

## COMMON LAW ADMISSION TEST

### CLAT MOCK-156 [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.

**CONTENT OF QUESTION PAPER**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Q. No.</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
English Language	1-24	3
Current Affairs and General Knowledge	25-52	7
Legal Reasoning	53-84	10
Logical Reasoning	85-108	18
Quantitative Techniques	109-120	23



NISHANT PRAKASH  
LAW CLASSES

---

Gurukul for CLAT & AILET

## SECTION-A: ENGLISH LANGUAGE

**Passage:-** 1 Indian agriculture has suffered from lack of value addition and organised processing of raw produce enabling better integration from farm to fork. A major reason has been the multiplicity of taxes and state-level duties, cesses and surcharges. The latter levies have, thankfully, been subsumed under the unified Goods and Services Tax (GST) system since July 2017. That process has received a further fillip with the latest GST rate rationalisation exercise. Virtually every agricultural and processed food item will now attract either zero or 5 per cent duty. That includes ice cream, chocolates, biscuits, cookies, cakes, pastries, sugar confectioneries and corn flakes. These were all being taxed at 18 per cent in the mistaken belief that they are consumed by the better-off. The truth is, ice cream is a dairy product containing around 21 per cent milk solids. That's more than the 15 per cent in full-cream milk. The primary ingredient in bakery products and cereal flakes is, likewise, wheat and maize grown by farmers. However, rationalisation isn't simply about lowering rates. The GST Council needs to also be lauded for doing away with the multiple duties on like or similarly-derived items. A good example is skimmed milk powder and butter fat. While both are directly processed from milk, the former attracted 5 per cent GST and the latter (including butter and ghee) 12 per cent. Furthermore, vegetable fats were taxed at 5 per cent, adding to the temptation to adulterate desi ghee with cheaper palm or hydrogenated oils. A uniform 5 per cent GST on all processed dairy products and nil on milk itself makes things simple. The same goes for removing distinctions between loose salted, savoury-flavoured and caramelised popcorn; all will henceforth be taxed at 5 per cent. Previously, chapati, roti and khakhra were leviable to 5 per cent GST, whereas it was 18 per cent on parathas. But now, all Indian breads — and also pizza bread — will see nil rates, thereby ending the scope for classification disputes and bureaucratic discretion. But tax rate reductions and simplification — GST has also been cut to a uniform 5 per cent for tractors, harvesters, threshers and drip irrigation systems — is only one part. Equally important is the unfinished task of reforming Indian agriculture — specifically the dismantling of barriers to marketing, movement and stocking of farm produce. The Narendra Modi government had attempted these reforms through its three farm laws, only to repeal them under political pressure and subsequently violate their spirit by imposing export bans and stocking limits on wheat, rice, sugar and pulses. That stalled reform agenda needs re-energising. Agriculture is too important to be given a cavalier, do-nothing approach. The GST Council's reform should be the start of something much bigger.

[<https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/naseeruddin-shah-writes-whose-urdu-is-it-anyway-10232936/?ref=infinite>]

**Q1.** What does the passage primarily discuss?

- A) The political implications of agricultural reforms in India
- B) The importance of food taxes and their influence on consumer behavior
- C) The impact of GST on Indian agriculture and food industry
- D) The challenges faced by the Indian food industry post-GST

**Q2.** Which of the following words most closely means 'fillip' as used in the passage?

- A) A sudden force
- B) A small piece
- C) A boost
- D) A formal statement

**Q3.** Which of the following reforms is NOT mentioned in the passage as part of GST simplification?

- A) Uniform taxation on processed dairy products
- B) Reduction of GST on tractors and irrigation systems
- C) Exemption from GST on ice cream
- D) Taxation reduction on chapati and roti

**Q4.** According to the passage, why was the 18 per cent GST on ice cream a mistake?

- A) Ice cream is primarily a luxury item, thus should have been taxed higher
- B) The tax rate on ice cream was due to it being considered a high-end food product
- C) Ice cream contains 21 per cent milk solids, which is a dairy product
- D) Ice cream was incorrectly classified as a non-food item

**Q5.** What does the author mean by "a cavalier, do-nothing approach" in the last paragraph?

- A) A method of ignoring agriculture-related issues
- B) A systematic and organized approach to resolving agricultural challenges
- C) A careless and indifferent attitude towards addressing agricultural reforms
- D) A swift and decisive reform process

**Q6.** Which of the following is an antonym of 'adulterate' as used in the passage?

- A) Contaminate
- B) Purify

- C) Fabricate
- D) Ferment

**Passage:- 2** The Delhi High Court's decision to deny bail, once again, to former university scholar Umar Khalid and others in the "larger conspiracy" case relating to the 2020 Delhi riots is a grim affirmation of how special security laws, combined with a deferential judiciary, can transform pre-trial detention into extended punishment. The court's reasoning, which held that Khalid's five-year-long custody is not in itself sufficient grounds for bail, rests on the stringent provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). Section 43D(5) of the UAPA bars bail if there are "reasonable grounds" to believe the accusations are prima facie true, a clause that judicial interpretation since the Supreme Court's Watali (2019) judgment has hardened into a near-insurmountable barrier. By forbidding a detailed examination of evidence at the bail stage, the law effectively forces courts to accept the prosecution's narrative. If the charge sheet alleges a conspiracy and attaches voluminous material, the accused is jailed, sometimes indefinitely. With provisions that extend the investigation period to 180 days and prohibit anticipatory bail, the UAPA creates a legal framework where the process itself becomes the penalty — as in Khalid's case. Courts, however, possess the authority to counter such procedural constraints. Long incarceration without trial has been recognised in rulings as grounds for relief, even in serious cases.

A different Bench of the High Court, while granting bail in 2021 to three other activists in the same case, had ruled that the state, in its anxiety to suppress dissent, had "blurred the line between the constitutionally guaranteed right to protest and terrorist activity". It astutely observed that peaceful mobilisation, however inconvenient to the government, could not be casually categorised as a "terrorist act". The current Bench appears to have ignored this crucial distinction. In treating protest-related speech and organisational planning to blockade roads as sufficient to establish a prima facie case of terrorism, it punishes dissent, precisely where constitutional liberty should have the stronger claim. This approach echoes the dangers embedded in the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita's Section 152, whose vague vocabulary invites the same broad strokes that have been weaponised under the UAPA. Incomprehensibly, the Bench even justified the trial's slow pace, calling it "natural". The price for Khalid is already severe, with his name fixed in the public imagination as a conspirator. When the judiciary defers to the state's anxieties and allows the line between protest and terrorism to be erased, the distinction between accusation and guilt collapses. If prolonged delay is permitted to be a substitute for conviction, the constitutional guarantees of liberty and free expression under Articles 19 and 21 are hollowed out for all citizens.

[<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/process-as-punishment-on-the-umar-khalid-case/article70012339.ece>]

**Q7.** Which option best captures the author's overall contention in the passage?

- A. The High Court's recent ruling is an isolated misstep that can be corrected by minor procedural tweaks within the UAPA.
- B. India's courts should avoid applying anti-terror statutes to protest cases because such statutes were never intended to address public-order concerns.
- C. The confluence of a stringent UAPA bail regime and judicial deference has turned pre-trial detention into punishment and blurred the protest–terror line, hollowing constitutional liberties unless courts actively counter it.
- D. The only solution is to repeal the UAPA altogether and replace it with a narrowly tailored public-order statute.

**Q8.** In the phrase "special security laws, combined with a **deferential** judiciary" (line 1), the word **deferential** most nearly means:

- A. unduly respectful or submissive to another's authority or preferences
- B. formally independent but occasionally cooperative
- C. openly adversarial and confrontational toward executive power
- D. procedurally overburdened and therefore inefficient

**Q9.** Which sentence best and most accurately synthesizes the claim in lines 6–8 while preserving the author's stance?

- A. Because the UAPA is harsh, courts can neither examine evidence nor provide relief before trial, making punishment inevitable.
- B. The UAPA is lenient on investigations, so courts must compensate by denying bail in most cases that allege conspiracy.
- C. As long as a charge sheet is filed with substantial material, the accused must remain jailed and courts are powerless to intervene.
- D. By extending investigation timelines and restricting bail, the UAPA can make the process itself punitive; yet courts retain authority to mitigate prolonged incarceration where warranted.

**Q10.** Which inference about the current Bench's approach is **best** supported by the passage?

- A. It carefully balanced Articles 19 and 21 against public-order concerns and found the latter paramount.
- B. It accepted that protest-related speech is generally immune from any terrorism inquiry.
- C. It treated protest-related speech and organisational planning (like road blockades) as adequate to show a prima facie terrorism case, thereby erasing the protest–terror distinction the earlier Bench had drawn.
- D. It rejected reliance on Watali and urged a more searching bail-stage evaluation of evidence.

**Q11.** Which combination from the passage is cited as creating a framework where "the process itself becomes the penalty"?

- A. Extension of the investigation period to **180 days** and prohibition of **anticipatory bail**

- B. Mandatory framing of charges within **30 days** and automatic **default bail** thereafter
- C. A requirement that courts **call all witnesses** at the bail stage and permit **cross-examination**
- D. The absence of any **charge sheet** coupled with **statutory compensation** for the accused

**Q12.** Which scenario most closely mirrors the logic of Section 43D(5) + Watali?

- A. A tax tribunal that, at the penalty stage, must hear both sides' witnesses and weigh credibility before deciding whether to freeze assets.
- B. An admissions board barred from closely reviewing applicants' portfolios; if a dossier makes a prima facie allegation with voluminous attachments, the board must presume it true and deny admission pending a full hearing.
- C. A consumer court that requires strict proof at the preliminary stage and dismisses complaints lacking cross-examined affidavits.
- D. A labor arbitrator who must conduct a mini-trial at the interim stage, allowing discovery and detailed evidence review before temporary orders.

**Passage:-** 3 I do not claim that I can tell a story as it ought to be told. I only claim to know how a story ought to be told, for I have been almost daily in the company of the most expert story-tellers for many years.

There are several kinds of stories, but only one difficult kind—the humorous. I will talk mainly about that one. The humorous story is American, the comic story is English, the witty story is French. The humorous story depends for its effect upon the manner of the telling; the comic story and the witty story upon the matter.

The humorous story may be spun out to great length, and may wander around as much as it pleases, and arrive nowhere in particular; but the comic and witty stories must be brief and end with a point. The humorous story bubbles gently along, the others burst.

The humorous story is strictly a work of art—high and delicate art—and only an artist can tell it; but no art is necessary in telling the comic and the witty story; anybody can do it. The art of telling a humorous story—understand, I mean by word of mouth, not print—was created in America, and has remained at home.

The humorous story is told gravely; the teller does his best to conceal the fact that he even dimly suspects that there is anything funny about it; but the teller of the comic story tells you beforehand that it is one of the funniest things he has ever heard, then tells it with eager delight, and is the first person to laugh when he gets through. And sometimes, if he has had good success, he is so glad and happy that he will repeat the “nub” of it and glance around from face to face, collecting applause, and then repeat it again. It is a pathetic thing to see.

Very often, of course, the rambling and disjointed humorous story finishes with a nub, point, snapper, or whatever you like to call it. Then the listener must be alert, for in many cases the teller will divert attention from that nub by dropping it in a carefully casual and indifferent way, with the pretence that he does not know it is a nub.

Artemus Ward used that trick a good deal; then when the belated audience presently caught the joke he would look up with innocent surprise, as if wondering what they had found to laugh at. Dan Setchell used it before him, Nye and Riley and others use it to-day.

