

UG 2026

AMDIT CARD NUMBER

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

QUESTION BOOKLET NO: 2026UG06



INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Duration of Test: 2 Hours (120 minutes)

Maximum Marks : 120

1. This Question Booklet (QB) contains 120 (One hundred and twenty) Multiple Choice Questions across 36 (Thirty Six) pages including 2 (Two) blank pages for rough work. No additional sheet(s) of paper will be supplied for rough work.
2. You shall enter your Admit Card No. on the first page of the QB at the start of the test.
3. You have to answer ALL questions in the separate carbonised Optical Mark Reader (OMR) Response Sheet supplied along with this QB. You must READ the detailed instructions provided with the OMR Response Sheet on the reverse side of this packet BEFORE you start the test.
4. No clarification can be sought on the QB from anyone. In case of any discrepancy such as printing error or missing pages, in the QB, request the Invigilator to replace the QB and OMR Response Sheet. Do not use the previous OMR Response Sheet with the fresh QB.
5. You should write the QB Number, and the OMR Response Sheet Number, and sign in the space/column provided in the Attendance Sheet.
6. The QB for the Undergraduate Programme is for 120 marks. Every Right Answer secures 1 mark. Every Wrong Answer results in the deduction of 0.25 mark. There shall be no deductions for Unanswered Questions.
7. You may retain the QB and the Candidate's copy of the OMR Response Sheet after the test.
8. The use of any unfair means shall result in your disqualification. Possession of Electronic Devices such as mobile phones, headphones, digital watches etc., is/are strictly prohibited in the test premises. Impersonation or any other unlawful practice will lead to your disqualification and possibly, appropriate action under the law.

DO NOT OPEN TILL 2PM

Section - A : English Language

Passage:- 1 The legal scholar Chris Guthrie has offered a compelling application of the fourfold pattern to two situations in which the plaintiff and the defendant in a civil suit consider a possible settlement. The situations differ in the strength of the plaintiff's case. As in a scenario we saw earlier, you are the plaintiff in a civil suit in which you have made a claim for a large sum in damages. The trial is going very well and your lawyer cites expert opinion that you have a 95% chance to win outright, but adds the caution, "You never really know the outcome until the jury comes in." Your lawyer urges you to accept a settlement in which you might get only 90% of your claim. You are in the top left of the fourfold pattern, and the question on your mind is, "Am I willing to take even a small chance of getting nothing at all? Even 90% of the claim is a great deal of money, and I can walk away with it now." Two emotions are evoked, both driving in the same direction: the attraction of a sure (and substantial) gain and the fear of intense disappointment and regret if you reject a settlement and lose in court. You can feel the pressure that typically leads to cautious behavior in this situation. The plaintiff with a strong case is likely to be risk averse. Now step into the shoes of the defendant in the same case. Although you have not completely given up hope of a decision in your favor, you realize that the trial is going poorly. The plaintiff's lawyers have proposed a settlement in which you would have to pay 90% of their original claim, and it is clear they will not accept less. Will you settle, or will you pursue the case? Because you face a high probability of a loss, your situation belongs in the top right cell. The temptation to fight on is strong: the settlement that the plaintiff has offered is almost as painful as the worst outcome you face, and there is still hope of prevailing in court. Here again, two emotions are involved: the sure loss is repugnant and the possibility of winning in court is highly attractive.

Extracted with edits and revisions from: Thinking, Fast and Slow by Daniel Kahneman

1. Which of the following observations would the author most likely support regarding how legal actors make decisions during settlement discussions?
 - (a) Litigants are influenced by courtroom prestige and often try to secure a public legal win to improve their credibility
 - (b) Parties frequently ignore emotional instincts and rely solely on statistical inputs from their lawyers when settling
 - (c) Most litigants who reject settlements do so in order to delay proceedings and financially exhaust their opponents
 - (d) People assess settlement offers based on how risks are framed rather than on the actual numerical probability of success

2. What can be inferred about the plaintiff's decision-making process when they are advised to accept a 90% settlement offer despite a strong case?
 - (a) The plaintiff is reluctant to engage further due to a sense of moral pressure to avoid a costly and prolonged battle
 - (b) The plaintiff's emotions compel them to secure a large but guaranteed payout instead of pursuing absolute victory
 - (c) The plaintiff is confident that the trial will end in their favour and thus refuses to settle for less than full compensation
 - (d) The plaintiff views the offer as a manipulative tactic and demands the trial to expose the defendant's unlawful conduct

3. Which word best conveys the meaning of the term "repugnant" as used to describe the defendant's perception of a sure loss?

(a) speculative
(b) conspicuous
(c) distasteful
(d) indifferent

4. Which of the following best reflects why the defendant is tempted to reject the plaintiff's settlement offer despite poor chances of success?
- (a) The proposed settlement feels nearly as painful as losing the case outright, making the gamble worth taking
 - (b) The defendant feels bound by legal strategy to prolong litigation in order to pressure the plaintiff
 - (c) The defendant wants to prove their honesty in court and secure a moral victory even if they lose financially
 - (d) The terms of the offer contradict earlier communications and are dismissed as legally invalid
5. What does the author most likely mean when quoting the line "You never really know the outcome until the jury comes in"?
- (a) Even strong preparation cannot eliminate uncertainty in verdicts
 - (b) Trials are uncertain, and strong cases may fail before a jury
 - (c) Emotional witnesses often sway verdicts against evidence
 - (d) Juries respond more to lawyer appeal than case strength
6. Which of the following statements is NOT TRUE according to the author's discussion of the fourfold pattern in litigation?
- (a) A defendant facing a likely loss may irrationally reject a settlement due to emotional attachment to hope
 - (b) A plaintiff with a strong case may still settle early out of fear of unexpected defeat at trial
 - (c) Emotions such as fear, regret, and desire for control play a central role in risk-based decision-making
 - (d) The role of lawyers is to neutralise client emotion and ensure purely rational settlement outcomes

Passage:- 2 As the hours of daylight get fewer, they become more precious on a hill farm. Like a lot of other farmers I also have a full-time job off farm, so farming work must be done before and after work. I am lucky that my employer, the National Trust, allows me to work flexible hours, but checking animals that graze remotely can be difficult during the winter as our belted galloway cows can take more than an hour to find. We decided to try some new technology to help us save time, and it is working really well. The cows are wearing electric collars that show you their location via a phone app. In the morning, before I leave the house, I can see they are grazing at around 1,200ft near one of the masts that sit on top of some fells.

I head straight up, not wasting time looking in the woodland at the bottom. The cattle are grazing in tall grass as part of an environmental scheme to restore wood pasture. This grass, or deferred grazing, is used during the winter rather than bales of hay, but it can make the cows difficult to spot, especially with the trees and shrubs too.

On my phone, my location dot is moving closer and closer to where the cows are, then I spot two black ears. I would never have found these cows so easily otherwise. There is also the capacity to create virtual fencing, so that they avoid some areas and graze others for habitat restoration, although I have not tried this yet. In November we have to TB-test the cows and they will be in the fields around home for four days, so we will hopefully train them on the virtual fencing then. Invisible fencing could be a gamechanger for habitat restoration. It will not be necessary to fence off areas that are excluded from grazing in inaccessible areas, they can just be drawn on your phone. I don't think artificial intelligence will ever be able to check the health of animals without a farmer, but the collar can send an alert if the animal is behaving in an unpredictable or unexpected way.

Extracted with edits and revisions from: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/nov/03/country-diary-a-little-remote-control-goes-a-long-way-in-farming>

7. According to the author, the introduction of electric collars on the farm primarily demonstrates:
- (a) how modern agriculture disregards environmental balance for the sake of efficiency and convenience
 - (b) how mechanical monitoring gradually replaces the farmer's instinct and erodes personal involvement
 - (c) how rural technology can complement traditional farming by reducing unnecessary manual effort
 - (d) how dependence on devices has weakened farmers' ability to observe animals without assistance
8. The author's tone toward virtual fencing and other digital tools can best be described as:
- (a) sceptical
 - (b) optimistic
 - (c) anxious
 - (d) indifferent

9. In the line “I don’t think artificial intelligence will ever be able to check the health of animals without a farmer,” the author most likely intends to:
- (a) reaffirm the irreplaceable role of human intuition and observation in animal welfare management
 - (b) argue that technological systems will soon surpass human capability in livestock supervision
 - (c) criticize the cost and complexity of maintaining digital tracking devices on remote farms
 - (d) highlight the ethical concerns of data privacy and surveillance in agricultural applications
10. What does the author imply about balancing his full-time job with farm duties?
- (a) The secondary employment prevents him from testing new devices or exploring innovative grazing plans
 - (b) The demands of his main employment reduce his attention to environmental schemes on the farm
 - (c) The irregularity of daylight makes farming nearly impossible without outside labour assistance
 - (d) The flexible arrangement allows him to integrate modern solutions into a routine otherwise constrained by time
11. Farming, as described by the author, means:
- (a) adaptation (b) innovation (c) observation (d) cooperation
12. Which statement best conveys the author’s overall perspective on farming during winter?
- (a) It illustrates that technological adoption enables farmers to uphold both ecological duty and personal efficiency
 - (b) It implies that modern innovations have distanced farmers from the natural rhythm and ethics of agriculture
 - (c) It reveals that harsh climatic limits have made traditional animal care incompatible with sustainable routines
 - (d) It suggests that growing reliance on machinery has gradually diminished the farmer’s instinct and observation

Passage:- 3 It’s quite likely that you’ve been told ‘don’t sweat the small stuff’ and ‘focus on the bigger picture’. Despite our best efforts, though, many of us sometimes find it hard to shrug off the lingering emotional effect of an annoying experience. Making it worse, you might judge yourself for not being able to just let it go. Even if a particular stressor seems insignificant on its own, annoying experiences can have a cumulative effect. Like drops filling a bucket, they can eventually spill over until you’re suddenly snapping at someone, or tearing up. Annoying experiences are a normal, inevitable part of life. So, whether you’re concerned about their cumulative impact on your wellbeing or just want to reduce the frustration you feel in the moment, there is value in learning to handle annoying things better. This is where evidence-based psychological skills are handy. It’s natural to want to fix or undo the annoyances you encounter. But insisting that a frustrating experience shouldn’t have happened doesn’t change that it did happen. What it does do is deepen your stress. It’s like tugging on a locked door: tiring and ineffective. That’s why you need radical acceptance.

