pivot from a binary, risk-based lens toward a resilience-based program that treats responses as multiple, dynamic, and changing over time, expanding objectives to include diversity and coping.

Q106. The claim that resilience-promoting interventions should focus on dynamic processes (e.g., regulatory flexibility) rather than single-risk avoidance relies on which necessary assumption?

- A. Dynamic adaptation processes actually vary across situations and can be taught, measured, and linked causally to resilient outcomes across the seven trajectories.
- B. Most people will never need disorder-specific treatments again once resilience training is popularized.
- C. Regulatory flexibility is genetically fixed, so programmes can only screen, not train.
- D. There are exactly seven processes that map one-to-one onto the seven trajectories.

Q107. The passage credits the binary view with important achievements (vulnerability profiles, modifiable risks, therapies) yet argues that psychology should move beyond that binary lens. Which option best resolves this tension?

- A. The achievements are exaggerated; the binary model never produced a single effective therapy.
- B. A model can be historically productive yet presently limiting; the field can retain its useful disorder tools while adding a resilience-based, dynamic framework to capture diverse time-varying responses the binary lens misses.
- C. The resilience model denies the existence of mental disorders; therefore, earlier therapies must be abandoned.
- D. Because resilience is common, any investment in pathology is ethically suspect.

Q108. Which new finding would **most strengthen** the passage's case for a resilience-based, dynamic approach?

- A. A cross-sectional survey finds that people prefer the word "resilience" to "recovery" in questionnaires.
- B. A meta-analysis shows no differences between flexibility-focused interventions and wait-list controls on any outcomes.
- C. A multi-wave randomized trial shows that regulatory-flexibility training delivered shortly after varied traumas yields higher rates of resilient trajectories, faster symptom remission, and better functioning across 12 months than standard single-risk education, with effects mediated by flexible emotion-regulation choices.
- D. A case series finds that avoiding a specific risk (e.g., alcohol) prevents relapse in a subset of patients with one disorder.

SECTION E: - QUANTITATIVE TECHNIQUES

Direction:- 1 In the city of Vidyapur, the annual employment survey across five sectors—Manufacturing, Services, Agriculture, IT, and Retail—recorded the following data for working individuals aged 25–40. The sample size was 10,000 individuals. 40% of them were employed in Services, 25% in Manufacturing, 15% in Retail, 10% in IT, and the remaining in Agriculture. Among those in Services, 30% were women; in Manufacturing, 20% were women; in Retail, 50% were women; in IT, 35%; and in Agriculture, 45%.

The average monthly income in Manufacturing was ₹25,000, in Services ₹30,000, in Retail ₹20,000, in IT ₹35,000, and in Agriculture ₹15,000. Overall, the weighted average monthly income across all sectors was ₹26,500. The median monthly income among all sampled individuals was ₹27,000, and the mode was ₹20,000. The standard deviation of incomes across the sample was ₹8,000. Additionally, the ratio of the total income contributed by Services to that by IT was stated to be 12 : 1.

Q109. How many women were employed in the Retail sector?

- (A) 750 women (B) 1,000 women (C) 1,500 women (D) 2,000 women

Q110. What is the ratio of women in Manufacturing to men in IT?

- (A) 10:13 (B) 5:7 (C) 1:2 (D) 2:1

Q111. If the total monthly income from Services is compared to that from Manufacturing, what is their ratio?

- (A) 120 : 75 (B) 48 : 25 (C) 96 : 125 (D) 12 : 1

Q112. How many total women were surveyed across all sectors?

- (A) 3,250 women (B) 4,000 women (C) 2,800 women (D) 3,750 women

Q113. If Services and IT together contribute ₹130,000,000 monthly income, how much is contributed by Services alone?

- (A) ₹120,000,000 (B) ₹124,000,000 (C) ₹117,000,000 (D) ₹125,000,000

Q114. Which of the following best explains the gap between the median income (₹27,000) and the mode income (₹20,000)?

- (A) The standard deviation of ₹8,000 eliminates all skew, making median = mode = mean.
 (B) The income distribution is perfectly symmetrical, hence median equals mode, causing no gap.
 (C) The average alone explains everything, since the weighted mean of ₹26,500 determines the median automatically.
 (D) The income distribution is skewed downward, with a cluster at low-income groups dominating despite higher middle incomes.

Direction:- 2 A logistics firm uses three types of storage tanks to hold liquids: cylindrical tanks, conical tanks, and cubic vats. There are 4 cylindrical tanks each of radius 3 m and height 10 m; 2 conical tanks each with base radius 4 m and height 6 m; and 3 cubic vats each with side length 5 m. All tanks are filled to 80% of their full capacity. The material cost to build cubic vats is ₹500 per cubic meter of volume, cylindrical tanks ₹450 per cubic meter, and conical tanks ₹600 per cubic meter. It is noted that if one cubic vat were replaced by two smaller cylindrical tanks each of radius 2 m and height 4 m (same fill percentage), the net filled volume decreases by about **20 m³**, and total construction-cost savings are approximately **₹25,000**. Use $\pi = 3.14$

Q115. What is the total filled volume (in m³) of all tanks and vats combined?

- (A) 1,480 m³ (B) 1,560 m³ (C) 1,640 m³ (D) None of the above

Q116. What is the total construction cost of all tanks and vats before any replacement (round off to the nearest thousand)?

- (A) ₹7,50,000 (B) ₹8,20,000 (C) ₹8,50,000 (D) ₹9,00,000

Q117. What is the ratio of the total volume of both conical tanks to the volume of one cylindrical tank?

- (A) 1 : 3 (B) 1 : 2.8 (C) 71:100 (D) 5 : 14

Q118. After replacing 1 cubic vat with 2 smaller cylinders, what is the total filled volume (in m³) of the 2 new tanks added?

- (A) 64.3 m³ (B) 80.4 m³ (C) 100.5 m³ (D) 120.6 m³

Q119. What is the approximate percentage reduction in filled volume due to the replacement?

- (A) 0.8% (B) 1.2% (C) 1.5% (D) 2.0%

Q120. If each cubic vat costs ₹62,500 to build, and each small cylinder ($r=2$, $h=4$) costs ₹450 per m³, what is the net construction cost of replacing 1 vat with 2 such cylinders?

- (A) ₹37,000 (B) ₹38,000 (C) ₹39,000 (D) ₹40,000