[<https://englishliterature.net/mark-twain/how-to-tell-a-story>]

**Q13.** Which option best expresses the passage's central claim about kinds of stories and their telling?

- A. All three forms—humorous, comic, witty—are essentially identical in method; differences are only in national tastes.
- B. The humorous story (an American oral art) relies on **how** it is told—often deadpan, rambling, and artful—whereas the English comic and French witty stories rely on **what** is told, being brief and point-driven.
- C. Comic and witty stories surpass humorous stories because they deliver clearer points and end decisively.
- D. The humorous story is inferior to the comic story because anyone can tell it without art.

**Q14.** In the sentence, “**The humorous story is told gravely**; the teller does his best to conceal...,” the word **gravely** most nearly means:

- A. severely, as in causing harm or injury
- B. ceremonially, with formal pomp and ritual
- C. pessimistically, with an air of despair
- D. seriously and deadpan, with no hint that the teller finds it funny

**Q15.** What most accurately captures the **technique** described when the teller “drops” the “nub” in a “carefully casual and indifferent way”?

- A. Announcing the punchline loudly so no one misses it
- B. Interrupting the story midstream to explain why the joke is clever
- C. Concealing the punchline in a low-key, offhand manner so the audience discovers it belatedly
- D. Ending without any punchline so that confusion becomes the humor

**Q16.** Which sentence best condenses the contrast in line 3 without distorting the author's view?

- A. Humorous stories may wander and end nowhere, while comic and witty stories must be brief and culminate in a sharp point.
- B. Because humorous stories always lack a point, they fail, whereas comic and witty stories always succeed.



- C. Humorous stories and comic stories are both brief, but witty stories are long and meandering.  
D. Comic and witty stories wander around as much as they please, while humorous stories must end decisively.

**Q17.** Which scenario most closely mirrors the author's distinction in **method and effect** between humorous vs. comic/witty stories?

- A. A legal judgment that is short, discursive, and inconclusive vs. an academic essay that is long, polished, and meandering  
B. A chef's tasting menu with many abrupt, explosive flavors vs. a single, slowly simmered stew that never quite finishes cooking  
C. A stand-up bit where the comedian repeatedly signals the punchline's arrival vs. a lecture where the professor reads footnotes in a monotone  
D. A jazz improvisation that flows for a long time with subtle motifs and an understated tag vs. a pop single that is tight, brief, and ends with a catchy hook

**Q18.** What is the **best** reading of the author's claim that "the art of telling a humorous story ... was created in America, and has remained at home"?

- A. It is a strictly verifiable historical proposition about national ownership of humor, intended as an empirical taxonomy.  
B. It is a concession that American humorous stories are inferior because they rarely end with a point.  
C. It is a rhetorical, somewhat sweeping national attribution used to highlight the oral, deadpan, artful method he esteems, rather than a narrowly scientific claim.  
D. It shows the author rejects the comic and witty stories as non-artistic and irrelevant to storytelling.

**Passage:- 4** As the fallout from the so-called March For Australia rallies continues, many observers are saying Australia has reached a turning point, suggesting the weekend's events signal a new era of far-right normalisation and political violence.

Given the overt racism of the event and the neo-Nazi attack on Camp Sovereignty, this is entirely understandable.

However, we should be careful about framing March For Australia as an aberration. Portraying these rallies as something new and unusual prevents us from understanding how this situation arose in the first place. This includes the unpalatable truth of ongoing racism and ethnic nationalism in Australia.

March For Australia is not exceptional, nor did it occur in a vacuum.

Consider the similarity between March For Australia and other events here and abroad, such as the Cronulla riots, the English Defence League's activities in the 2010s, the Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville in 2017, the US Capitol riots of 2021, and last year's London riots – to name just a few.

Consider also the similarity between the groups involved in March For Australia and other far-right groups such as the Australian Defence League, Reclaim Australia, United Patriots Front, True Blue Crew and Lads Society, as well as their counterparts overseas, such as the English Defence League, Proud Boys, and many more.

These groups often exist for a period and then disband, only to pop up later under another name. Neo-Nazi leader Thomas Sewell, for example, was previously a member of the UPF, Reclaim Australia, Lads Society and Antipodean Resistance.

While opportunistic, this shows that March For Australia did not emerge spontaneously.

Crucially, its emergence also cannot be explained solely in reference to so-called "extreme" events and actors.

There is a much longer and broader history here.

In recent days we have been inundated with terms such as "far right", "extreme", "extremists", "radical", "neo-Nazis" and "fascism". This is understandable because the events we saw over the weekend were shocking for many people and literally involved neo-Nazis.

That said, an unintended consequence of this language can be that it portrays events such as March For Australia as if they originate and subsist only in the margins of society. This lets "mainstream" Australia off too lightly.

We can see this problem not only in public discussion, but also in research on the far right. For example, the idea that far-right actors are increasingly infiltrating the public sphere is sometimes called "the contagion thesis", which describes a situation in which "fringe" actors come from outside to contaminate and occupy the centre of society.

[<https://scroll.in/article/1086265/why-australias-anti-immigration-rallies-are-no-aberration>]

**Q19.** Which statement best captures the author's central claim about "March For Australia"?

- A. It is not an aberration but part of a recurrent, longer history of racism and far-right mobilisation that overlaps with "mainstream" Australia, so explanations must look beyond fringe actors.  
B. It marks a wholly unprecedented turning point proving far-right contagion has finally reached the Australian centre.  
C. It arose only because of a sudden surge of neo-Nazis with no local precedent or supporting ecosystem.  
D. It is exceptional domestically but comparable internationally, and therefore chiefly a product of foreign influence.

**Q20.** In the line "we should be careful about framing March For Australia as an **aberration**" (line 3), **aberration** most nearly means:

- A. a departure from the expected norm; an outlier event  
B. a deliberate hoax staged for publicity  
C. an inevitable culmination of democratic debate  
D. a minor inconvenience with negligible impact

**Q21.** Which reading of the author's view of the "contagion thesis" (line 19) is **most accurate**?

- A. The author endorses it as the sole correct model since it shows how the centre is always corrupted by external fringes.
- B. The author rejects it entirely because far-right actors never influence the public sphere.
- C. The author uses it to argue that far-right growth is a brand-new, post-pandemic phenomenon.
- D. The author warns that treating radicalisation mainly as outside-in "contagion" understates the longstanding, internal and "mainstream" conditions that enable such mobilisations.

**Q22.** Which sentence **best** condenses lines 7–11 without losing the author's point?

- A. The rallies were unique because previous groups never resurfaced under new names.
- B. Since international events differ, Australian groups cannot be compared to them.
- C. Recurrent events at home and abroad, plus the rebranding and recycling of local far-right groups and leaders, show the rallies did not emerge spontaneously.
- D. Group disbanding proves the far right is fading, so March For Australia must be a one-off.

**Q23.** According to the passage, what is an **unintended consequence** of using labels such as "far right," "extreme," and "neo-Nazis" in public discussion (lines 14–17)?

- A. It persuades extremists to abandon the public sphere and go underground.
- B. It makes such events appear marginal and lets "mainstream" Australia avoid scrutiny for enabling conditions.
- C. It proves that contagion from the fringe to the centre has already completed.
- D. It ensures police and courts treat all protests as violent.

**Q24.** Which scenario most closely mirrors the author's logic about **non-exceptionality** and **recurrence** (lines 6–11, 13)?

- A. A once-in-a-century comet that appears with no prior record and will never be seen again.
- B. Fashion trends that cyclically disappear and re-emerge under new labels, reflecting enduring tastes rather than sudden external imposition.
- C. A lab error that produces a one-off artifact no other team can replicate.
- D. A prize lottery that is strictly random and disconnected from participants' prior behaviour

#### SECTION B: - CURRENT AFFAIRS / INCLUDING GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

**Passage:-** 1 The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council, in its 56th meeting which lasted over 10 hours Wednesday, cleared the next-generation reforms under the eight-year old indirect tax regime. Lower tax burden on common people with sweeping rate cuts and reduction in GST slabs, ease blocked working capital, and facilitate ease of doing business with automated refunds and registration process.

All the rate changes, except those for tobacco and tobacco-related products, will come into effect from September 22, the first day of Navratri, said Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman who chaired the meeting that was attended by ministers from 31 states and Union Territories.

What was supposed to be a two-day meeting got wrapped up in a single day, despite revenue loss concerns flagged by multiple states before the proceedings got underway.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, according to a statement from the PMO, expressed happiness that the GST Council, comprising the Union and the States, had collectively agreed to the proposals submitted by the Union Government on GST rate cuts and reforms, which will benefit the common man, farmers, MSMEs, middle-class, women and youth.

"The wide ranging reforms will improve the lives of our citizens and ensure ease of doing business for all, especially small traders and businesses," Modi said.

[<https://indianexpress.com/article/business/gst-council-approves-two-tier-tax-implemented-september-22-10228654/>]

**Q25.** The 56th GST Council meeting approved a rationalized slab design. Which option best captures the new structure and its timeline?

- A. Two-rate system at 5% and 18%, scrapping 12% and 28%, effective 22 September 2025
- B. Three-rate system at 5%, 12% and 18%, with 28% retained, effective 1 January 2026
- C. Single standard rate at 12% for all items, phased in from April 2026
- D. Two-rate system at 8% and 16%, immediate effect without transition window

**Q26.** Which Constitutional Amendment Act accorded constitutional status to GST in India?

- A. Ninety-Seventh Amendment Act, 2011
- B. One Hundred and Third Amendment Act, 2019
- C. One Hundred and First Amendment Act, 2016
- D. One Hundred and Twenty-Second Amendment Act, 2017

**Q27.** Under the new rate changes, which basket correctly lists items moved to zero GST or lowest slab for daily essentials?

- A. Wheat flour, pulses, edible oil; premium soaps at 12%
- B. Milk powder, cheese, butter; detergents at 12%

Tuesday Mock-2026 NPLC

- C. Rice, sugar, tea; over-the-counter drugs at 12%  
D. Milk, paneer, chapati, paratha; toiletries/medicines/bicycles at 5%

**Q28.** Who chairs the GST Council under India's constitutional scheme?

- A. Prime Minister of India    B. Union Finance Minister    C. Revenue Secretary (Ex-Officio)    D. Cabinet Secretary

**Q29.** Under the revised "sin goods" regime, what is the new tax incidence for tobacco, luxury cars, and aerated drinks?

- A. 28% with an optional cess up to 10%                      B. 35% ad valorem without cess  
C. 28% plus a fixed specific duty component              D. 40% overall rate

**Q30.** Which institutional measure was cleared to expedite dispute resolution under GST?

- A. Operationalization of the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT)  
B. Creation of a National Anti-Profiteering Authority 2.0 with criminal powers  
C. Establishment of State Advance Ruling Benches in every district  
D. Appointment of a GST Ombudsman with binding adjudicatory powers

**Passage:- 2** US President Donald Trump's appearance at the US Open 2025 men's final between Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner proved chaotic and forgettable. His visit prompted heightened security, resulting in long lines that caused many fans to miss the already delayed start of the match. Trump made a brief appearance from his suite around 45 minutes before the match, receiving a mix of cheers and boos in a largely empty Arthur Ashe Stadium. The unannounced visit was short enough that several spectators missed it entirely.

Even when play began, thousands of fans were still far from the arena. Many said they were unprepared for the added security checks at the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center. After clearing the usual security, spectators faced another checkpoint at the steps of Arthur Ashe Stadium, which seats nearly 24,000.