Emotions are like waves that rise, crest and gently fade away, often within minutes, especially when you give them the space to do so. Each emotion naturally urges you to respond. When you act based on these feelings, it’s called emotion-driven behaviour. Sometimes, small hassles can trigger big emotional reactions, leading you to quickly engage in emotion-driven behaviours. Have you ever watched someone cut in line at a store? Maybe you experienced a sudden rush of irritation and found yourself glaring at the person, mumbling your disapproval, or speaking curtly to a store employee who wasn’t even aware of the cutting. As natural as it is, automatically doing what a momentary emotion pushes you to do can sometimes take you further away from being the kind of person you want to be.

Extracted with edits and revisions from: <https://psyche.co/guides/how-to-respond-to-annoying-things-with-greater-ease>

13. What best expresses the author’s principal argument about dealing with everyday frustrations?
- (a) Ignoring small irritations entirely ensures emotional resilience and lasting peace of mind.
 - (b) Focusing on major life problems is more beneficial than attending to daily inconveniences.
 - (c) Acknowledging and managing minor stressors can prevent them from accumulating into greater distress.
 - (d) Suppressing emotional reactions to trivial annoyances cultivates discipline and self-control.

14. According to the author, what is the psychological benefit of “radical acceptance”?
- It encourages ignoring difficult emotions to maintain composure during stressful moments.
 - It allows individuals to acknowledge reality without resistance, reducing unnecessary emotional strain.
 - It involves revisiting distressing memories to reinterpret them from a rational perspective.
 - It teaches people to dismiss minor inconveniences as irrelevant to emotional wellbeing.
15. The expression “like drops filling a bucket” in the passage most nearly suggests:
- the gradual and imperceptible accumulation of stress that eventually overwhelms emotional balance
 - the frequent renewal of motivation and optimism through minor but positive experiences
 - the steady dissipation of energy when one focuses excessively on insignificant matters
 - the conscious effort to replace large frustrations with smaller, more manageable concerns
16. The author’s stance on emotion-driven behaviour can best be described as:
- supportive and permissive, encouraging individuals to fully express emotions as they arise
 - critical and moralizing, condemning emotional responses as weaknesses of character
 - detached and analytical, describing emotions without assessing their behavioural impact
 - empathetic but cautionary, acknowledging its naturalness while warning against impulsive reactions
17. Choose the word closest in meaning to “crest” as used in the line: “Emotions are like waves that rise, crest and gently fade away.”
- peak
 - origin
 - surge
 - ripple
18. Which conclusion can be drawn from the author’s perspective on managing emotional reactions?
- Emotional impulses should be suppressed immediately to prevent disruption of social interactions.
 - Emotional awareness and acceptance together create healthier and more intentional responses.
 - External stressors are beyond human control and must simply be tolerated without reflection.
 - Logical reasoning can fully replace emotion as a guide for behaviour and self-understanding.

Passage:- 4 In an age of books that cavort for attention on social media, an age that must categorise each book through cute posts that guide the choices of fickle readers, Susan Choi’s *Flashlight* is a rare novel. An immediate reason for its remarkable appeal is that it slips through taxonomies. It could be a political thriller, but it is also an extravagant tale of migrants, spanning decades, its edges blurred by trance-like recollections. Parts of it tell of the childhood and youth of its protagonists, so one might be tempted to call it a bildungsroman, but it isn’t. Childhoods are truncated by traumas that must be dealt with, and coming-of-age is a jolt rather than a joyous unfurling. *Flashlight* opens with a brief description of 10-year-old Louisa and her father walking on a breakwater on a beach in Japan. He holds a flashlight in one hand, and grips Louisa’s fingers with his other hand. The night is cold, “...the sunset has lost all its warmth and is only a paleness against the horizon. They’ll turn back soon.” What happens subsequently, in that seaside town where Louisa and her parents have rented a small house in the summer of 1978, underpins the events of the novel. Her father Serk disappears; it is presumed that he has drowned. Louisa is found on the beach, hypothermic, her mouth full of sand. *Flashlight* unspools in sections that depict the histories and present circumstances of its characters. Serk Kang, an ethnic Korean originally named Seok, grows up in Japan, and attends a school that bestows upon him a new name — Hiroshi — a name he loves for its phonetic cadence, for the way it stretches out when it is hollered on the streets by his friends: “Hiroshiiiiii!”

Serk’s parents, who are from Jeju Island in South Korea, set sail for North Korea, hoping to find a socialist utopia: a flourishing economy, high-rise apartments, jobs. Serk immigrates to the U.S., an earnest doctoral candidate in electrical engineering. He meets and marries Anne, who works for an academic as a transcriptionist, and whose young life is marred by the anguish of getting pregnant at 19 and being compelled to let go of the baby. Each character in *Flashlight* is a repository of secrets, or of memories that moulder, aching to be shared.

Extracted with edits and revisions from: <https://www.thehindu.com/books/book-review-flashlight-author-susan-choi-booker-prize-2025-shortlist/article70040996.ece>

19. Which of the following best reflects the author's opinion about Flashlight in today's literary climate?
- (a) The novel's layered form resists the superficial classifications encouraged by online literary trends.
 - (b) The novel's vivid politics demonstrate how fiction adapts itself to current ideological expectations.
 - (c) The novel's elegance arises from its loyalty to a single genre and its moral clarity of purpose.
 - (d) The novel's narrative simplicity fulfills the modern reader's craving for accessible storytelling.
20. In the context of the passage, the word "cadence" most nearly means:
- (a) Uneven tone that reflects confusion about one's fragmented identity.
 - (b) Harsh resonance that emphasizes the violence of linguistic suppression.
 - (c) Rhythmic flow that conveys a sense of harmony and cultural belonging.
 - (d) Monotonous repetition that diminishes the individuality of personal speech.
21. Which of the following statements best represents the author's comment on Louisa's childhood?
- (a) Her youth ends abruptly under trauma that forces premature emotional evolution.
 - (b) Her youth unfolds serenely as she learns to accept sorrow with composure.
 - (c) Her early years exemplify optimism common to conventional coming-of-age tales.
 - (d) Her childhood embodies creative liberation beyond familial or cultural restraint.
22. Which of the following most precisely conveys the author's perception of Serk Kang's transformation?
- (a) It reveals an identity molded by circumstance and language rather than fixed inheritance.
 - (b) It portrays a fractured self that permanently rejects all cultural or linguistic belonging.
 - (c) It affirms his nostalgic return to ancestral purity after years of unwanted assimilation.
 - (d) It records his failure to reconcile intellectual ambition with emotional detachment.
23. Which of the following words is most nearly opposite in meaning to "extravagant" as used in the passage?
- (a) Lavish
 - (b) Grandiose
 - (c) Ornamental
 - (d) Austere
24. Which of the following best summarizes the central insight of the passage about Flashlight?
- (a) It fuses migration, memory, and trauma into a narrative that eludes all fixed literary categories.
 - (b) It constructs a suspense plot whose emotional clarity defines its moral resolution.
 - (c) It nostalgically celebrates displacement as a path toward universal human harmony.
 - (d) It condemns socialist ideals through portraits of failed cross-cultural families.

Section - B : Current Affairs including General Knowledge

Passage:- 1 With the Centre's recent move to appoint former Deputy National Security Advisor Pankaj Kumar Singh as its interlocutor to address the long-pending demands of the Gorkha community in the Darjeeling Hills in West Bengal, the issue of Gorkhaland statehood has again picked up steam. The Darjeeling interlocutor's appointment has also become a new bone of contention between the Trinamool Congress (TMC)-led state government and the BJP-led central government, so much so that Chief Minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee, in a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, called the appointment inconsistent with the spirit of cooperative federalism while seeking its revocation. With the crucial Bengal Assembly polls due in April-May 2026, the issue of separate Gorkhaland state is expected to be in the limelight in the Darjeeling region.

In 2011, the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA), another semi-autonomous body, was formed to govern the Darjeeling Hills. However, repeated flare-ups over the demand for a separate state continued. In 2013, after the Congress Working Committee (CWC) passed a resolution to carve the separate Telangana state out of Andhra Pradesh, and sent its recommendation to the then Congress-led Centre, the GJM resumed its agitation in the Hills, calling for a bandh in the Hills, that led to the deployment of the central paramilitary forces there. In 2017, when the TMC-led Bengal government announced Bengali as a compulsory language in government-run schools in the Hills, a fresh agitation erupted.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from <https://indianexpress.com/article/political-pulse/why-centres-gorkhaland-interlocutor-has-marked-a-new-flashpoint-between-mamata-bjp-10325369/>]

25. Which of the following councils governed the Darjeeling Hills for 23 years as a semi-autonomous administrative body established to address regional aspirations?

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| (a) North Bengal Development Council | (b) Himalayan Regional Authority |
| (c) Gorkha National Administrative Board | (d) Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council |

26. Consider the following statements about the origin of the Gorkhaland movement:

- I. The term Gorkhaland was coined by Subhas Ghising, the then leader of the Gorkha National Liberation Front (GNLF).
- II. It referred to the demand for a separate state comprising the Darjeeling Hills along with the adjoining Dooars and Terai regions.
- III. The term Gorkhaland was first used by the West Bengal government during administrative reorganization in the 1980s.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

27. How many Gurkha sub-communities did the delegation led by Mr. Bista seek Scheduled Tribe (ST) status during the meeting chaired by Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai?