"The enhanced security for the President's visit may have contributed to delays for attendees," the Secret Service said in a statement. "We sincerely thank every fan for their patience. Protecting the President required a comprehensive effort, and we are grateful to the US Tennis community and New York public safety partners for their collaboration and support."

[<https://www.hindustantimes.com/sports/us-sports/donald-trump-faces-backlash-from-tennis-legend-as-us-open-final-arrival-leaves-stadium-half-empty-fans-forced-to-wait-101757309416857.html>]

**Q31.** The US Open begins each year on which date pattern?

- A. First Monday of August    B. Second Monday of September    C. Last Monday of August    D. Last Friday of August

**Q32.** Which body organizes the US Open Tennis Championships?

- A. Association of Tennis Professionals                      B. International Tennis Federation  
C. Wimbledon Committee                                      D. United States Tennis Association

**Q33.** In which year did tennis enter the Open Era, allowing professionals to compete with amateurs at majors?

- A. 1967                      B. 1968                      C. 1970                      D. 1950

**Q34.** Identify the Grand Slam that uniquely avoided cancellation during World Wars and also ran in 2020 without interruption.

- A. US Open    B. Wimbledon    C. Australian Open    D. French Open

**Q35.** What are the men's singles result stated for the latest edition?

- A. Jannik Sinner def. Carlos Alcaraz                      B. Novak Djokovic def. Casper Ruud  
C. Carlos Alcaraz def. Jannik Sinner                      D. Daniil Medvedev def. Alexander Zverev

**Q36.** Who was the first player to complete a calendar-year Grand Slam (all four majors in one year) in 1938?

- A. Rod Laver    B. Don Budge    C. Fred Perry    D. Roy Emerson

**Passage:- 3** The BJP-led National Democratic Alliance is expected to win Tuesday's vice presidential election, although the margin of victory may not be as big as the past few polls, sources told NDTV this morning.

Therefore, the NDA, sources said, is tracking every vote.

The Vice President is chosen by all Members of Parliament via secret ballot.

This means MPs can vote as they wish, though in practice, they do so largely on party lines.

However, cross-voting is common, with ex-Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagan Reddy's YSR Congress and the Bharat Rashtra Samithi of ex-Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao supporting the BJP, on occasion, in the past.

[<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/vice-president-election-race-advantage-bjp-cp-radhakrishnan-say-numbers-9235740>]



**Q37.** Who constitutes the Electoral College for electing the Vice President of India?

- A. Only elected MPs of both Houses
- B. All MPs of both Houses, including nominated; no MLAs
- C. MPs and MLAs of all States and UTs
- D. Only members of the Rajya Sabha

**Q38.** What is the minimum nomination support a Vice-Presidential candidate must secure?

- A. 10 proposers and 10 seconders
- B. 15 proposers and 15 seconders
- C. 25 proposers and 25 seconders
- D. 20 proposers and 20 seconders

**Q39.** Which voting method is used in the Vice-Presidential election?

- A. First-past-the-post with single mark
- B. Approval voting with multiple ticks
- C. Proportional Representation by Single Transferable Vote
- D. Borda count with ranked scoring

**Q40.** Who serves as the ex-officio Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha?

- A. Vice President of India
- B. Speaker of Lok Sabha
- C. Prime Minister of India
- D. Chief Justice of India

**Q41.** Which statement correctly captures the conduct of polling and appointment of the Returning Officer for the Vice-Presidential election?

- A. Polling occurs in Rashtrapati Bhavan; RO is appointed by the President
- B. Polling is at the Supreme Court; RO is the CJI's nominee
- C. Polling is usually in Parliament House; RO is often Rajya Sabha Sec-Gen
- D. Polling is in the PMO; RO is appointed by the Cabinet Secretary

**Q42.** How may the Vice President be removed from office?

- A. Lok Sabha passes a special majority impeachment
- B. Rajya Sabha passes a majority resolution, agreed to by Lok Sabha; 14-day notice
- C. Joint Sitting by simple majority without prior notice
- D. Supreme Court orders removal on EC's reference

**Passage:- 4** The annual Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit has wound down in Tianjin with signals of a closer relationship among its members at a time when the world has been roiled by U.S. trade policies and tariffs.

The two-day event, attended by more than 20 leaders of non-Western countries, was seen as showcasing Beijing's ambition for a new global security and economic order that poses a challenge to the U.S.

In a thinly-veiled swipe at the U.S. President Donald Trump's global tariff campaign, Chinese President Xi Jinping told his counterparts in his opening speech Monday that the "shadows of Cold War mentality and bullying have not dissipated, with new challenges mounting."

The world has entered "a new phase of turbulence" with global governance at a "new crossroads," Xi said, calling for joint efforts to build a "more just and balanced international governance framework."

**Q43.** On membership and partnerships at the 25th SCO Summit, which statement is accurate?

- A. Bhutan became a full member, taking members to 12
- B. Laos was accepted as a partner, total strength 27 (10 members + 17 partners)
- C. Mongolia and Nepal were admitted as observers only
- D. Turkey became a full member, replacing its dialogue partner status

**Q44.** Where is the SCO Secretariat headquartered?

- A. Moscow
- B. Tashkent
- C. Astana (Nur-Sultan)
- D. Beijing

**Q45.** Which initiative was proposed to advance sovereign equality and a just global order, echoing "One Earth, One Family, One Future"?

- A. Eurasian Peace Compact (EPC)
- B. Multipolar Governance Charter (MGC)
- C. Global Governance Initiative (GGI)
- D. Shared Destiny Partnership (SDP)

**Q46.** Which SCO body is recognized as the supreme decision-making forum?

- A. Heads of State Council
- B. Council of National Coordinators
- C. Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs
- D. Heads of Government Council

**Q47.** Which combined statement best reflects the security and political outcomes at the summit?

- A. Endorsed unilateral sanctions; avoided any reference to terrorism
- B. Focused solely on trade; deferred all security matters to NATO observers

- C. Condemned terrorism, opposed cross-border movement of terrorists, rejected unilateral coercive measures contrary to UN/WTO norms
- D. Limited itself to cultural exchanges; proposed dissolving RATS in Tashkent

**Passage:-** 5 The UK on Sunday formally signed the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) trade bloc, a move it says will help grow the country's economy and provide access for British businesses to a market of over 500 million people. UK Business and Trade Secretary Kemi Badenoch, who is also leading the ongoing free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations with India, signed the pact agreed earlier this year during a visit to Auckland and hailed it as a major post-Brexit win for the country.

The UK will now seek to ratify the agreement, which will include parliamentary scrutiny as the CPTPP member countries complete their legislative processes to admit Britain into the trading bloc - of which India is not a member.

"I'm delighted to be here in New Zealand to sign a deal that will be a big boost for British businesses and deliver billions of pounds in additional trade, as well as open up huge opportunities and unparalleled access to a market of over 500 million people," said Badenoch.

[<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/uk-signs-treaty-to-join-trans-pacific-free-trade-bloc/articleshow/101802708.cms>]

**Q48.** On the UK and CPTPP, which statement is accurate?

- A. The UK signed and ratified CPTPP in 2016 as an original member
- B. The UK became the first European country to join CPTPP, with an accession protocol signed in 2023
- C. The UK joined after a referendum of all CPTPP citizens
- D. The UK joined only as an observer without market access

**Q49.** When and where was the CPTPP originally signed by its founding members?

- A. 12 December 2015, Kuala Lumpur      B. 26 January 2017, Tokyo
- C. 1 February 2019, Ottawa      D. 8 March 2018, Santiago, Chile

**Q50.** Which scale best reflects CPTPP's economic footprint?

- A. 5% of global GDP; ~150 million people      B. 10% of global GDP; ~300 million people
- C. 15% of global GDP; 500+ million people      D. 25% of global GDP; 1+ billion people

**Q51.** NITI Aayog's rationale for India considering CPTPP/RCEP membership includes which mix?

- A. Tariff hikes to curb imports; less export exposure; domestic-only MSME focus
- B. Exclusive focus on services exports; no tariffs discussion; avoid new markets
- C. New markets via reduced tariffs; leverage "China plus one"; MSME export boost
- D. Replace all FTAs with bilateral treaties; reduce Asia-Pacific engagement

**Q52.** Which country was **not** among the original 11 signatories of CPTPP in 2018?

- A. Japan    B. United States of America    C. Canada    D. Singapore

### SECTION C: - LEGAL REASONING

**Passage:-** 1 The Juvenile Justice Act has categorised the offences committed by children into three categories — petty offences, serious offences, and heinous offences. Section 15 of the JJ Act provides that in case of a heinous offence alleged to have been committed by a child, who has completed or is above the age of sixteen years, the Board shall conduct a preliminary assessment regarding his mental and physical capacity to commit such offence, ability to understand the consequences of the offence and the circumstances in which he allegedly committed the offence.

Section 18 (3) of the Act further suggests that, if the Board, after preliminary assessment under section 15 passes an order that there is a need for trial of the said child as an adult, then the Board may order the transfer of the case to the Children's Court having jurisdiction to try such offences. Thus, the sole objective of having such a preliminary assessment is to determine whether a child within the age group of 16-18 years should be tried as an adult in case of heinous offences.

What are the responsibilities of the Board? The guidelines further make it clear that the JJB shall be responsible for the preliminary assessment and provide the child, the child's family, and their counsel a copy of the order. It further states that in case the JJB does not have at least one member who is a practising professional with a degree in child psychology or child psychiatry, the Board shall take the assistance of psychologists or experts who have the experience of working with children in difficult times. The child should also be provided with a legal aid counsel through the District Legal Services Authority who shall be present during the preliminary assessment. One of the important aspects of the guidelines is that it mandates experts, who have the required qualification to assist the JJB, to undergo training concerning Section 15 of the JJ Act, 2015

During the preliminary assessment, the Board and experts shall also analyse and take into consideration the Social Investigation Report (SIR), to be prepared by the Probation officer or Child Welfare Officer or any social worker, or a Social Background Report (SBR) to be prepared after interaction with the child or child's family.

The NCPCR is under a statutory obligation under Section 109 of the JJ Act, 2015 to monitor the proper implementation of the provisions of the Act. The guidelines have been made to remove any ambiguity and to clarify the steps that need to be followed while conducting the preliminary assessment. However, the major issue remains the implementation and absorption of these principles in the system, particularly to be followed by the JJB and the Children's Court. A lot of principles which have been made a part of the Act have not been given due prominence by the Board as well as by the Children's Court.

[<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/explained-how-can-a-juvenile-be-tried-as-an-adult-in-court/article66771266.ece>]

**Q53.** Which of the following most accurately describes the statutory role of experts under the Juvenile Justice Act during the preliminary assessment stage?

- A. Experts assist the JJB only in exceptional cases where the child is found to be mentally ill or facing trauma at the time of the offence.
- B. Experts are required to issue an independent certificate regarding the child's intent, which forms the sole basis for transfer to the Children's Court.
- C. Experts with relevant qualifications must assist the JJB in conducting the preliminary assessment if the Board lacks a psychology professional.
- D. Experts cannot be involved unless the JJB formally refers the case for trial as an adult and requests the Children's Court to appoint them.

**Q54. Factual Matrix:** Veer, aged 16 years and 3 months, is accused of orchestrating a large-scale theft from a jewellery showroom involving masked entry, disabling CCTV, and using forged documents. During preliminary assessment, the JJB finds Veer articulate, composed, and fully aware of his actions. A clinical psychologist, called in due to absence of a psychology-qualified member on the Board, concurs that Veer showed adult-level premeditation and comprehension. The SIR confirms no external coercion. Legal aid counsel was present throughout. What is the correct legal action that the JJB should take?

- A. The JJB should retain the matter within its jurisdiction as theft is not a violent offence and Veer has no criminal history.
- B. The JJB must conduct another assessment after consulting the Children's Court since the psychologist was not a JJB member.
- C. The JJB should transfer the case to the Children's Court as Veer satisfies the criteria for adult trial under Section 15.
- D. The JJB must refer the matter to the District Magistrate for independent review before transferring to the Children's Court.

**Q55. Factual Matrix:** Arya, a 17-year-old, is accused of a heinous offence under the POCSO Act involving digital grooming, impersonation, and the transmission of sexually explicit material to a 12-year-old. The Board includes a psychology-qualified member, and the preliminary assessment reveals Arya had a complete understanding of digital privacy, encryption, and evasion tactics. The SBR records multiple days of strategic planning. Legal aid counsel was present. However, Arya's family argues that his exposure to online content made him impressionable and that he merely mimicked online influencers. What is the most appropriate course of action for the JJB?

- A. Retain jurisdiction because Arya was influenced by social media and lacked full maturity.
- B. Transfer the case to the Children's Court as the evidence shows capacity, comprehension, and calculated intent.
- C. Re-open the assessment and include media psychologists to analyse the impact of digital content.
- D. Disqualify the existing psychologist on the Board to ensure a neutral re-assessment.

**Q56. Factual Matrix:** Ravi, a 17-year-old from a rural background, is accused of setting a community building on fire during a protest, which unintentionally caused a fatality. The JJB proceeds with the assessment but fails to provide a legal aid counsel. A psychologist is consulted, and the SIR notes Ravi's limited education, impulsivity, and lack of understanding of long-term consequences. Despite this, the Board concludes that Ravi showed sufficient physical and mental capacity and transfers the case to the Children's Court. What is the legal status of the assessment and transfer?

- A. Valid, because the presence of a psychologist and SIR is sufficient for procedural compliance.
- B. Invalid, as absence of legal aid violates mandatory procedural safeguards, rendering the assessment flawed.
- C. Conditionally valid, but subject to post-facto approval from the Children's Court.
- D. Valid, provided Ravi's family was orally informed of their right to legal counsel.

**Q57. Factual Matrix:** Anaya, aged 16 years and 10 months, is part of a group involved in extorting protection money from local shopkeepers. She allegedly played a secondary role — delivering threat letters but not engaging in violence. A psychologist appointed under Section 15 notes she suffers from anxiety and acts under peer pressure. The SIR states she has been consistent in denying full understanding of the larger plan. Legal aid was provided. What is the most appropriate course of action for the JJB?

- A. Retain the case within its jurisdiction as she did not demonstrate full mental capacity or awareness of consequence.
- B. Transfer the case to the Children's Court since she participated in a heinous act, regardless of mental state.
- C. Refer the case to a special committee under the NCPCR for a more thorough analysis.
- D. Automatically drop charges due to her secondary role and mental health concerns.

**Q58. Factual Matrix:** Nikhil, 17 years and 11 months old, is accused of stabbing a schoolteacher during a pre-planned attack. The JJB has a psychologist member and also consults an independent forensic psychologist. Both reports indicate that while Nikhil had full physical capacity and minimal remorse, he exhibited signs of untreated PTSD due to prolonged abuse at home. The SIR shows that Nikhil led the planning and recruited others. His legal counsel argues that PTSD rendered him incapable of appreciating the consequences. What should the JJB do?

- A. Reject the SIR and rely solely on the expert findings regarding trauma.
- B. Retain the matter within the JJB's jurisdiction since PTSD negates consequence comprehension.
- C. Transfer the case to the Children's Court because PTSD alone does not negate full capacity, especially given his leadership and pre-planning.
- D. Halt all proceedings and refer the child to a psychiatric facility for long-term care.

**Passage:- 2** It is a well-established fact that the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) is both India's water tower and also the critical provider of invaluable ecosystem goods and services. Despite this understanding, there has always been dissonance between the special development needs and the development model being pursued in the IHR. As the economy of the region is dependent on the health and the well-being of its natural resources, plundering the same in the name of development will inevitably and surely lead the IHR towards its economic ruin.

In view of some of the recent judgments of the Supreme Court of India, we seem to be headed towards a more robust rights-based regime where sustainable development would be a fundamental right. The tone and tenor of the Court's judgments highlighting the competing rights of people and nature are a clear sign of the direction in which the development versus environment debate in India is headed. In *State of Telangana and Others vs Mohd. Abdul Qasim (Died) Per Lrs*, the Court had said that the need of the hour is to adopt an ecocentric view of the environment, where nature is at the core. The Court said, "Man being an enlightened species, is expected to act as a trustee of the Earth...The time has come for mankind to live sustainably and respect the rights of rivers, lakes, beaches, estuaries, ridges, trees, mountains, seas and air.... Man is bound by nature's law."

According to this approach, nature is not an object of protection but a subject with fundamental rights, such as the right to exist, to survive, and to persist and regenerate vital cycles. The current development model being pursued in the IHR is in total contravention of this approach. We are witnessing a 'bumper crop' of hydroelectric power stations on the rivers and streams in the IHR, without any care for the rights of these rivers and streams. There is a reckless widening of existing hill roads to four lanes in the name of development — in any case, these roads are getting washed away in many places in the IHR every time a river is in spate.

A post-disaster need assessment report by the National Disaster Management Authority on the floods in 2023 in Himachal Pradesh identified, unsurprisingly, rampant construction in violation of norms, regulations (and even court orders in many cases) right on river beds and flood plains, on the steep slopes, in seismic zones, in landslide-prone areas and the loss of green cover as the reasons for the disaster. The Teesta dam breach in Sikkim and the monsoon floods and landslides in Himachal Pradesh — both events in 2023 — are a stark reminder of the havoc our development model is causing to the environment, ecology and communities, especially in the mountains. The mountains, climate, forests, rivers, air and land all are crying for their right to survive in the IHR. In whatever approach we choose to adopt, whether ecocentric or anthropocentric, there is a need to align aspirations for growth and development in the IHR with the science and the rights of both people and nature.

[<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/the-supreme-court-of-india-spells-the-way-in-himalayas-development/article68328728.ece>]

**Q59. Factual Matrix:** A construction company has been granted permission to build a hydroelectric power plant on a river in the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR). The local environmental authority has raised concerns that the project violates the river's fundamental rights under the ecocentric development model recently endorsed by the Supreme Court. Despite repeated warnings, the construction has begun, leading to significant damage to the riverbed and the surrounding ecosystem. An environmental organization has now filed a case, arguing that the rights of the river have been infringed. The company argues that the project is critical for local energy needs and development, and the harm caused is negligible compared to the benefits. In light of the passage and the principles of the Supreme Court's rulings, which of the following should be the most appropriate legal conclusion?

- A. The construction company should continue its project as it is essential for development and regional energy needs.
- B. The environmental organization's case should be dismissed because the damage caused by the construction is minimal and justifiable.
- C. The court should halt the construction, as it violates the river's fundamental rights to exist, survive, and regenerate.
- D. The construction should continue, but with more stringent regulations to reduce environmental harm and protect the ecosystem.

**Q60.** According to the passage, what is the Supreme Court's stance on development projects that affect the environment in the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR)?

- A. Development projects in the IHR should be prioritized over environmental concerns to improve economic growth.
- B. The Supreme Court advocates an anthropocentric approach, where human needs should take precedence over environmental preservation.



C. The Supreme Court supports an ecocentric view, where nature is considered a subject with fundamental rights, and development must not violate these rights.

D. The Supreme Court believes that environmental regulations should only be enforced when development poses significant harm to human populations.

**Q61. Factual Matrix:** In a small village located on a riverbank in the IHR, villagers have built homes close to the river. Despite warnings from local authorities about the risk of flooding and the impact on the river's ecosystem, the villagers refuse to relocate. A sudden flood devastates the area, causing widespread destruction. The government decides to widen the river to prevent future floods, but this would require displacing the village. The villagers file a petition, claiming that they have a fundamental right to remain on their ancestral land. Based on the legal principles in the passage, how should the court resolve this issue?

A. The court should allow the villagers to remain on their land, as their fundamental rights to property and livelihood outweigh environmental concerns.

B. The court should order the villagers to relocate to protect the river's right to exist and prevent future disasters.

C. The court should strike a balance, allowing the villagers to stay but imposing strict regulations on their proximity to the river.

D. The court should dismiss the case, as the villagers were warned about the flood risk, and the government's actions are justified.

**Q62.** What is the primary reason for the recent disasters in the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR), as identified in the passage?

A. The weak infrastructure of hydroelectric power plants and inadequate disaster preparedness.

B. Rampant construction in violation of norms and regulations, leading to environmental degradation.

C. Over-reliance on rivers for power generation and energy supply.

D. Lack of government regulation in protecting the rights of local communities and indigenous people.

**Q63. Factual Matrix:** In a district in Himachal Pradesh, a private company has built roads through forested hillsides to facilitate easier transportation for tourists. The construction was conducted without an environmental impact assessment. Soon after, during the monsoon season, landslides occurred, causing severe damage to the forest and nearby villages. Local communities claim the construction caused the disaster, while the company argues that the landslides were a natural phenomenon and unrelated to the road project. In light of the Supreme Court's stance on ecocentrism, which of the following would be the most appropriate judicial outcome?

A. The company should not be held liable, as the landslides were naturally occurring and unrelated to the road construction.

B. The company should be penalized for constructing roads without an environmental assessment and damaging the ecosystem.

C. The court should mandate the company to fund reforestation efforts, but allow the roads to remain in place.

D. The government should bear responsibility for approving the project without ensuring environmental safety.

**Q64. Factual Matrix:** A company has been granted permission to extract minerals from a forest area in the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR). The forest is home to several endangered species, and environmentalists argue that the mining activities will severely harm the biodiversity and disrupt the ecological balance of the region. The company, however, claims that it has employed sustainable mining practices, including reforestation and water conservation techniques, and insists that their activities will have minimal environmental impact. An independent environmental report reveals that while the company has taken some steps to mitigate harm, their operations have still caused significant soil erosion and loss of wildlife habitats. The local government, under pressure to boost the economy, supports the mining project, citing economic benefits and employment for local communities. Based on the principles highlighted in the passage and the Supreme Court's stance on ecocentrism, which of the following should be the most appropriate judicial decision?

A. The court should permit the mining project to continue, as it provides essential economic benefits and local employment opportunities.

B. The court should allow mining to continue with additional safeguards, as the company's sustainable practices have mitigated most of the environmental harm.

C. The court should halt the project until the company improves its sustainability efforts and minimizes its impact on endangered species.

D. The court should immediately stop the mining project as it violates the rights of nature, causing irreversible ecological harm, despite some efforts to mitigate the impact.

**Passage:-** 3 Res judicata is a Latin term which mean "a thing adjudged" in simpler terms it means when a matter is already tried by the competent court then the same matter cannot be re-adjudicated by the court on the same subject matter. It helps in preventing the repetitive litigation for the same subject matter as well as it also helps in judicial efficiency.

The doctrine is based upon three maxims Nemo debet bis vexari pro una et eadem causa (no man should be punished twice for the same cause), Interest reipublicae ut sit finis litium (there should be a state interest to end the litigation) and Res judicata pro veritate occipitur (a judicial decision should be accepted as correct).