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| (a) 7 Gurkha sub-communities | (b) 11 Gurkha sub-communities |
| (c) 13 Gurkha sub-communities | (d) 9 Gurkha sub-communities |

28. Which Article of the Indian Constitution empowers Parliament to reorganise the territory of States by altering their boundaries, names, or areas?

- | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| (a) Article 1 | (b) Article 2 | (c) Article 4 | (d) Article 3 |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|

29. Which of the following statements about the origins of the Gurkhas is correct?

- (a) The Gurkhas originated under Mughal influence in northern Himalayan hill regions.
- (b) The Gurkhas were formed by early dynasties from eastern Himalayan hill territories.
- (c) The Gurkhas trace their roots to the Malla dynasty era in the hill kingdom of Gurkha.
- (d) The Gurkhas were organized by British officers after wars with Nepal in the 19th century.

Passage:- 2 The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations marked its 80th anniversary alongside the celebration of World Food Day 2025, reaffirming eight decades of partnership with the Government of India in transforming India's agrifood systems from food shortage to food surplus and beyond. The celebration reflected on FAO's enduring contribution to India's agrifood systems transformation and its progress toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

From food-deficient beginnings at the dawn of independence, India's achievements in food and agriculture have been truly remarkable. The country has transformed into a food-surplus nation that feeds 1.4 billion people and contributes to global food security. This progress has been driven by visionary policies, scientific innovations, and strong international collaboration spearheaded by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MoA&FW) in close partnership with FAO.

As a founding member of FAO, India's journey exemplifies how hunger and malnutrition can be reduced at scale when production systems, delivery mechanisms, and policy innovation work in unison.

The Chief Guest, Dr Devesh Chaturvedi, Secretary, MoA&FW, Government of India, delivered the keynote address, recognizing FAO's technical expertise and partnership with the Ministry in achieving self-sufficiency in food grains, promoting crop diversification, and enhancing farmer resilience through innovation and sustainable practices. He reaffirmed India's commitment to working with FAO and the global community, to build sustainable, resilient, and equitable food systems, ensuring better food and a better future for all.

A.P. Das Joshi, Secretary, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, highlighted the growing importance of food processing, value addition, and entrepreneurship in enhancing farmer incomes, reducing post-harvest losses, and strengthening agrifood value chains.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from https://india.un.org/en/303630-fao-celebrates-80-years-partnership-india-world-food-day?afd_azwaf_tok=eyJraWQioiJFNEEYOEJCQ0VDQTJCMUNEREEzRkU5MUJGNEIyMjJGNUNEMzcwNjZEQTgyQzcwNjU0OUQxNjc1Q0Y5QjBDQUE0IiwiaWwXnljoiUIMyNTYifQ]

30. Which of the following statements about World Food Day 2025 is correct?

- (a) World Food Day 2025 was held under the theme "Together for Better Food and Shared Futures."
- (b) World Food Day 2025 adopted the theme "Hand in Hand for Better Food and a Better Future."
- (c) World Food Day 2025 followed the theme "United for Food and Sustainable Prosperity."
- (d) World Food Day 2025 observed the theme "Collaborate for Food and Brighter Tomorrows."

31. Who is credited with developing high-yielding varieties (HYVs) of wheat that triggered the Green Revolution and earned the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970?

- (a) Henry Beachell (b) Norman Borlaug (c) Gurdev Khush (d) M.S. Swaminathan

32. Which legislation provides legal entitlement to subsidized food grains for up to 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population through the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)?

- (a) Public Distribution Reform Act (b) Food Entitlement and Nutrition Act
- (c) National Food Assurance Programme (d) National Food Security Act

33. For how long has the Central Government decided to extend the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) starting from January 1, 2024?

- (a) Five years (b) Three years (c) Seven years (d) Ten years

34. Consider the following statements about the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO):

- I. The FAO is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.
- II. The FAO has 195 members, consisting of 194 countries and the European Union.
- III. The FAO operates in over 130 countries worldwide.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

35. Which global initiative was the international webinar on 'Development of Millets in India', organized by FAO and ICAR-IIMR, held under?

- (a) Global Millets Advancement Mission (b) Sustainable Crop Diversification Programme
(c) One Country One Priority Product (d) International Year of Millets Collaboration

Passage:- 3 Hourslong peace talks between Pakistan and neighboring Afghanistan entered a third day in Istanbul, officials from both sides said, but they were unable to reach an agreement by the end of the day. The talks came a day after US President Donald Trump pledged to resolve the crisis between the two neighbors very quickly and as tensions along the border remained high following recent exchanges of fire that have killed dozens of soldiers and civilians on both sides.

The chief spokesman for Afghanistan's Taliban government, confirmed that the Istanbul discussions were still in progress, with no outcome announced yet. Pakistani officials also confirmed the talks are underway but the Afghan delegation was repeatedly consulting authorities in Kabul, and Pakistan was not getting an encouraging response. The officials who have direct knowledge of the negotiations being hosted by Turkey's government spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief the media.

Pakistan's army had killed 25 militants while repelling two major infiltration attempts along the border, even as delegations were talking in Istanbul. It also confirmed that the five Pakistani soldiers had died during exchanges of fire. It was not possible to verify the casualty figures as the area is remote and off-limits to the media. Trump, speaking on the sidelines of the ASEAN summit in Malaysia stated that he had learned that Pakistan and Afghanistan had begun peace efforts, adding that he would "get that solved very quickly. Pakistan this year recommended Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize for helping defuse a crisis with neighboring India when the two nuclear-armed rivals were on the brink of a wider conflict. That standoff followed the killing of tourists in Indian-controlled Kashmir in April and ended after U.S.-led diplomatic efforts produced a truce, which Trump has repeatedly taken credit for.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from <https://indianexpress.com/article/world/pakistan-afghanistan-third-day-of-peace-talks-border-tensions-test-ceasefire-10330969/>]

36. Which among the following sixteen principal states (Mahajanapadas) was located in the region of modern Afghanistan?

- (a) Avanti (b) Kosala (c) Gandhara (d) Vatsa

37. Which of the following statements best explains the current friction between Afghan and Pakistani Pashtuns?

- (a) The Afghan Pashtuns now fully support Pakistan and accept the Durand Line as a settled border issue.
(b) The Pakistani Pathans view the end of Tribal Agencies as a reform that empowered local governance.
(c) The Afghan Pashtuns see the TTP as kin, reflecting shared identity and anger over Tribal Agency abolition.
(d) The Punjab-dominated state has resolved Pashtun concerns through broad reconciliation and development.

38. Which of the following is NOT among the possible transit routes for land-locked Afghanistan?

- (a) India (b) Pakistan (c) Iran (d) Central Asian Republics

39. Which of the following operations was launched by India to evacuate its citizens and Afghan partners from Kabul after the Taliban's rapid takeover in 2021?

- (a) Operation Sankat Mochan (b) Operation Rahat (c) Operation Ganga (d) Operation Devi Shakti

40. Consider the following statements about the Durand Line:

I. The Durand Line, stretching around 2,640 km, was established in 1893 under the reign of Amir Abdur Rahman Khan of Afghanistan.

II. Sir Mortimer Durand served as the Viceroy of British India when the boundary agreement was signed.

III. The demarcation resulted in the division of Pashtun tribes across the frontier between Afghanistan and British India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Passage:- 4 The Cabinet approves PM SVANidhi 2.0 with Rs 7,332 crore outlay till March 2030, offering loans up to Rs 50,000, UPI-linked RuPay Credit Cards, and cashback incentives. The scheme aims to benefit 11.5 million street vendors with expanded coverage, financial literacy, and digital adoption. As of July 30, 2025, over 9.6 million loans amounting to Rs 13,797 crore have been disbursed to more than 6.8 million street vendors.

The restructured scheme aims to benefit 11.5 million beneficiaries, including 5 million new beneficiaries. The scheme's coverage is being expanded beyond statutory towns to census towns, peri-urban areas etc. in graded manner. The scheme also focuses on building the capacity of the street vendors with a focus on entrepreneurship, financial literacy, digital skills, and marketing through convergence. Standard hygiene and food safety training would be conducted for street food vendors, in partnership with FSSAI.

However, since the inception of the scheme it has proved to be more than financial support for street vendors and has given them a sense of identity & formal recognition for their contribution to the economy. As of July 30, 2025, over 9.6 million loans amounting to Rs 13,797 crore have been disbursed to more than 6.8 million street vendors. Nearly 4.7 million digitally active beneficiaries have conducted over 5.57 billion digital transactions worth Rs 6.09 lakh crore, earning a total cashback of Rs 241 crore. The extension of the scheme envisages the holistic development of street vendors by offering a reliable source of finance to support business expansion and opportunities for sustainable growth. This will not only empower street vendors but will also foster inclusive economic growth, socio-economic upliftment of street vendors and their families enhancing their livelihoods, and ultimately transforming urban spaces into a vibrant, self-sustaining ecosystem.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from <https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy-pm-svanidhi-2-0-gets-cabinet-nod-3959256/>]

41. Consider the following statements about the enhanced loan structure under the revised scheme:

- I. The first tranche loan limit has been increased to ₹15,000 from ₹10,000.
- II. The second tranche loan limit has been raised to ₹25,000 from ₹20,000.
- III. The third tranche loan limit has been increased to ₹75,000 from ₹50,000.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

42. When was the PM SVANidhi Scheme initially launched to support street vendors affected by the COVID-19 pandemic?

- (a) 2018 (b) 2019
(c) 2020 (d) 2021

43. Which component of the PM SVANidhi Scheme is being strengthened through monthly Lok Kalyan Melas to ensure the holistic welfare and development of street vendors and their families?

- (a) SVANidhi Samarth Yojana (b) SVANidhi se Samriddhi
(c) Samriddhi Parivar Initiative (d) AtmaNirbhar Street Vendor Mission

44. Which department, along with the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), shares the responsibility for implementing the PM SVANidhi Scheme by facilitating access to loans and credit cards through financial institutions?

- (a) Department of Financial Services (b) Department of Economic Affairs
(c) Department of Urban Development (d) Department of Small Enterprises

45. Which award did the PM SVANidhi Scheme receive in 2023, in addition to the Silver Award for Excellence in Government Process Re-engineering for Digital Transformation (2022)?

- (a) National Award for Excellence in Public Administration
(b) Digital Governance Award for Public Administration Innovation
(c) Central Innovation Award for Digital Empowerment Scheme

(d) Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration

46. What is the maximum cashback incentive available to street vendors under the PM SVANidhi Scheme for making digital retail and wholesale transactions?

- (a) ₹800 (b) ₹1,000 (c) ₹1,200 (d) ₹1,600

Passage:- 5 The 72nd North East Council (NEC) plenary meeting to formulate critical policy decisions for development of the North-East region, especially in key sectors like infrastructure, and entrepreneurship began with Home Minister Amit Shah heading the session.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah is presiding over the meeting that is being attended by Minister for Development of North East Region (DoNER) Jyotiraditya Scindhia, his deputy minister Sukanta Majumder, governors and chief ministers of all northeastern states.

The meeting is being held amidst tight security across the state. Union Home Minister Amit Shah called for the complete eradication of drugs and narcotic substances in northeast India and urged the state governments to take an adequate approach to tackle the menace. Asserting that drugs only kill and create destruction, he advised the Governors and Chief Ministers to work to eradicate the problem and urged them to strengthen relevant district level committees. Union DoNER Minister, MoS DoNER, Governors and Chief Ministers of all eight northeastern states are attending the Plenary.

The 31-minute speech of the Home Minister touched on initiatives and programmes which have been taken up for all round development and creation of peace in the region and it was now time to go for development in all segments after the establishment of peace and with over 20 peace agreements with various armed groups and ethnic organizations and ensuring the surrender of some 9,000 militants.

Outlining connectivity as an essential part of development, Amit Shah announced that the northeast will soon complete its connection with the rest of the world and the BJP-led government at the center has helped create over 75 important international tourist destinations in the region in the past 10 years.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/amit-shah-north-eastern-council-meeting-in-tripura-on-december-21-2024/article69012251.ece>]

47. Which of the following statements about the establishment of the North Eastern Council (NEC) is correct?

- (a) The NEC was established in 1971 and inaugurated in Shillong in 1972 by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.
 (b) The NEC was established in 1972 and inaugurated in Guwahati in 1973 by Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri.
 (c) The NEC was established in 1970 and inaugurated in Itanagar in 1971 by Prime Minister Morarji Desai.
 (d) The NEC was established in 1973 and inaugurated in Imphal in 1974 by Prime Minister V.V. Giri.

48. Which of the following schemes mentioned by the Chief Minister focuses on infrastructure development in the North Eastern States?

- (a) Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North East
 (b) North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme
 (c) Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana
 (d) National Infrastructure Pipeline Programme

49. Which of the following neighbouring countries shares an 856 km-long international border with the Indian state of Tripura, where the meeting is being held under tight security?

- (a) Bangladesh (b) Myanmar (c) Bhutan (d) Nepal

50. Which of the following insurgent outfits, along with the National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT), signed a memorandum of settlement with the Centre and Tripura Government, leading to the surrender of over 328 cadres?

- (a) Tripura Revolutionary Front (b) All Tripura Tiger Force
 (c) United Tripura People's Army (d) Indigenous Freedom Organisation of Tripura

51. Consider the following statements about the North Eastern Council (NEC) and its recent initiatives:

I. The PM-DevINE scheme highlights the NEC's role in advancing the Prime Minister's vision for the North Eastern Region (NER).

II. The North Eastern Region is popularly referred to as 'Ashta Lakshmi', symbolizing its cultural richness and developmental potential.

III. The NEC operates independently of all central government schemes and initiatives for the region.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

52. Which organization, founded through the initiatives of the North Eastern Council (NEC), has significantly contributed to hydropower generation and energy expansion in the northeastern region?

- (a) North Eastern Development Finance Corporation (b) North East Infrastructure Advancement Authority
(c) North Eastern Electrical Power Corporation (d) North East Renewable Energy Mission Board

Section - C : Legal Reasoning

Passage:- 1 The modern law of hazardous activities grew out of the classic rule in *Rylands v. Fletcher* (1868), which imposed liability on a person who, for his own purposes, brings onto his land and keeps anything likely to do mischief if it escapes. The rule proceeds from a simple allocation of risk: when someone accumulates a dangerous agency, the burden of confining it rests on that person rather than on innocent neighbours. Liability arises without proof of fault when three ideas cohere. First, there must be a dangerous thing—not dangerous in every use, but liable to cause harm upon loss of control (large bodies of water, gas, electricity, explosives, noxious fumes, sewage). Secondly, there must be an escape, meaning movement of the dangerous thing, or its harmful agency, from the defendant's occupation and control into another's domain; an internal explosion inside a factory without outward movement does not qualify, whereas poisonous branches protruding into a neighbour's land do. Thirdly, there must be a non-natural (special) use of land, a use which, by adding abnormal danger, goes beyond ordinary domestic or community-benefit use; a huge industrial reservoir is non-natural, an everyday hearth fire or household water is not.

Because the rule focuses on risk creation, the duty is non-delegable: a defendant cannot avoid responsibility by employing an independent contractor to undertake the hazardous accumulation. Yet strict liability is not absolute; historically recognised excuses reflect situations where the defendant's responsibility is fairly displaced. These include the plaintiff's own default (for example, a trespassing animal that eats poisonous foliage within the defendant's boundary), an Act of God (*vis major*) where extraordinary, irresistible natural forces overwhelm reasonable precautions (such as unprecedented rainfall bursting embankments), consent or common benefit where the activity is undertaken for and accepted by both parties (shared water storage), an unforeseeable act of a third party that the defendant could not reasonably prevent, and statutory authority where harm occurs without negligence in the course of fulfilling a statutory duty (such as maintaining continuous mains water).

Indian public-law torts moved decisively beyond these limits in *M.C. Mehta v. Union of India* (Oleum Gas, 1987) and the Bhopal Gas litigation. The Supreme Court fashioned a doctrine of absolute liability for enterprises engaged in hazardous or inherently dangerous activities. Under this standard the enterprise owes an absolute and non-delegable duty to the community to ensure that no harm results; if harm occurs, liability follows without exceptions. Unlike *Rylands*, no proof of "escape" is necessary—the duty protects workers within the premises and persons outside—and the classification of "non-natural use" is irrelevant. The Court grounded this stricter rule in two normative propositions: an enterprise that profits from dangerous activities bears a social obligation to absorb the costs of accidents as part of its overheads, and it is best placed to discover, prevent, and insure against the hazards it creates. Remedies, moreover, must deter: compensation is calibrated to the magnitude and capacity of the enterprise so that the sanction meaningfully internalises risk and compels the highest standards of safety.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from <https://gyansanchay.csjmu.ac.in/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/08-Strict-and-absolute-Liability-3.pdf>]

53. A multinational pharmaceutical company operates a large production facility manufacturing toxic chemical intermediates used in drug synthesis. An internal chemical reactor malfunctions due to a design defect, causing an explosion that severely injures fifteen workers inside the factory premises. No chemical escaped beyond the factory boundary, and neighbouring properties remained unaffected. The company argues that under the rule in *Rylands v. Fletcher*, there is no liability since there was no "escape" of the dangerous substance from its premises into another's domain. The workers claim that the company should be held liable under Indian law.

Which statement best reflects the correct legal position?

- (a) The company is not liable as there was no escape beyond its premises.
- (b) The company is liable only if the workers can prove negligence in reactor design.
- (c) The company is absolutely liable as Indian law does not require proof of escape.
- (d) The company is not liable as the harm occurred during lawful industrial activity.

54. A private electricity distribution company maintains high-voltage transmission lines across rural areas. A farmer's cow wanders onto the company's fenced property at night, breaks through a secondary barrier, and comes into contact with exposed electrical equipment, resulting in electrocution. The company had posted warning signs

and maintained standard safety measures. The farmer sues for compensation claiming the company is strictly liable for keeping dangerous material. Should the company be held liable for the cow's death?

- (a) Yes, because electricity is inherently dangerous and creates strict liability regardless of fault.
- (b) No, because the farmer's default in controlling his animal caused the harm directly.
- (c) Yes, because high-voltage electricity constitutes non-natural use requiring absolute safeguards.
- (d) No, because the company maintained reasonable safety measures and posted adequate warnings.

55. A large steel manufacturing plant operated by an industrial conglomerate uses blast furnaces that generate extreme heat and toxic emissions. After a sudden mechanical failure in the ventilation system, poisonous fumes accumulate inside the factory floor, causing severe respiratory injuries to fifty workers before emergency evacuation. No fumes escape beyond the factory walls, and no external property or persons are affected. The company argues that under traditional principles, liability arises only when dangerous substances escape from the defendant's premises, and since the harm was contained within its own property, workers must prove negligence to recover damages.

Consider the following statements:

- i. Under *Rylands v. Fletcher*, escape from the defendant's occupation and control is essential for liability.
- ii. Indian absolute liability applies only when hazardous substances physically exit the factory premises.
- iii. An enterprise engaged in hazardous activities owes protection to workers within the premises.
- iv. The enterprise must compensate workers only if they prove fault in maintaining safety systems.

Which of the following statements are not false?

- (a) Statements i and ii
- (b) Statements ii and iv
- (c) Statements iii and iv
- (d) Statements i and iii

56. Priya and her neighbour Kavita jointly decide to install a large underground rainwater harvesting tank on the boundary between their properties to address water scarcity in their locality. They equally share the installation and maintenance costs. During monsoon, due to unprecedented heavy rainfall, the tank overflows and water seeps into the basement of another neighbour, Amit, causing damage to his stored furniture. Amit sues both Priya and Kavita claiming strict liability for the escape of accumulated water from their properties. Should Priya and Kavita be held liable?