Section 11 of CPC talks about res judicata it states that no court shall try a suit which is directly or substantially in issue or in former suit litigating under same title and has been decided by the court. For instance, A sues B for damages under breach of contract now A cannot sue B again for the same contract because it has been barred by the principle of res judicata.

There are two types of res judicata first is claim preclusion (cause of action estoppel) and the other one is issue preclusion (collateral estoppel). Claim preclusion bars the party from relitigating the entire cause of action that has been already decided by the court under competent jurisdiction that means even if the parties bring new relief or arguments, they are still barred from bringing another litigation on the same facts and legal theories. In issue preclusion bars relitigating on specific legal issues not the entire cause of action.

For instance, the issue in question have been litigated in prior suit, the issue has reached to its final determinant, the determination of the issue should be essential and the parties should be in the prior legal suit then the principle of issue preclusion applies. The court in both the cases will not entertain the litigation which is barred under res-judicata whether it is with entire cause of action or with specific legal issues.

**Maintainability:** Maintainability of the suit entails the essential legal requirements of the suit to be presented before the court. It depends on various factors such as jurisdiction, limitation period and locus standi.

**Jurisdiction:** Jurisdiction is the court authority to hear a litigation. However, it has to consider two major factors such as subject matter, which is the court's power to address the legal issue presented in the suit, and personal jurisdiction, which is the court's authority over parties involved, for instance, a defendant residing within the court's district, etc.

**Limitation period:** Limitation periods are statutes of limitation. If the parties fail to file suit within a specified time period, they are barred from being heard by the court.

**Locus Standi:** The plaintiff must be directly or indirectly affected by the defendant's action. If there is no personal stake in the outcome of the case, the court may refrain from hearing the dispute and will dismiss the case.

**Maintainability in Res-judicata:** Maintainability determines whether the suit is eligible to be presented before the court and res judicata bars the suit to be presented before the court if the suit is not definitely decided on entire claim and specific issues involved. Let us understand it better through case study.

[<https://www.legalserviceindia.com/legal/article-17738-maintainability-of-suit-with-reference-to-res-judicata-and-res-sub-judice.html>]

**Q65. Factual Matrix:** A files a suit against B claiming breach of contract and seeking damages of ₹5,00,000. The court dismisses the suit, holding that there was no breach. A later files a new suit against B, citing the same contract but now seeking specific performance rather than damages. B argues that the new suit is barred by res judicata. **Which of the following correctly explains the legal position?**

- A. The new suit is barred only if A raised the relief of specific performance in the earlier suit and it was rejected.
- B. The new suit is not barred because specific performance is a different remedy and was not sought earlier.
- C. The new suit is barred as the issue of breach—the foundational cause of action—has already been adjudicated.
- D. The new suit is maintainable if A alleges a different date of breach from the first suit.

**Q66. Factual Matrix:** C files a suit against D to determine ownership of a piece of land. The court rules in C's favour. Later, C sues D for trespass on the same land. D argues that the issue of ownership should not be re-litigated. What should the court decide?

- A. The issue of ownership is closed and cannot be re-litigated, as it was essential to the previous suit.
- B. The court must reconsider ownership because the new claim is based on trespass, not title.
- C. The court can revisit the title issue if new evidence surfaces regarding land registration.
- D. Ownership can be reopened only if the second suit seeks a different relief than the first.

**Q67. Factual Matrix:** E sues F for breach of a lease agreement. The court rules in favour of F. E now sues F in a different court, again alleging breach, but claims the previous court lacked jurisdiction. F invokes res judicata. **What should the court decide?**

- A. Res judicata does not apply if the earlier court lacked subject-matter jurisdiction.
- B. Res judicata applies because the issue of jurisdiction was not raised in the first case and the judgment attained finality.
- C. The new suit is maintainable if E was unaware of the jurisdictional defect earlier.
- D. Res judicata applies only if the earlier judgment explicitly discussed jurisdiction.

**Q68. Factual Matrix:** G sues H for defamation arising from a newspaper article. The court dismisses the suit. Later, G files another defamation suit for the same article, claiming new damaging interpretations of the language have emerged. **How should the court rule?**

- A. The new suit is barred under res judicata since the defamation claim relates to the same publication.
- B. The new suit is maintainable if the newly discovered harm was unforeseeable during the first suit.
- C. The new suit is maintainable if G alleges a separate instance of republication by H.
- D. The new suit is barred if the new harm was discoverable during the earlier suit with due diligence.

**Q69. Factual Matrix:** X files a suit to partition ancestral property. The court dismisses it on the ground that X has no legal status as a coparcener. X then files a fresh suit claiming a declaration of status as a coparcener based on an unregistered family settlement deed. **What is the court likely to decide?**

- A. The suit is barred under res judicata as locus standi has already been finally determined.
- B. The suit is maintainable because the second case raises a new legal issue—status under a deed.
- C. The suit is barred only if the settlement deed was available in the earlier case.
- D. The court may allow the new suit if X now claims rights through a different legal lineage.

**Q70.** What does the maxim "Res judicata pro veritate occipitur" signify in the context of the doctrine of res judicata?

- A. A party may bring new litigation on the same issue if it believes the prior decision was incorrect.
- B. A judgment is presumed correct in law and fact, and must be accepted as conclusive by all future courts.
- C. A case may be reopened only if new material facts emerge post-judgment.
- D. The doctrine only applies when the same parties are involved and no appeal is filed.

**Passage:- 4** In India, influencer marketing has seen tremendous growth, largely driven by the digitalization of content consumption and the expansion of affordable internet access. Influencers in sectors such as fashion, beauty, fitness, and technology have built large audiences that trust their opinions and recommendations. Brands increasingly collaborate with influencers to reach niche markets through personalized, seemingly authentic content, leading to significant shifts in consumer behavior.

The Consumer Protection Act, 2019: The Consumer Protection Act, 2019, serves as a cornerstone for regulating misleading advertisements, including those propagated by social media influencers. Under this Act, influencers are treated as endorsers, and they are held responsible for ensuring that their endorsements do not deceive or mislead consumers. The law also addresses the liability of both influencers and the brands they promote if false claims are made. Section 21 of the Act grants the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) the power to investigate misleading advertisements and take action against endorsers. If an influencer is found promoting false or misleading advertisements, they can face penalties, including fines of up to ₹10 lakh for a first offense, which can escalate to ₹50 lakh and a ban from endorsing any product for subsequent violations. In severe cases, repeated violations may even result in imprisonment. This Act represents a significant step toward ensuring accountability in influencer marketing, as it places the onus on influencers to verify the accuracy of the claims they make about products or services. Influencers must now conduct due diligence before promoting any brand to avoid legal repercussions.

Guidelines for Prevention of Misleading Advertisements and Endorsements for Misleading Advertisements, 2022: The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Government of India, recognized the growing impact of social media influencers and introduced the Guidelines for Prevention of Misleading Advertisements and Endorsements for Misleading Advertisements in June 2022. These guidelines explicitly address influencer marketing and aim to ensure that consumers can easily distinguish between genuine content and paid promotions. Key provisions of these guidelines include:

**Mandatory Disclosures:** Influencers must clearly disclose any material connection between themselves and the brands they promote. This includes paid partnerships, free products, or other forms of compensation. The disclosure must be "clear, prominent, and hard to miss" and should be made in a language and manner that the average consumer can easily understand. Common hashtags like #ad, #sponsored, or #partnership are typically used, but the guidelines emphasize that these should be sufficiently visible and not hidden in captions or tags.

**Truthful Endorsements:** Influencers are required to provide truthful representations of the products they endorse. Exaggerated claims, misleading visuals, or unverified testimonials are strictly prohibited. For example, if an influencer endorses a cosmetic product claiming it cures a skin condition without scientific backing, both the influencer and the brand can be held accountable.

**Due Diligence by Influencers:** The guidelines impose a responsibility on influencers to exercise due diligence before endorsing a product. They must ensure that they have used or adequately researched the product to avoid promoting unsafe or harmful products to their audience.

Failure to comply with these guidelines can lead to penalties, including fines or bans from social media platforms. These guidelines reflect a proactive effort by the government to ensure that influencer marketing is transparent and ethical.

[<https://www.legalserviceindia.com/legal/article-18250-regulating-social-media-influencers-a-legal-perspective-in-india.html>]

**Q71.** Isha, a wellness influencer with over 1.2 million followers, regularly posts about plant-based supplements. She enters into a partnership with a nutrition startup that sends her a box of capsules with herbal ingredients. Isha is paid ₹4 lakh to promote the product and is given a script describing it as "clinically tested" and "ideal for boosting women's immunity." Without verifying the script or confirming the "clinically tested" claim, Isha uploads a video stating she has taken the product daily and feels a "massive improvement." However, she has never taken the supplement. Within weeks, several users report allergic reactions and the startup is found to have no clinical trials for the product. Isha's video did not carry a #sponsored tag or any disclosure of payment. **Which of the following best explains Isha's legal liability?**

- (A) Isha is liable only if the startup explicitly told her the product was not clinically tested and she endorsed it anyway.
- (B) Isha is liable because she failed to disclose her material connection to the brand and falsely endorsed the product's effects without due diligence.

- (C) Isha is not liable because responsibility for scientific testing lies with the manufacturer, not the influencer.  
(D) Isha is not liable as she was simply reading from a script provided by the startup and her statements were not her own.

**Q72.** Nikhil, a travel influencer, receives a free backpack from a luxury outdoor gear company. Though not paid, he is told to post about the bag's water resistance. Nikhil films a reel where he walks through heavy rain with the bag and claims, "This bag kept my laptop bone-dry even after 2 hours in the storm!" In reality, he had filmed the video under a tap and hadn't tested the bag outdoors. The video gains traction and leads to several complaints when users discover the bag is only splash-resistant. The reel included no #gifted or #ad tags. **Which of the following most accurately captures Nikhil's legal breach?**

- (A) Nikhil is not liable as he wasn't paid and his endorsement was just a personal review.  
(B) Nikhil is liable only if the gear company confirms they asked him to stage the scene.  
(C) Nikhil is liable because he created misleading visuals and failed to disclose his material connection, even though he wasn't paid.  
(D) Nikhil is not liable because the video did not include any verbal falsehoods, only implied messaging.

**Q73.** Ritika, a tech influencer, was invited by a startup to promote a smart water bottle that allegedly tracks hydration levels through a mobile app. The startup had applied for a medical-grade IoT certification but hadn't received approval. Ritika posted a glowing YouTube review, claiming "This bottle has changed my health game entirely" and tagged it as #techreview with no disclosure of the ₹2 lakh she was paid. A few weeks later, the government issued a warning that the bottle had unverified features and could interfere with pacemakers. Ritika argues she was unaware of the certification status. **Is Ritika legally liable under Indian law?**

- (A) No, Ritika is not liable because she was unaware of the product's lack of certification.  
(B) Yes, Ritika is liable because she failed to conduct due diligence and did not disclose her financial arrangement.  
(C) Yes, Ritika is automatically liable for all government warnings issued after she posts a review.  
(D) No, Ritika is not liable if the startup misled her about the approval status.

**Q74.** Dev, a fitness influencer, posts about a new energy drink brand, stating, "I've been drinking this for a week and I feel more focused during my workouts." He was paid ₹1 lakh for the post, which included #partner in small text at the end of the caption. A government lab later issues a notice saying the drink contains banned substances. Dev argues his post was subjective and based on his own feeling, not a scientific claim. **What is the legal implication of Dev's post?**

- (A) Dev is not liable because he used the product and merely stated his opinion.  
(B) Dev is liable because he made a factual endorsement about performance without verifying the product's safety.  
(C) Dev is not liable because the brand is solely responsible for product content.  
(D) Dev is liable only if the disclosure hashtag was not included anywhere in the post.

**Q75.** Aman, a prominent gadget reviewer, is known for endorsing products from a certain electronics brand. Over a span of two months, he posts four separate videos about their smart speakers, repeatedly stating that "they adapt to your voice better than any competitor" and "use next-gen AI." A consumer rights organization reveals that the brand's technology uses generic open-source voice modules with no unique AI components. The CCPA issues notices to both the brand and Aman. Aman argues he was relying on press releases from the company and has no technical background to verify these claims. **Which of the following best reflects Aman's legal position?**

- (A) Aman is not liable because he is not technically qualified to assess AI claims and relied on brand-provided information.  
(B) Aman is not liable as long as his review included positive personal impressions and was not purely factual.  
(C) Aman is liable only if the company did not include a disclaimer in its press release.  
(D) Aman is liable because he failed to verify exaggerated technical claims and repeatedly misled consumers without due diligence.

**Q76.** Naina, a parenting blogger, posts about a baby lotion brand, stating that "this is the safest lotion I've used on my child." The brand had sent her 6 months' worth of products and a voucher, but there was no money involved. She included the hashtag #gifted in a story that expired in 24 hours, while the main post remained on her page without any disclosure. Months later, complaints arise about rashes caused by the lotion. A user sues Naina for misleading promotion. **What legal principle would apply here?**

- (A) Naina is not liable because she was not paid and the endorsement was based on her personal use.  
(B) Naina is liable because her disclosure was not sufficiently clear and persistent, and she exaggerated the safety claim.  
(C) Naina is not liable as the story tagged #gifted was enough to inform viewers of the material connection.  
(D) Naina is liable only if it is proven that she knew about the product's potential side effects.

**Q77.** What is the primary purpose of the Guidelines for Prevention of Misleading Advertisements and Endorsements introduced in 2022?

- (A) To ensure that influencers promote products ethically by making necessary disclosures and avoiding misleading claims.  
(B) To impose heavy penalties on brands that collaborate with influencers for advertising products.

- (C) To protect influencers from being held accountable for false claims made by the brands they endorse.  
(D) To prevent influencers from endorsing any product that has not been scientifically tested or approved.

**Passage:-** 5 Trademark infringement occurs when an unauthorized party uses a mark that is identical or deceptively similar to a registered trademark, causing confusion among consumers regarding the source of goods or services. Under the Trade Marks Act, 1999, only registered trademarks can be infringed, and proprietors have the right to take legal action against such unauthorized use.

**Elements of Trademark Infringement**

1. Use of an Identical or Deceptively Similar Mark – If a mark is visually, phonetically, or conceptually similar to a registered trademark and is used for identical or similar goods/services, it may amount to infringement.
2. Likelihood of Confusion – If the average consumer is likely to mistake the infringing mark for the registered one, the trademark owner can seek legal protection.
3. Association with a Registered Mark – Even if confusion does not occur, unauthorized use that suggests a connection with a well-known trademark may be considered infringement.
4. Use in the Course of Trade – The infringing mark must be used in a commercial setting, such as branding, advertising, or packaging, to establish infringement.

On the other hand, passing off is a common law remedy available to protect unregistered trademarks. Unlike infringement, which applies only to registered trademarks, passing off prevents businesses from misrepresenting their goods or services as those of another. The "Classic Trinity" Test developed in *Reckitt & Colman Ltd. v. Borden Inc.* (1990) is used to determine passing off:

1. Goodwill – The plaintiff must establish that their brand has a reputation and consumer recognition in the market.
2. Misrepresentation – The defendant must have misrepresented their goods/services in a way that causes consumers to associate them with the plaintiff's brand.
3. Damage – The plaintiff must prove that such misrepresentation has caused or is likely to cause damage to their business, reputation, or goodwill.

Unlike statutory trademark infringement, where confusion is presumed if marks are similar, passing off requires the plaintiff to prove all three elements. Even without a registered trademark, businesses can sue under passing off if they have an established market presence. While infringement is a statutory remedy under the Trade Marks Act, 1999, passing off is a common law remedy that protects unregistered trademarks based on goodwill and reputation. Both are crucial in ensuring fair competition and preventing misleading practices in the market. The broad scope of passing off allows businesses without registered marks to still seek legal recourse against unfair trade practices.

[Source: <https://www.jainandpartners.com/blog/details/article-on-trademark-infringement/27>]

**Q78.** Nextron Ltd., a major laptop manufacturer with a registered trademark "Nextron," files a lawsuit against TechDock, a third-party accessories company that sells charging cables online using the tagline, "Works with Nextron devices." TechDock does not use the Nextron logo or font and clearly states, "This product is not affiliated with Nextron Ltd." Nextron argues that this constitutes trademark infringement because customers may assume official association. Which of the following best reflects the legal position?

- A. TechDock has committed infringement because it used the registered trademark "Nextron," creating potential association and misleading consumers about the product's source.
- B. Since TechDock used the name "Nextron" descriptively and added a disclaimer clarifying lack of affiliation, this likely falls within permissible descriptive use and does not amount to infringement.
- C. The disclaimer is irrelevant under trademark law, and any use of a registered mark by a third party automatically constitutes infringement.
- D. TechDock's use is permitted because it operates in a different industry segment and is not a competitor of Nextron Ltd.

**Q79.** GreenSpark, a startup selling eco-friendly soaps, operates under an unregistered name but has gained recognition through social media marketing. Another company, Spark Naturals, launches a similar eco-soap line under that name. Despite the similarity, Spark Naturals does not claim any connection to GreenSpark and uses different packaging and slogans. GreenSpark sues for passing off. Which of the following best reflects the likely legal outcome?

- A. Spark Naturals is liable because the names are similar, and GreenSpark has been in the market longer.
- B. GreenSpark can succeed only if it proves Spark Naturals misrepresented its product as being affiliated with or originating from GreenSpark.
- C. Since Spark Naturals never claimed connection and uses distinct branding, GreenSpark's claim of passing off will automatically succeed.
- D. Passing off claims do not apply to eco-products, as the consumer base is niche and unlikely to be misled.

**Q80.** "FinSage," a registered trademark used by a fintech company, becomes widely known among online users. Later, a startup in the education tech space launches a platform named "FinSaaj," providing financial literacy content. While both names are phonetically similar, the logos and business models differ. FinSage sues for infringement, alleging consumer confusion due to brand similarity. Which of the following best describes the legal position?

- A. The names are not identical and the industries differ, so infringement cannot be established.



- B. FinSaaJ's services in education are distinct enough to eliminate the possibility of confusion and therefore not infringing.
- C. Trademark infringement may still occur if the names are phonetically similar and there is likelihood of confusion among consumers, regardless of business model differences.
- D. The case cannot proceed unless FinSage proves deliberate copying by FinSaaJ.

**Q81.** Zephyr Drinks, a registered beverage brand, finds that a lifestyle blog titled "Zephyrs of Summer" is gaining popularity. The blog sells branded merchandise including mugs and shirts with the word "Zephyrs" in a stylized form similar to Zephyr Drinks' logo. Zephyr Drinks sues for infringement. Which of the following best explains the likely result?

- A. There is no infringement because blogs are non-commercial platforms and exempt from trademark law.
- B. Since the mark is not used on beverages, there is no infringement even if the stylization is similar.
- C. Zephyr Drinks will likely succeed because the mark is being used in a commercial context and creates an association with the registered mark.
- D. Infringement cannot occur unless there is evidence of actual financial loss to Zephyr Drinks.

**Q82.** Amit, a local baker, uses the name "ChocoCharm" for his boutique pastry business. Though unregistered, the brand is widely recognized in his city. A national franchise registers the mark "ChocoCharm" and begins expansion. Amit files a suit against the franchise for passing off. **Which of the following is most accurate?**

- A. Amit has no remedy because the other party owns the registered mark.
- B. As an unregistered user with market goodwill, Amit may succeed in passing off if he can prove reputation and misrepresentation.
- C. Only registered trademark owners can claim infringement or passing off under Indian law.
- D. The national franchise cannot be liable if it was unaware of Amit's local presence.

**Q83.** "BlueHarvest Organics" is a farm-to-table food brand with a registered mark. A third-party delivery app creates a banner ad saying "Now delivering BlueHarvest-quality products," but does not actually list or partner with the brand. BlueHarvest sues for trademark infringement and passing off. **Which of the following is most accurate?**

- A. There is no violation since the app did not use the exact name or sell BlueHarvest's products.
- B. The advertisement misleads consumers into associating the app with BlueHarvest and may amount to both infringement and passing off.
- C. Passing off is not possible as the app did not sell physical goods using BlueHarvest's brand.
- D. Infringement cannot be proved as the ad used a phrase, not the registered mark itself.

**Q84.** Which of the following correctly contrasts statutory trademark infringement with passing off?

- A. Infringement requires proof of goodwill, while passing off is established once similarity is shown.
- B. Passing off only applies where a mark is identical, unlike infringement which is broader.
- C. Infringement applies to registered trademarks and assumes confusion, whereas passing off applies to unregistered marks and requires proof of goodwill, misrepresentation, and damage.
- D. Both infringement and passing off require that the mark be registered under the Trade Marks Act, 1999.

#### SECTION D: - CRITICAL REASONING

**Passage:- 1** For the past decade, if not longer, India has been touting a multipolar world. One cannot wish a multipolar world into being, though sometimes this is what Indian policymakers seem almost to suggest: The world either has several poles of strength, or it does not. Right now, it does not, with the US and China pre-eminent by a huge distance. The crisis with the US, however, is giving us a glimpse of a multipolar world. That glimpse is unsettling.

Having fantasised about multipolarity and brandished it as a good thing, we are now getting a ringside look at what it might entail. International Relations scholars are familiar with the debate on whether a bipolar or multipolar world is a more stable one, where stability means the absence of great power conflict and war. Probably the balance of scholarly opinion is that a bipolar world is the more stable since the two primary powers must only worry about each other. Their interactions, therefore, are more predictable even if they don't like each other. A multipolar world, by contrast, has been thought to be less stable since multipolarity implies at least three more or less equal powers (and more likely, four or five co-equal powers).

In such a world, keeping track of the interests, ambitions, and moves of several other powers is much more difficult. Permutations of allies and alliances can be quite dizzying, just by the mathematics of permutations.

We in India have favoured the emergence of multipolarity in the sense that it promises greater fluidity and choice in our external relations. But these must be balanced against the uncertainties let loose by three or more contending and mutually suspicious powers, all looking in several directions at the same time.

In saying all this, I am not advocating that the world remain bipolar. That the world will be increasingly multipolar in the years and decades ahead is fairly sure. If multipolarity is coming, we should prepare ourselves for what it means. US President Donald Trump, with his explosive economic policies towards India and his diplomatic finger-wagging, has given us a glimpse into what a multipolar world, in which India is still a distinctly secondary power, will be like.



First, as noted, it will feature much greater uncertainty. Until a few weeks ago, New Delhi could count on the US being positively disposed towards India and willing to take on a disproportionate share of the costs of a budding partnership. Can we really count on this looking ahead, even in a post-Trump era? Whatever happens internally in the US after Trump, can New Delhi ever count on returning to that cosy certainty?