- (a) Yes, because rainwater harvesting tanks constitute non-natural use creating strict liability.
- (b) No, because the activity was undertaken for community benefit and water conservation.
- (c) Yes, because any escape of accumulated water creates liability regardless of purpose.
- (d) No, because unprecedented rainfall constitutes an Act of God excusing liability.

57. Vikram operates a small home-based carpentry workshop in a residential area where he uses electric saws, drills, and other power tools for custom furniture making. He stores a modest quantity of varnish and wood polish—standard materials for his trade—in a locked storage room. A sophisticated burglary ring breaks into his workshop using advanced lock-picking tools, steals equipment, and in the process knocks over containers of varnish, which leaks through the floor into his neighbour's apartment below, damaging expensive carpets. The neighbour sues Vikram under strict liability principles. Should Vikram be held liable for the damage?

- (a) Yes, because storing flammable materials creates strict liability for any escape.
- (b) No, because the criminal act was an unforeseeable act of a third party.
- (c) Yes, because operating a commercial workshop in a residential area is non-natural use.
- (d) No, because Vikram maintained reasonable security by keeping materials locked.

58. Rajesh owns a small plot of land where he operates a modest poultry farm with approximately 200 chickens for selling eggs locally. His neighbour Sharma, a retired civil engineer, constructs a large artificial lake on his adjacent property for pisciculture, installing sophisticated embankments and drainage systems. Rajesh expresses concerns about potential flooding but Sharma assures him of the lake's safety. During normal monsoon rainfall, the embankments hold firm, but Rajesh's prize rooster breaks through the boundary fence, enters Sharma's property, and drinks water contaminated with fish medication stored near the lake, resulting in the rooster's death. Rajesh sues Sharma under the rule in *Rylands v. Fletcher* claiming strict liability for keeping dangerous substances

that harmed his animal. The Court must determine whether Sharma should be held liable and what the appropriate legal outcome should be.

Possible Decisions:

- (A) Sharma is not liable as Rajesh's failure to control his animal caused the harm.
- (B) Sharma is liable as accumulating large bodies of water creates strict liability for all resulting harm.
- (C) Sharma is not liable as the lake was constructed for community-benefit pisciculture activity.

Possible Reasoning for the Decision:

- (i) The plaintiff's own default in allowing his animal to trespass onto the defendant's property fairly displaces strict liability.
- (ii) Strict liability is absolute and applies regardless of how the dangerous substance came into contact with the victim.
- (iii) Pisciculture constitutes ordinary agricultural use that does not add abnormal danger beyond normal farming activities.
- (iv) The defendant had no duty to safeguard trespassing animals from dangerous materials lawfully kept within his own boundary.

Your Decision with the Reasoning:

- | | | | |
|------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| (a) (A)(i) | (b) (B)(ii) | (c) (C)(iii) | (d) (A)(iv) |
|------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|

Passage:- 2 The Indian Penal Code recognises defences that negate culpability by excluding mens rea or authorising proportionate protective force: mistake, unsoundness of mind, intoxication, and private defence. First, Sections 76 and 79 excuse acts done in good-faith factual misapprehension of being bound or justified by law; by contrast, mistake of law is never excused. This distinction reflects the maxim ignorantia facti excusat, ignorantia juris non excusat. Section 76 concerns a supposed legal obligation to act, whereas Section 79 concerns a supposed legal justification; in both, good faith must be shown. Second, Section 84 on unsoundness of mind applies only if, at the time of the act, the person was incapable of knowing the nature of the act or that it was wrong or contrary to law, assessed from surrounding circumstances. Third, Sections 85 and 86 differentiate involuntary from voluntary intoxication: involuntary intoxication exonerates where the intoxicant was administered without knowledge or against the will and the actor could not know the act's nature or wrongness, while voluntary intoxication imputes to the actor the knowledge he would have had if sober. Fourth, private defence under Sections 96 and 97 is preventive, not punitive: nothing is an offence if done in its exercise, which extends to defence of one's own or another's body and to protection of property against theft, robbery, mischief, and criminal trespass. Section 98 further allows private defence even against acts of children, the intoxicated, or the mentally unsound when their conduct would otherwise amount to an offence. Fifth, Section 99 limits the right by denying it when a public servant or a person acting under his direction acts in good faith without causing reasonable apprehension of death or grievous hurt, when there is time to seek public protection, or when more harm than necessary is inflicted; good faith here means due care and caution. Sixth, Section 100 permits causing death in defence of the body for assaults reasonably causing apprehension of death or grievous hurt, or involving rape, unnatural lust, kidnapping or abduction, or wrongful confinement preventing recourse to authorities, whereas Section 101 confines other cases to harm short of death; for property, Section 103 allows causing death in specified situations, and Section 104 otherwise confines harm to less than death. Seventh, Section 102 commences bodily defence on reasonable apprehension and continues while it lasts, and Section 105 similarly sets property-defence timing by retreat, recovery, or official assistance. Eighth, Section 106 authorises running the risk of harming an innocent person when repelling a deadly assault. In sum, these defences apply only where good-faith mistake, incapacity, or strictly necessary prevention is shown, and they are confined by proportionality, reasonable apprehension, and temporal boundaries prescribed by the Code.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from <http://student.manupatra.com/Academic/Abk/Indian-Penal-Code/chapter5.htm>]

59. Arjun, a security guard at a government office, receives what appears to be an official order on the department's letterhead directing him to detain any person attempting to access certain confidential files. When Meera, a newly appointed officer with valid authorization, tries to enter the restricted area, Arjun physically restrains her, causing minor injuries. It is later discovered that the order was forged by a dismissed employee seeking revenge. Arjun had no reason to doubt the document's authenticity as it bore all official markings and signatures. Meera files a complaint against Arjun for wrongful restraint and assault. Should Arjun be held criminally liable?

- (a) No, because he acted under good-faith mistake of fact regarding his legal obligation.
- (b) No, because he acted under good-faith mistake of law regarding his powers.
- (c) Yes, because mistake regarding authenticity of orders does not excuse wrongful acts.
- (d) Yes, because good faith requires verification of order authenticity before causing harm.

60. Rajesh suffers from severe bipolar disorder and has been under psychiatric treatment. During a depressive episode, he fails to take his prescribed medication for three days. On the fourth day, while experiencing severe mood disturbances, he gets into a financial argument with his brother. In sudden rage, Rajesh picks up a cricket bat and strikes his brother on the head, causing serious injuries. Medical evidence shows that at the time of the act, Rajesh knew he was hitting his brother with the bat and understood it would hurt him, but his ability to control his anger and assess consequences was significantly impaired by his untreated mental condition. He claims defence under Section 84. Should Rajesh be granted the defence of unsoundness of mind?

- (a) No, because he knew the nature of his act and that it would cause harm.
- (b) No, because his failure to take prescribed medication was voluntary and foreseeable.
- (c) Yes, because his mental condition significantly impaired his judgment and impulse control.
- (d) Yes, because bipolar disorder qualifies as unsoundness of mind under the law.

61. Kavita attends a corporate party where she voluntarily consumes three glasses of wine over two hours. Later, someone secretly adds a strong sedative drug to her fourth drink without her knowledge. After consuming the spiked drink, Kavita becomes severely disoriented and, in a confused state believing she is defending herself from an attacker, she pushes a colleague down the stairs causing serious injuries. Toxicology reports confirm both alcohol and sedative in her system, with the sedative at levels known to cause severe confusion and hallucinations. The prosecution argues that her voluntary alcohol consumption negates any claim of involuntary intoxication. Should Kavita be granted the defence of involuntary intoxication?

- (a) No, because the combined effect of voluntary alcohol and involuntary sedative caused the incapacity.
- (b) No, because prior voluntary intoxication disqualifies any subsequent claim of involuntary intoxication.
- (c) Yes, because the sedative was administered without knowledge and caused incapacity to know the act's nature.
- (d) Yes, because she lacked knowledge that the final drink was spiked when she consumed it.

62. Ramesh is confronted by two armed robbers in a narrow alley who threaten him with knives and demand his wallet. Ramesh, who is carrying a licensed pistol, draws his weapon to defend himself. The robbers advance toward him menacingly. At that moment, a pedestrian, walking from the opposite direction unaware of the situation, enters Ramesh's line of fire. Ramesh fires at one of the robbers but the bullet grazes the innocent pedestrian's arm, causing injury, before hitting the robber. The pedestrian files a complaint against Ramesh for causing hurt. Ramesh claims he was exercising his right of private defence against a deadly assault.

Should Ramesh be held criminally liable for injuring the innocent pedestrian?

- (a) Yes, because private defence does not extend to causing harm to innocent third parties.
- (b) Yes, because he should have refrained from firing when the pedestrian entered his line of fire.
- (c) No, because the law authorizes running the risk of harming an innocent person when repelling a deadly assault.
- (d) No, because the pedestrian's injury was accidental and Ramesh had no intention to harm him.

63. Deepak is being chased by an armed assailant who has already fired two shots at him. Deepak runs toward a police station which is visible approximately 200 meters away. Before he can reach the station, the assailant closes the distance and aims his gun directly at Deepak. In desperation, Deepak picks up a heavy stone and throws it at the assailant, striking him in the head and causing grievous injuries. The assailant survives and files a complaint

against Deepak. Deepak claims private defence, while the prosecution argues that since a police station was nearby and Deepak had time to seek public protection, his right of private defence was not available.

Should Deepak be held criminally liable for causing grievous hurt?

- (a) No, because the imminent deadly threat justified immediate defensive action despite police station proximity.
- (b) No, because seeking public protection was impossible given the immediate nature of the assault.
- (c) Yes, because there was time to seek public protection at the nearby police station.
- (d) Yes, because the harm caused exceeded what was necessary given the availability of official assistance.

64. Meera is walking through a park when a seven-year-old child, suffering from a severe psychiatric condition, suddenly picks up a sharp broken bottle and runs toward her with clear intent to stab her. The child's caretaker had momentarily lost sight of him. Meera, seeing the imminent danger, pushes the child away forcefully to protect herself. The child falls and suffers a fractured arm. The child's parents file a complaint against Meera for causing grievous hurt to a minor.

Assertion (A): Meera can claim the right of private defence even though the aggressor was a seven-year-old child incapable of criminal responsibility.

Reason (R): Private defence is available against acts of children when their conduct would otherwise amount to an offence, as the right is preventive rather than punitive.

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

Passage:- 3 Indian environmental law articulates a framework that integrates sustainability with regulation through a set of interlocking principles shaped by international developments, constitutional duties, and judicial interpretation. The principle that the blessings of the environment should be enjoyed by the present generation and succeeded to future generations establishes that a sustainable society must minimize environmental pressure from human activities, reflecting the need to balance ecology and economy identified at the Stockholm Conference, 1972 and the R10 Conference of 1992. The Polluter Pays Principle is a doctrine that requires those who produce pollution to bear the costs of managing it so as to prevent damage to human health or the environment; the Supreme Court of India has interpreted it as imposing absolute liability that extends to compensating victims and to the costs of restoring environmental degradation, and the Environment Protection Act, 1986 empowers the government to take all measures necessary to protect and improve environmental quality, thereby internalizing environmental and direct costs. Extended Producer Responsibility, described by the OECD as responsibility borne by manufacturers and importers throughout a product's life-cycle, functions as an articulation of Polluter Pays by covering upstream material choices, production impacts, and downstream use and disposal, though its application is limited because Polluter Pays operates mainly at the remedial stage, enabling the critique that one may "pay and pollute." The Precautionary Principle underlies sustainable development by requiring that developmental activity be stopped and prevented where it risks serious and irreversible environmental damage; it addresses inadequacies of science by directing prevention even without conclusive proof and was affirmed in Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration and by the Supreme Court in *Vellore Citizens' Forum v. Union of India*. The essential ingredients of the Precautionary Principle require State Governments and statutory authorities to anticipate, prevent, and attack causes of environmental degradation, and to avoid postponing preventive measures because of scientific uncertainty. The Public Trust Doctrine holds that certain resources—such as air, sea waters, rivers, forests, and ecologically fragile lands—are preserved for public use, with the State as trustee under a legal duty to protect them from conversion to private ownership; courts have applied this doctrine across ecosystems and held that altering the true nature of a historically and environmentally significant park would violate it. The doctrine imposes three restrictions on the State: the property must be available for use by the general public for public purposes, it must not be sold even for fair cash equivalent, and it must be maintained for specific uses such as navigation, recreation, or fishery, and these duties are reinforced by Article 48A and the Article 21 right to a healthy environment. Complementing these, the preventive action and rectification-at-source principles recognized in a regional treaty require that environmental harm be forestalled and repaired at its origin, while the polluter bears the cost, together

delineating a purpose-driven, preventive, and trusteeship-based architecture for environmental governance in India.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from <https://www.defactolaw.in/post/principle-of-environmental-law-in-india>]

65. A chemical manufacturing company discharges toxic effluents into a river, causing widespread contamination that affects drinking water supply to several downstream villages. The pollution results in severe health problems among residents and destroys the river's aquatic ecosystem. The company argues that it is willing to pay the statutory penalties prescribed under environmental regulations and has already deposited the fine amount with authorities. The affected villagers file a petition demanding that the company not only pay fines but also bear the complete costs of cleaning the river, restoring the ecosystem, and compensating victims for health damages. The company contends that payment of prescribed penalties satisfies its legal obligations under the Polluter Pays Principle. Should the company be required to bear costs beyond the statutory penalties?

- (a) Yes, because the Polluter Pays Principle extends to compensating victims and restoring environmental degradation.
- (b) Yes, because the Environment Protection Act requires companies to internalize all environmental costs.
- (c) No, because payment of prescribed statutory penalties fully satisfies the Polluter Pays Principle.
- (d) No, because additional costs would constitute double punishment for the same environmental violation.

66. A multinational electronics manufacturer produces smartphones in India and sells them across the country. After the products reach their end-of-life, millions of discarded phones containing hazardous materials like lead, mercury, and cadmium end up in landfills and informal recycling centers, causing soil and groundwater contamination. The company argues that once products are sold to consumers, the responsibility for proper disposal lies with the purchasers and waste management authorities, not with the manufacturer. Environmental activists petition the court claiming that the manufacturer should be held responsible for establishing take-back systems, funding recycling infrastructure, and ensuring safe disposal of its products throughout their entire life-cycle.

Should the manufacturer be held responsible for post-consumer waste management?

- (a) No, because responsibility transfers to consumers upon purchase and sale of the products.
- (b) No, because waste management is a public function that statutory authorities must perform.
- (c) Yes, because Extended Producer Responsibility covers downstream use and disposal throughout product life-cycle.
- (d) Yes, because the Polluter Pays Principle applies to all pollution regardless of its source.

67. A large pharmaceutical company operates a manufacturing plant that produces antibiotics and discharges treated effluents into a nearby river after complying with all prescribed standards under environmental regulations. Despite meeting the regulatory standards, scientific studies indicate that even the treated effluents contain trace amounts of pharmaceutical residues that may cause long-term ecological damage, though conclusive evidence of harm is not yet established. The company has obtained all statutory clearances and regularly pays environmental cess as prescribed by law. Local environmental groups file a petition arguing that the company should install advanced treatment systems to eliminate pharmaceutical residues, even though such systems are not currently mandated by regulations. The company argues that it has complied with all legal requirements and paid all prescribed charges, and therefore cannot be held liable for speculative future harm.

Should the company be required to install advanced treatment systems despite regulatory compliance?

- (a) Yes, because the Polluter Pays Principle requires internalizing all environmental costs regardless of regulatory compliance.
- (b) No, because requiring measures beyond legal mandates would constitute arbitrary imposition without statutory basis.
- (c) No, because compliance with regulatory standards and payment of cess satisfies Polluter Pays obligations completely.
- (d) Yes, because payment of environmental cess allows industries to continue polluting within prescribed limits legally.

68. A State Government, facing severe financial constraints and mounting public debt, decides to lease a 200-acre historic urban forest park to a private real estate developer for construction of a luxury commercial complex. The forest park has existed for over a century, provides crucial green space and recreational facilities to city residents, and serves important ecological functions including air purification and groundwater recharge. The government argues that the lease will generate substantial revenue (fair market value) desperately needed for public welfare programs including education and healthcare, and that the developer will maintain 20% of the area as a landscaped garden open to the public. Citizens' groups challenge the decision, claiming the forest park cannot be converted to private commercial use regardless of financial considerations.

Should the State Government be permitted to lease the historic forest park for private commercial development?

- (a) Yes, because the State has sovereign right to lease public property for fair consideration to meet urgent fiscal needs.
- (b) Yes, because maintaining partial public access to landscaped areas preserves the property's availability for public use.
- (c) No, because the Public Trust Doctrine prohibits selling or converting trust property even for fair cash equivalent.
- (d) No, because historic parks can only be leased if the entire property remains available for original recreational purposes.

69. A textile industrial cluster comprising fifty factories operates in a region, collectively discharging chemical effluents into a river. The cumulative pollution has caused severe water contamination affecting downstream communities. When authorities order installation of treatment facilities, several factory owners argue that their individual contributions to the total pollution are minimal and that the contamination primarily results from other factories in the cluster. They contend they should not bear disproportionate costs for treating pollution they did not individually cause in significant measure. The pollution control board proposes that all factories install individual treatment systems at their respective discharge points. Some factory owners argue that a more economical approach would be to install a common effluent treatment plant downstream from the cluster, sharing costs proportionally. What approach best aligns with environmental law principles for addressing this pollution?

- (a) Individual treatment at each factory's discharge point, as rectification-at-source requires addressing pollution at its origin.
- (b) Common treatment facility downstream, as it achieves effective pollution control at lower collective economic cost.
- (c) Proportional liability based on individual pollution contribution, as fairness requires matching responsibility to actual harm caused.
- (d) No treatment requirement for factories with minimal individual contribution, as environmental regulation should focus on major polluters.

Passage:- 4 India's Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 establishes a structured regime of duties for those who determine the purposes and means of processing personal data and ties these duties to the recognition of the fundamental right to privacy and the requirement that processing serve lawful objectives. The definitional foundation is that a Data Fiduciary, under Section 2(i), is any person or entity that alone or jointly decides the objectives and methods of handling personal data, while the Data Principal is the individual to whom the data relates, including parents or legal guardians for minors and legal guardians for persons with disabilities. The lawful-processing principle anchors Chapter II by requiring that personal data be processed only for lawful purposes, either on the basis of explicit consent or under specified legitimate circumstances, and this obligation applies irrespective of whether any earlier consent predated the Act. The notice-and-transparency principle obliges a Data Fiduciary, before seeking consent, to provide a clear notice stating the purpose of processing, the complaint mechanism, and access to the notice in English or any language in the Eighth Schedule, and to include contact details of a Data Protection Officer or another authorized contact. The consent principle in Section 6 requires consent to be freely given, specific, informed, unconditional, and clear for a defined purpose, declares any conflicting aspect void, and preserves the Data Principal's right to revoke consent at any time, after which

processing must cease unless another lawful ground under this Act or other Indian law applies. The consent-manager governance principle allows the Data Principal to manage, review, or withdraw consent through a registered Consent Manager that is answerable to the Data Principal and must meet prescribed technical, operational, financial, and other requirements. The legitimate-uses principle in Section 7 permits processing for delineated purposes, including situations where the Data Principal voluntarily provides data to the Data Fiduciary for a particular purpose without an express consent statement, as well as other enumerated uses. The state-processing principle authorizes handling for defined objectives such as delivery of subsidies, benefits, services, certificates, licenses, or permits, either where the Data Principal has previously consented to such processing or where data in digital form—or digitized from State records pursuant to Central Government notification—is processed in accordance with applicable policy or law. The general obligations principle in Section 8 requires accuracy and consistency, technical and organizational safeguards, breach notification to the Board and affected Data Principals, and public disclosure of Data Protection Officer contact details. The children's data protection principle in Section 9 mandates verifiable parental or guardian consent, prohibits processing detrimental to a child's well-being, and bans tracking, behavioral monitoring, and targeted advertising directed at children. The enhanced-accountability principle for Significant Data Fiduciaries authorizes Central Government designation and imposes additional measures, including appointment of a Data Protection Officer based in India who reports to the governing body, engagement of an independent data auditor, periodic Data Protection Impact Assessments, routine audits, and any further notified requirements. Collectively, these provisions—effective upon notified commencement following presidential assent on August 11, 2023—define purpose-bound, consent-centric, notice-based, and risk-responsive obligations for Data Fiduciaries within the Act's express limits.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from <https://www.ardentprivacy.ai/blog/data-fiduciary-obligations-under-the-digital-personal-data-protection-act-2023/>]

70. A popular e-commerce platform seeks to collect personal data from users for processing payments and delivering products. Before obtaining consent, the platform displays a notice in English explaining the purpose of data collection and includes a complaint redressal email address. However, the notice does not mention the contact details of any Data Protection Officer, as the company has not yet appointed one. The platform argues that providing the complaint email address satisfies the transparency requirements. A user challenges this practice, claiming the notice is incomplete and violates the Act's requirements. Does the platform's notice comply with the notice-and-transparency principle?