[<https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/so-this-is-what-multipolarity-looks-like-10232941/>]

**Q85.** Which statement best captures the author's overall conclusion?

- A. Multipolarity is likely and, though it promises choice for India, it brings greater uncertainty—especially about US reliability—so India should prepare for its implications rather than romanticise it.
- B. Because bipolarity is more stable, the world should remain bipolar and India ought to oppose any shift to multipolarity.
- C. The world is already fully multipolar, and India must immediately pivot away from the US.
- D. President Trump's policies prove the United States is permanently hostile to India and therefore an unreliable partner in all futures.

**Q86.** Which of the following is a stated premise that the author uses to support his position about preparing for multipolarity?

- A. Scholarly opinion generally holds bipolarity to be more stable and predictable than multipolarity.
- B. Indian policymakers have never supported multipolarity and always preferred bipolarity.
- C. Multipolarity necessarily means all major powers will be friendly to India.
- D. Trump's actions are the sole determinant of India's strategic environment.

**Q87.** Which inference is best supported by the passage?

- A. If the US domestic political situation stabilises, India can again expect the US to bear disproportionate partnership costs indefinitely.
- B. India's advocacy of multipolarity was a mistake and must be abandoned immediately in favour of non-alignment.
- C. China will certainly replace the US as India's principal security partner in a multipolar world.
- D. Even if Trump exits, India cannot safely assume a return to automatic US largesse and must reassess prior expectations.

**Q88.** The recommendation that "we should prepare ourselves for what [multipolarity] means" relies on which unstated but necessary assumption?

- A. Multipolarity can be delayed indefinitely if India resists it.
- B. India's external choices are irrelevant to outcomes in a multipolar system.
- C. Proactive preparation can meaningfully mitigate risks arising from increased uncertainty in a multipolar world.
- D. Bipolarity is normatively undesirable and therefore irrelevant to policy analysis.

**Q89.** Which new piece of information would most strengthen the author's case that India should prepare for the uncertainties of a more multipolar order?

- A. Several US think-tanks praise India's democracy in annual reports.
- B. Recent US policy memoranda indicate a shift to stricter burden-sharing and more transactional ties with partners, including India.
- C. A bilateral cultural exchange programme between India and the US is expanded.
- D. An opinion poll shows Indian citizens broadly like American popular culture.

**Q90.** Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the author's claim that multipolarity is inherently less predictable and thus more uncertain for India?

- A. India's foreign service cadre expands, improving its capacity to track multiple partners simultaneously.
- B. A new set of binding, enforceable multilateral rules among major powers standardises alliance behaviours, making interaction patterns in multipolarity as predictable as in bipolarity.
- C. The European Union experiences leadership turnover but retains its treaties.
- D. India signs several defence MoUs with like-minded partners.

**Passage:- 2** The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has brought into effect a set of rules called the Environment Audit Rules, 2025, that allows the vital activity of environmental monitoring and auditing to go beyond the remit of State Pollution Control Boards. The rules will largely scrutinise whether industrial units are compliant with environmental regulation. The overall framework for monitoring and compliance within the existing environmental framework is presently supported by the Central Pollution Control Board, the Regional Offices of the Environment Ministry, and the State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees. They have, however, been facing significant constraints in terms of manpower, resources, capacity and infrastructure. "These limitations have hampered their ability to comprehensively monitor and enforce environmental compliance across the vast number of projects and industries operating nationwide," said a press statement by the Environment Ministry. This scheme aims

to bridge the manpower and infrastructure deficits faced by regulatory authorities, thereby strengthening the effective implementation of environmental compliance mechanisms.

Under the new rules, private agencies can get themselves accredited as auditors. Much like chartered accountants, environment auditors can get themselves licensed and be authorised to evaluate the compliance of projects with environmental laws and their adherence with best practices in the prevention, control and abatement of pollution. Environmental regulation has, in recent years, transcended policing and bookkeeping. Given that human-caused climate change is seen as a problem that nations must collectively fix, new dimensions to environmental regulations have emerged. Thus, audits undertaken by these agencies can also be used for compliance with 'Green Credit Rules', under which individuals and organisations can gain tradeable 'credits' for afforestation, sustainable water management and waste management among other activities. Beyond industrial units, nearly every company in India will have to account for its direct and indirect carbon emissions. This will entail fairly complex accounting practices, which are beyond what Pollution Control Board officials can handle. However, preparing for the future should not be at the expense of compromising core responsibilities. It is usually at the district, block and panchayat levels that the most flagrant environmental travesties abound, which escape notice usually because of the lack of trained staff. The new regime must seek to empower them too.

[<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/a-new-leaf-on-environment-audit-rules-2025/article70016134.ece>]

**Q91.** Which statement best captures the author's overall conclusion about the Environment Audit Rules, 2025?

- A. The Rules mainly replace Pollution Control Boards with private auditors because centralised policing is obsolete in a climate-first era.
- B. The Rules sensibly expand capacity by accrediting private auditors to handle compliance and emerging climate-accounting needs, but success also requires empowering district/block/panchayat-level staff so core enforcement isn't compromised.
- C. The Rules chiefly aim to promote tradable credits, so monitoring of industrial compliance can be deprioritised.
- D. The Rules solve manpower issues completely; grassroots institutions will soon be redundant.

**Q92.** Which of the following is an explicit premise used to justify the new monitoring approach?

- A. Pollution Control Board officials are corrupt and therefore must be replaced.
- B. Nearly every company in India already meets global carbon-accounting standards.
- C. Regulatory authorities have been facing significant constraints of manpower, resources, capacity, and infrastructure, hampering comprehensive monitoring and enforcement.
- D. Green Credit Rules eliminate the need for traditional compliance checks.

**Q93.** Which inference is best supported by the passage?

- A. Because carbon accounting across "nearly every company" is complex and beyond PCB officials' current capacity, accredited private auditors will likely play an expanding role in measurement and compliance verification.
- B. Since auditing now includes Green Credit Rules, industrial compliance checks will be unnecessary.
- C. Once private auditors are licensed, State Pollution Control Boards will cease to exist.
- D. Climate change regulation is purely a bookkeeping exercise and does not require technical expertise.

**Q94.** The recommendation that "the new regime must seek to empower [district/block/panchayat levels] too" relies on which necessary assumption?

- A. Central ministries are unable to issue any binding directions to lower tiers of administration.
- B. Green Credit Rules cannot function without village councils approving afforestation projects.
- C. Private auditors cannot be licensed at the district level.
- D. Without empowering local staff, many serious, localized violations will continue to escape notice, so capacity expansion via private auditors alone is insufficient.

**Q95.** Which new piece of information would most strengthen the author's position that capacity expansion must include grassroots empowerment?

- A. A global consultancy offers to train central regulators in carbon markets at no cost.
- B. A recent Comptroller-style audit finds that over 60% of serious violations occur at the district/block level and remain uninspected primarily due to staffing shortages.
- C. An industry association announces voluntary self-reporting templates for its members.
- D. A philanthropic fund donates satellite imagery to the Central Pollution Control Board.

**Q96.** Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the claim that accrediting private agencies will reliably "bridge the manpower and infrastructure deficits"?

- A. Private auditors must pass an exam comparable to chartered accountants and renew licences biennially.
- B. The Environment Ministry publishes a public registry of all accredited auditors and their audit history.
- C. A study of similar schemes finds that company-paid auditors face material conflict-of-interest risks and underreport violations

unless strong, independent oversight and random re-inspections are mandated—safeguards not specified in the present Rules. D. Regional Offices have received new vehicles and field kits to increase inspection frequency.

**Passage:- 3** The affluent Middle Eastern country is building the physical and regulatory infrastructure to attract the world’s leading autonomous-vehicle technology companies. It aims to have thousands of AVs on the road in the next five years – at least one in every four trips taken in its top cities.

That goal is a potential nightmare for the 30,000 cab drivers in Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

“Driverless cars are the future,” Faisal Q, a Pakistani driver who has been working in the UAE for more than 30 years, told Rest of World. He asked that his last name be withheld, as he is afraid of repercussions from speaking to the media. “What about my future?”

As the UAE attempts to become the testing ground for the world’s most advanced driverless technology, it will also be testing what happens when the powerful tech disrupts a largely migrant workforce.

“Large-scale displacement is inevitable for low-income jobs in the new AI and robotics-driven era,” Shahzad Sheikh, an auto industry reporter who covers cars in the Middle East, told Rest of World. “It’s the harsh truth to say, ‘Tech is now coming for low-income workers.’”

The UAE’s ambitious AV strategy is underpinned by strong regulatory and investment support. It wants to position itself as a global test bed for major autonomous mobility providers. The UAE is among the world’s most AV-ready markets because of its proactive policy, smart infrastructure, and public-private partnerships, according to a report by consulting firm Arthur D Little.

Abu Dhabi has already overseen nearly 30,000 AV trips across 430,000 kilometres. The emirate aims to make 25% of all trips autonomous by 2040, which it projects will lead to 15% less emissions and 18% fewer accidents.

Its Smart & Autonomous Vehicle Industries Cluster, an initiative launched in 2023, will offer support with research, testing, and manufacturing facilities. It is expected to eventually create up to 50,000 jobs and contribute more than \$30 billion to the country’s economy by launching a new autonomous vehicle industry in the UAE.

Dubai’s AV strategy is equally ambitious. It plans for 25% of all journeys in the city to be driverless by 2030 – a move expected to save \$6 billion annually and nearly 400 million commuting hours.

“It’s a big pilot site for different companies to come and understand the market,” Jorge Dias, a professor at Khalifa University specializing in autonomous robotic systems, told Rest of World. “The authorities are trying to open the door and test these technologies.”

Chinese AV firms like WeRide have raced ahead of their American counterparts like Tesla and Waymo to assist the UAE.

TXAI was the region’s first robotaxi service when it launched in 2021. The service, operated by Emirati company Space42 in partnership with WeRide, has an AV fleet of sedans and SUVs from one of China’s biggest EV makers, GAC.

[<https://scroll.in/article/1086013/uae-robotaxis-could-edge-out-migrant-south-asian-drivers>]

**Q97.** Which statement best captures the passage’s overall conclusion?

- A. AV growth in the UAE is mostly public-relations theatre; the numbers cited are too small to matter to workers or the economy.
- B. The plan will certainly eliminate all taxi jobs within five years, but the gains in emissions and safety will justify the trade-off.
- C. The UAE is deliberately positioning itself as a global AV test bed with aggressive targets and supportive regulation/infrastructure, promising big efficiency and economic gains while also risking disruptive displacement for a largely migrant taxi workforce.
- D. Because Chinese firms have raced ahead, the UAE will inevitably abandon partnerships with all Western companies.

**Q98.** Which of the following is an explicit premise used to justify the UAE’s strategy?

- A. The UAE is among the world’s most AV-ready markets owing to proactive policy, smart infrastructure, and public-private partnerships (Arthur D. Little report).
- B. Tesla has the safest self-driving stack worldwide, according to independent crash data.
- C. The UAE’s roads are emptier than other countries’, so AVs can be deployed without regulation.
- D. Fares on all robotaxis are already cheaper than human-driven cabs across the Gulf.

**Q99.** Which inference is best supported by the passage?

- A. U.S. AV companies have been banned from operating in the UAE.
- B. Early operational robotaxi deployments in the UAE have been led through Chinese-linked partnerships (e.g., WeRide with Space42/GAC), ahead of prominent U.S. firms.
- C. Because TXAI launched in 2021, the UAE has already met its target of one in four trips being autonomous.
- D. Since Abu Dhabi reported fewer accidents, AVs never cause crashes.