- (a) No, because the notice must include contact details of a Data Protection Officer or another authorized contact.
- (b) Yes, because appointment of a Data Protection Officer is optional for all Data Fiduciaries under the Act.
- (c) Yes, because providing the purpose of processing and complaint mechanism satisfies the notice requirements.
- (d) No, because the notice must be provided in all languages listed in the Eighth Schedule simultaneously.

71. A fitness tracking application seeks consent from users to collect health data for providing personalized workout recommendations. The consent form includes a clause stating: "By clicking 'I Agree,' you consent to collection of your health data for fitness services and also agree that you cannot withdraw this consent for a period of two years to ensure continuity of service." The application argues this condition is necessary for maintaining service quality and that users are informed about the restriction upfront. A user who wishes to revoke consent after six months challenges this clause.

Is the two-year non-revocable consent clause valid under the Act?

- (a) Yes, because the Data Principal was clearly informed about the restriction before providing consent.
- (b) Yes, because Data Fiduciaries can impose reasonable conditions to ensure service continuity and quality.
- (c) No, because the consent principle preserves the right to revoke consent at any time without temporal restrictions.
- (d) No, because consent restrictions exceeding one year are invalid, but shorter restrictions are permissible.

72. Rajiv registers with a registered Consent Manager platform to centrally manage consent for various online services. He uses the Consent Manager to grant consent to a banking app for processing his financial data. Three months later, Rajiv attempts to withdraw his consent through the Consent Manager platform, but the banking app

continues to process his data, arguing that it received the original consent directly from Rajiv and is not bound by withdrawals made through third-party platforms. The Consent Manager claims it properly communicated the withdrawal to the banking app. Rajiv complains that the banking app violated his rights under the Act. Is the banking app's continued processing after withdrawal through the Consent Manager lawful?

- (a) No, because the Consent Manager is authorized to manage, review, and withdraw consent on behalf of the Data Principal.
- (b) No, because any withdrawal of consent, regardless of the method, requires immediate cessation of processing.
- (c) Yes, because consent granted directly to a Data Fiduciary can only be withdrawn directly, not through intermediaries.
- (d) Yes, because the banking app can continue processing if it maintains a valid alternate lawful basis.

73. A hospital requires patients to fill out a registration form for scheduling appointments. The form collects name, contact number, and medical history. Patients voluntarily provide this information knowing it will be used for appointment scheduling and medical consultation. The hospital does not obtain explicit written or digital consent through a formal consent mechanism, arguing that patients voluntarily provide the data for the specific purpose of receiving medical services, and the purpose is obvious from the context.

Is the hospital's processing of patient data without explicit consent lawful under the Act?

- (a) No, because all processing of personal data requires explicit written or digital consent under the Act.
- (b) No, because medical data is sensitive and always requires formal consent regardless of circumstances.
- (c) Yes, because healthcare services are exempted from consent requirements under the state-processing principle.
- (d) Yes, because the legitimate-uses principle permits processing when the Data Principal voluntarily provides data for a particular purpose.

74. A large e-commerce company experiences a data breach in which hackers gain unauthorized access to a database containing personal information of 5 million users, including names, addresses, phone numbers, and purchase histories. The company's internal investigation reveals the breach occurred due to inadequate encryption of stored data. The company immediately fixes the security vulnerability but delays notifying users for three weeks while it assesses the full extent of the breach and prepares a communication strategy. The company does not notify the Data Protection Board, arguing that since no financial data was compromised, the breach does not warrant regulatory notification. Has the company fulfilled its obligations under the general obligations principle?

- (a) No, because notification should have been provided immediately without any delay for internal assessment.
- (b) No, because breach notification to the Board and affected Data Principals is mandatory regardless of data type.
- (c) Yes, because the company took immediate corrective action by fixing the vulnerability and preventing further breach.
- (d) Yes, because breach notification is required only when financial or highly sensitive data is compromised.

Passage:- 5 Article 19(1) guarantees citizens freedoms of speech and expression, peaceful assembly, association, movement, residence, and profession/occupation/trade/business, but clauses (2)–(6) permit the State to impose reasonable restrictions. The constitutional balance is between individual liberty and social control in the interests of the general public and specified heads such as security, public order, decency, and morality.

Three threshold requirements govern any curtailment: (i) the restriction must be by or under authority of law (not mere executive fiat); (ii) it must be reasonable; and (iii) it must pursue a purpose enumerated in Article 19(2)–(6). Courts apply a “double test”: whether the law’s aim fits the clause and whether the degree of restraint is reasonable. The onus to justify reasonableness lies on the State.

The classic guide is V.G. Row: reasonableness is judged case by case, considering the nature of the right, the purpose and urgency of the restriction, the extent of harm targeted, the proportionality of means, prevailing conditions, and whether the measure is excessive. Reasonableness is objective, not based on judicial predilection; a restriction fails if a reasonable person would find it arbitrary or disproportionate. Substantive and procedural safeguards both matter: provisions for notice, hearing, review/appeal, time-limits, and controlled administrative discretion count in favor of reasonableness; unguided or blanket discretion counts against it. Retrospectivity, temporariness, and

emergency context are relevant but not conclusive. A restriction must also comport with Article 14 (non-arbitrariness).

The proportionality requirement demands a direct and proximate nexus between the restraint and the legislative objective and asks whether less restrictive alternatives could suffice. Courts focus on the direct effect of the law on the right rather than its subject-matter label, ensuring that ostensibly neutral measures do not impermissibly abridge freedoms.

"Restriction" may, in appropriate cases, include total prohibition if proportionate to the legitimate aim (e.g., to protect health, morals, or public order). Directive Principles may inform reasonableness where a measure advances recognized socio-economic goals.

The specific grounds are: under Article 19(2) for speech—sovereignty and integrity of India, security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality, contempt of court, defamation, and incitement to an offence; under 19(3) for assembly—sovereignty and integrity, public order; under 19(4) for association—sovereignty and integrity, public order, morality; under 19(5) for movement/residence—general public interest or protection of Scheduled Tribes; and under 19(6) for profession/trade—general public interest, including regulation of professional qualifications and permissibility of State monopolies. A law satisfying both the enumerated purpose and the reasonableness standard survives scrutiny; otherwise, it is unconstitutional.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from <https://www.goforthelaw.com/articles/fromlawstu/article48.htm>]

75. The Commissioner of Police of a metropolitan city, citing increasing incidents of traffic congestion and public inconvenience during political rallies, issues an order prohibiting all public assemblies and processions in the city for a period of three months. The order is issued under the Commissioner's general administrative powers to maintain law and order but is not backed by any specific legislative provision or rule. Political parties challenge the order, claiming it violates their fundamental right to peaceful assembly under Article 19(1)(b). The Commissioner argues that the order is necessary for public order and is a reasonable administrative measure to address a practical problem. Is the Commissioner's order constitutionally valid?

- (a) Yes, because the order serves the legitimate purpose of maintaining public order and preventing congestion.
- (b) Yes, because police commissioners have inherent administrative authority to regulate public assemblies for safety.
- (c) No, because a three-month prohibition is excessive and disproportionate to the objective sought.
- (d) No, because the restriction is not imposed by or under authority of law as required.

76. A State Legislature enacts the Public Health Protection Act to combat the spread of infectious diseases. Section 5 of the Act empowers the State Government to prohibit assemblies and close businesses "as deemed necessary for public health." During a mild flu outbreak affecting 0.5% of the population with no fatalities, the State Government invokes Section 5 to impose a complete ban on all restaurants, gyms, and entertainment venues for six months, causing severe economic hardship. Restaurant owners challenge the order, arguing that less restrictive measures such as capacity limits, hygiene protocols, and masks would adequately address health concerns. The State argues that the Act grants it broad powers and that protecting public health is a paramount concern.

Is the State Government's order constitutionally valid?

- (a) Yes, because public health is a legitimate ground and the Act provides clear legislative authority.
- (b) Yes, because the State has discretion to determine the appropriate measures for public health protection.
- (c) No, because less restrictive alternatives exist that could sufficiently address the health concerns.
- (d) No, because mild flu outbreaks do not justify restrictions on fundamental rights under Article 19.

77. A State Government enacts the Professional Standards Act requiring all medical practitioners to obtain a new "Advanced Practice Certificate" from a State Board before continuing practice. The Act specifies detailed eligibility criteria, examination procedures, appeal mechanisms, and time-bound processing of applications within 90 days. However, several established doctors with decades of experience challenge the law, arguing that it imposes an unreasonable burden on their fundamental right to practice their profession under Article 19(1)(g). They contend that their existing medical degrees and licenses should suffice. The State argues that the certification ensures updated medical knowledge and protects public health.