**Q100.** The worry that the AV rollout is a “potential nightmare for the 30,000 cab drivers” most relies on which unstated but necessary assumption?

- A. AVs will always be more expensive than human drivers.
- B. Every displaced driver can seamlessly move into higher-paid AV engineering roles.

- C. The projected job creation in AV manufacturing automatically accrues to current cab drivers.
- D. Increased AV penetration will materially reduce demand for human taxi driving (or keep it from growing enough), thereby threatening the livelihood of the existing driver pool.

**Q101.** Which new fact would most strengthen the claim that large-scale displacement of drivers is likely as AVs scale up in the UAE?

- A. A transport regulator memo outlines a phased plan to cap new human-driven taxi licences and retire a fixed percentage annually as AV share approaches 25%, with no mandatory retraining scheme announced.
- B. AV companies sign MOUs to open visitor centres for public education on autonomy.
- C. A grant funds university research into perception sensors for desert driving.
- D. A survey shows most riders say they “feel positive” about AVs but still prefer human drivers for night trips.

**Q102.** Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the claim that driver displacement in the next decade is “inevitable”?

- A. AV safety performance lags targets in sandstorms, leading to occasional service suspensions.
- B. Dubai mandates that robotaxi fares cannot undercut human-driven taxis.
- C. A binding regulation requires a trained human safety operator to be physically present in each commercial AV through 2035, with operators drawn first from licensed taxi drivers.
- D. Abu Dhabi’s AV miles are expanded only in geo-fenced zones during off-peak hours.

**Passage:- 4** The facts in the following case came to me by letter from a young lady who lives in the beautiful city of San Jose; she is perfectly unknown to me, and simply signs herself “Aurelia Maria,” which may possibly be a fictitious name. But no matter, the poor girl is almost heartbroken by the misfortunes she has undergone, and so confused by the conflicting counsels of misguided friends and insidious enemies that she does not know what course to pursue in order to extricate herself from the web of difficulties in which she seems almost hopelessly involved. In this dilemma she turns to me for help, and supplicates for my guidance and instruction with a moving eloquence that would touch the heart of a statue. Hear her sad story:

She says that when she was sixteen years old she met and loved, with all the devotion of a passionate nature, a young man from New Jersey, named Williamson Breckinridge Caruthers, who was some six years her senior. They were engaged, with the free consent of their friends and relatives, and for a time it seemed as if their career was destined to, be characterized by an immunity from sorrow beyond the usual lot of humanity. But at last the tide of fortune turned; young Caruthers became infected with smallpox of the most virulent type, and when he recovered from his illness his face was pitted like a waffle-mold, and his comeliness gone forever. Aurelia thought to break off the engagement at first, but pity for her unfortunate lover caused her to postpone the marriage-day for a season, and give him another trial.

The very day before the wedding was to have taken place, Breckinridge, while absorbed in watching the flight of a balloon, walked into a well and fractured one of his legs, and it had to be taken off above the knee. Again Aurelia was moved to break the engagement, but again love triumphed, and she set the day forward and gave him another chance to reform.

And again misfortune overtook the unhappy youth. He lost one arm by the premature discharge of a Fourth of July cannon, and within three months he got the other pulled out by a carding-machine. Aurelia’s heart was almost crushed by these latter calamities. She could not but be deeply grieved to see her lover passing from her by piecemeal, feeling, as she did, that he could not last forever under this disastrous process of reduction, yet knowing of no way to stop its dreadful career, and in her tearful despair she almost regretted, like brokers who hold on and lose, that she had not taken him at first, before he had suffered such an alarming depreciation. Still, her brave soul bore her up, and she resolved to bear with her friend’s unnatural disposition yet a little longer.

[<https://englishliterature.net/mark-twain/aurelias-unfortunate-young-man>]

**Q103.** Which statement best captures the narrator’s overall point about Aurelia’s situation?

- A. The narrator believes Aurelia has been duped by enemies and must immediately marry Caruthers to silence gossip.
- B. Aurelia, torn between pity and prudence, has repeatedly postponed marriage as Caruthers suffers serial calamities, producing a tragicomic bind that now prompts her plea for guidance.
- C. Caruthers’s accidents prove he is morally unfit for marriage, so the narrator advises breaking the engagement.
- D. Aurelia’s friends acted wisely; her only mistake was writing to a stranger.

**Q104.** Which of the following is an explicit premise in the passage that underpins Aurelia’s dilemma?

- A. Caruthers squandered the family fortune and concealed it from Aurelia.
- B. Aurelia “almost regretted... that she had not taken him at first, before he had suffered such an alarming depreciation.”
- C. Aurelia’s relatives forbade the match from the beginning.
- D. Caruthers confessed he never wished to marry her.

**Q105.** Which inference is best supported by the text’s wording and tone?

- A. The letter is certainly a hoax, and the narrator knows this.
- B. Aurelia believes the accidents are divine punishment and therefore unalterable.



- C. Phrases like “give him another chance to reform” treat random misfortunes as if they were corrigible habits, revealing the passage’s dry, satirical undercurrent.
- D. The narrator intends to blackmail Aurelia’s enemies using the letter.

**Q106.** The narrator’s willingness to “guide and instruct” Aurelia relies on which necessary assumption?

- A. Caruthers will inevitably suffer no further accidents.
- B. Friends’ and enemies’ counsel can be objectively ranked by any outsider.
- C. Aurelia’s grief is purely theatrical and not sincere.
- D. The letter’s account is sufficiently reliable for the narrator to reason from it and offer advice.

**Q107.** Which new fact would most strengthen the narrator’s implied case that Aurelia’s repeated postponements have worsened the situation and that a decisive course is preferable now?

- A. A physician reports that Caruthers’s health prognosis declines with time, and delays make further complications more likely.
- B. Caruthers has become wealthy, so postponement will raise her social status.
- C. Aurelia’s friends now unanimously approve of delaying the wedding indefinitely.
- D. The well into which Caruthers fell has been filled, reducing future risk.

**Q108.** Which option best articulates the irony at the heart of Aurelia’s conduct?

- A. She pitied Caruthers when he became disfigured yet also mocked him publicly.
- B. She obeyed both friends and enemies even though their advice conflicted.
- C. By postponing marriage out of compassion after each catastrophe, she arguably made matters worse—regretting not marrying him “before... depreciation,” like a broker who “holds on and loses.”
- D. She wrote for help while already certain of her final choice.

#### SECTION E: - QUANTITATIVE TECHNIQUES

**Direction:- 1** As part of the National Physical Fitness Mission 2025, the Ministry of Education undertook a project to upgrade sports facilities in 150 government schools spread across three major cities: Delhi, Bengaluru, and Mumbai. Funding for each school was determined on the basis of available land, and every institution was instructed to build three components — a rectangular football field, a jogging track, and a cuboidal equipment storage room.

In Delhi, the football grounds were constructed with dimensions of 90 m × 50 m, and a 1.5 m-wide jogging track was laid around the entire perimeter. In Bengaluru, each field measured 100 m × 60 m, with the surrounding track having a width of 2 m. In Mumbai, the fields were slightly smaller at 80 m × 45 m, and the jogging track built around them was 1 m wide. In all cases, the tracks took the form of uniform rectangular belts enclosing the respective fields.

The storage rooms varied across the three cities. In Delhi, each measured 10 m in length, 6 m in width, and 4 m in height. Bengaluru chose to make its rooms 20% larger in length than those in Delhi with the same width and height, whereas Mumbai reduced the length by 10% but increased the height by 15%, keeping the width unchanged. Costs were standardized: laying artificial turf on the football fields was fixed at ₹280 per square metre, constructing the jogging tracks at ₹120 per square metre, and building the storage rooms (covering walls, floor, and ceiling) at ₹600 per square metre of surface area. Each city successfully completed these works in 50 schools.

**Q109.** If the jogging track in Delhi (1.5 m wide) were built **only along the longer sides** of the field (not all around), what would be its total area?

- A. 270 m<sup>2</sup>                      B. 300 m<sup>2</sup>                      C. 240 m<sup>2</sup>                      D. 225 m<sup>2</sup>

**Q110.** For Mumbai, if all 50 football fields (80 m × 45 m) are turfed, and the contractor offers a **5% discount** on turfing cost (₹280 per m<sup>2</sup>), what is the total bill?

- A. ₹47,880,000                      B. ₹50,400,000                      C. ₹48,600,000                      D. ₹46,800,000

**Q111.** What is the **volume difference** between Bengaluru and Mumbai storage rooms?

- A. 40 m<sup>3</sup>                      B. 42 m<sup>3</sup>                      C. 45 m<sup>3</sup>                      D. 39.6 m<sup>3</sup>

**Q112.** For Bengaluru, if **only the four walls** of one storage room are painted (excluding ceiling and floor), what would be the cost at ₹600 per m<sup>2</sup>?

- A. ₹86,400                      B. ₹96,000                      C. ₹103,200                      D. ₹108,000

**Q113.** Across 50 Delhi schools, what **percentage** of the total construction cost (football turf + jogging track + storage room) comes from jogging tracks?

- A. 3.9%                      B. 4.5%                      C. 3.5%                      D. 3.2%



**Q114.** If Mumbai increased its jogging track width from 1 m to 1.5 m, what would be the **extra total cost** (for all 50 schools)?

- A. ₹780,000      B. ₹975,000      C. ₹1,000,000      D. ₹1,200,000

**Direction:-** 2 In June 2025, the Urban Water Authority procured four cylindrical storage tanks and six conical hoppers for its treatment facilities. Each cylindrical tank has an internal radius of 2 m and a height of 6 m. The parts to be painted are its curved surface plus the top. Each conical hopper has a radius of 1.5 m and a height of 4 m, and only the sloping lateral surface is painted. All ten units must receive two coats of primer, where 1 litre covers  $20 \text{ m}^2$  per coat. Painter A can finish one cylinder in 6 hours and one hopper in 4 hours. Painter B is slower, taking 9 hours per cylinder and 6 hours per hopper. Together, they share the total painting work in a 3 : 2 ratio.

Once painted, the tanks and hoppers are filled up to 75% of their total capacity, using two pumps: Pump P delivers 20,000 L per hour, while Pump Q delivers 30,000 L per hour. Working together, they complete the filling in 8 hours.

Both painters earn ₹120 per hour, while each pump operator is paid ₹150 per hour, with a working day fixed at 8 hours.

**Q115.** What is the total primer required (in litres) to apply two coats on all ten units?

- A. 47.3 L      B. 94.5 L      C. 23.6 L      D. 54.4 L

**Q116.** How many total labour-hours will Painters A and B spend together to paint all ten units?

- A. 24.0 h      B. 28.8 h      C. 32.0 h      D. 22.4 h

**Q117.** What is the total wage cost (in ₹) for both painters combined?

- A. ₹5,760      B. ₹7,200      C. ₹6,000      D. ₹6,912

**Q118.** What is the total water volume (in litres) pumped to fill the units for 75% capacity?

- A. 300,000 L      B. 350,000 L      C. 400,000 L      D. 450,000 L

**Q119.** What is the total wage cost (in ₹) for the two pump operators?

- A. ₹1,600      B. ₹2,400      C. ₹3,000      D. ₹2,000

**Q120.** What is the ratio of total painter wages to total pump operator wages?

- A. 2.88 : 1      B. 3 : 1      C. 2.50 : 1      D. 4 : 1

NISHANT PRAKASH  
LAW CLASSES

Gurukul for CLAT & AILET