Is the Professional Standards Act constitutionally valid?

- (a) No, because it imposes additional barriers on established professionals already licensed to practice medicine.
- (b) No, because professional qualifications cannot be regulated once initial licensing requirements are satisfied.
- (c) Yes, because any restriction on profession aimed at protecting public health is automatically reasonable.
- (d) Yes, because Article 19(6) permits regulation of professional qualifications in the general public interest.

78. Following several incidents of hate speech leading to communal tensions, Parliament enacts the Community Harmony Act that prohibits "any speech that may cause disharmony between communities." Civil liberties organizations challenge the Act, arguing that the phrase "may cause disharmony" is vague and gives unbounded discretion to authorities to suppress legitimate criticism and dissent. The Government argues that the Act serves the constitutional purpose of maintaining public order under Article 19(2) and that preventing communal disharmony is essential for national integration. Lower courts are divided on the Act's validity.

Should the Supreme Court uphold the Community Harmony Act?

- (a) No, because the vague language grants unguided administrative discretion that undermines reasonableness.
- (b) Yes, because the onus is on the challengers to prove the Act is unreasonable beyond doubt.
- (c) Yes, because the Act pursues the legitimate objective of maintaining public order and communal harmony.
- (d) No, because Article 19(2) does not specifically mention communal harmony as a permissible ground.

79. A State Government, responding to a severe water crisis caused by unprecedented drought, enacts the Essential Commodities Conservation Act that completely prohibits the manufacture, sale, and distribution of all alcoholic beverages in the State for a period of two years. The stated purpose is to conserve water used in alcohol production for drinking and agriculture. Brewery owners challenge the total prohibition, arguing it violates their fundamental right under Article 19(1)(g) to carry on trade and business. The State argues that the water crisis is severe, alcohol is not essential, and a complete ban is necessary to maximize water conservation for critical needs. Is the total prohibition on alcohol manufacture and sale constitutionally valid?

- (a) Yes, because alcohol is not an essential commodity and general public interest justifies the restriction.
- (b) Yes, because total prohibition can be a proportionate restriction when addressing severe resource crises.
- (c) No, because total prohibition of an entire lawful trade is never a reasonable restriction under Article 19.
- (d) No, because the State has not demonstrated that partial restrictions would be insufficient.

Passage:- 6 Section 13 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872 (ICA) defines consent as agreement by two or more persons on the same thing in the same sense (consensus ad idem), and Section 14 clarifies that consent is "free" when it is not caused by coercion, undue influence, fraud, misrepresentation, or mistake. Free consent is essential to the validity and enforceability of agreements because it ensures a genuine meeting of minds and shields parties from defective assent.

Coercion (Section 15) arises where a person commits or threatens to commit any act forbidden by the Indian Penal Code, or unlawfully detains property, with the intention of inducing agreement. In *Chikkam Ammiraju v. Chikkam Seshamma*, a threat of suicide to procure a release deed was treated as coercion, rendering the transaction voidable at the option of the aggrieved party. An agreement extracted by threats or unlawful detention is therefore impeachable for want of free consent.

Undue influence (Section 16) is present when the relations between the parties enable one to dominate the will of the other and use that position to obtain an unfair advantage. Dominance may arise from real or apparent authority, fiduciary relations, or when the other's mental capacity is affected by age, illness, or distress. If a transaction appears unconscionable, the burden shifts to the dominant party to prove absence of undue influence. Illustratively, where a doctor induces an elderly patient to pay an excessive amount for treatment, or where a gravely ill person gifts all property to one child to the exclusion of others, the gift is voidable for undue influence.

Fraud (Section 17) requires a false representation made knowingly, without belief in its truth, or recklessly, with intent to deceive, and may also arise through active concealment. Mere silence is not fraud unless there is a duty to speak, silence is deceptive, circumstances change, or half-truths are uttered; for example, a landlord who lets a ruinous house without disclosure is not fraudulent in the absence of such a duty. Consistent with *Derry v. Peek*,

deceit entails an absence of honest belief. Fraud renders the contract voidable, and the aggrieved party may rescind and claim damages for deceit.

Misrepresentation (Section 18) is an untrue statement of fact or law that induces agreement, and may be fraudulent, negligent, or innocent. Misrepresentation generally entitles the aggrieved party to rescission and, in cases of fault, may support a claim for damages; it applies to statements of fact, not mere opinions or predictions.

Mistake (Sections 20–22) affects consent when both parties are under a mistake as to a matter of fact essential to the agreement, in which case the agreement is void; a mistake of Indian law does not avoid a contract, and a unilateral mistake does not ordinarily render a contract voidable.

Where a party rightfully rescinds a contract for a vitiating factor, Section 75 ICA entitles that party to compensation for loss caused by non-fulfilment. Thus, contracts induced by coercion, undue influence, fraud, or misrepresentation are voidable at the aggrieved party's option, while a fundamental mutual mistake of fact renders the agreement void.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from <https://lawbhoomi.com/free-consent-under-indian-contract-act/>]

80. Meera, a 72-year-old widow, lives with her son Dhruv, a practicing advocate. After her husband's death, Dhruv manages all her financial affairs and accompanies her to all bank transactions. Meera decides to gift ₹40 lakhs from her fixed deposit to a charitable trust run by her longtime spiritual guru, whom she has followed for 20 years. Dhruv advises her that the trust is legitimate and helps draft the gift deed, though he personally feels the amount is excessive. Three months later, Meera's daughter Priya discovers the transaction and learns that similar-sized donations are common among the guru's elderly followers. Priya claims undue influence.

Which of the following best represents the legal position?

- (a) The gift is voidable as Dhruv, being in a fiduciary relationship, exercised undue influence by facilitating an unconscionable transaction.
- (b) The gift is voidable as the guru was in a position to dominate Meera's will through their spiritual relationship, creating presumption of undue influence.
- (c) The gift is valid as Meera's decision was independent, and the guru merely received the benefit without actively procuring the gift.
- (d) The gift is valid as Dhruv's advisory role did not amount to domination, and Meera's long-standing devotion indicates genuine consent.

81. Raghav is negotiating to purchase a commercial property from Sunita. During discussions, Sunita states, "The municipal corporation has approved the building plan for an additional two floors." Raghav relies on this and agrees to pay ₹2 crores. After the sale, Raghav discovers that while the building plan was submitted, formal approval is still pending and may be rejected due to new zoning regulations. Sunita genuinely believed approval was granted based on her architect's oral confirmation, though she never verified the written approval. The architect had misunderstood a preliminary clearance as final approval.

What is the most accurate characterization of Sunita's statement and its legal consequence?

- (a) Sunita's statement constitutes fraud as she made the representation recklessly without verifying its truth, making the contract voidable.
- (b) Sunita's statement constitutes negligent misrepresentation as she failed to verify a material fact, making the contract voidable with potential damages.
- (c) Sunita's statement constitutes innocent misrepresentation as she honestly believed it was true, making the contract voidable but without damages.
- (d) Sunita's statement does not constitute misrepresentation as it was based on the architect's confirmation, making the contract valid and binding.

82. Amit contracts to sell his vintage motorcycle to Karan for ₹3.5 lakhs, both believing it is a 1965 Royal Enfield Bullet. After delivery and payment, expert appraisal reveals it is actually a 1967 model, which has lower collector value (₹2.8 lakhs) due to certain design changes that year. However, the 1967 model has better mechanical reliability. Amit had inherited the motorcycle and genuinely believed his late father's documentation showing 1965

as the year. Karan specifically wanted a 1965 model for its collector value and had told Amit this during negotiations.

What is the legal status of this contract?

- (a) The contract is void due to mutual mistake of fact essential to the agreement, as both parties were mistaken about the motorcycle's year.
- (b) The contract is voidable at Karan's option due to Amit's innocent misrepresentation about the year of manufacture inducing the agreement.
- (c) The contract is voidable at Karan's option due to mutual mistake affecting an attribute that was the foundation of Karan's consent.
- (d) The contract is valid as the mistake relates to the quality or value of the subject matter, not its identity or existence.

83. Neha and her business partner Vikram are dissolving their partnership. During final settlement negotiations, Vikram tells Neha: "If you don't agree to my proposed valuation of ₹15 lakhs for your share (which Neha believes is worth ₹25 lakhs), I will immediately terminate our major client contract that requires both partners' signatures for renewal, which comes up next week. This will destroy the business value for both of us." Neha knows this termination is within Vikram's contractual rights as the contract allows any partner to refuse renewal. Feeling she has no choice as finding new clients would take months, Neha reluctantly agrees to ₹15 lakhs. Two weeks later, Neha seeks to rescind the agreement.

Can Neha successfully challenge the dissolution agreement?

- (a) Yes, because Vikram's threat to terminate the client contract to compel agreement constitutes coercion under Section 15.
- (b) No, because Vikram threatened a lawful act within his contractual rights, which does not constitute coercion.
- (c) Yes, because the significant undervaluation of Neha's share creates undue influence due to Vikram's dominant negotiating position.
- (d) No, because Neha's consent, though given under commercial pressure, was not vitiated as she understood the consequences.

84. Rajiv sells his house to Priya for ₹80 lakhs. During negotiations, Priya asks about the house's structural condition. Rajiv states, "The structure is sound, I had it inspected two years ago." He doesn't mention that three months ago, he discovered significant foundation cracks after heavy rains, which an engineer informally told him would require ₹8 lakhs in repairs, though Rajiv hasn't obtained a written assessment. Rajiv actively concealed the cracks by having them plastered and painted before showing the house. After purchase, Priya discovers the foundation damage and learns about Rajiv's knowledge of it. Rajiv argues he made no false statement since his inspection statement was truthful, and silence about subsequently discovered defects isn't fraud.

What is the legal position regarding Rajiv's non-disclosure of the foundation cracks?

- (a) Rajiv's conduct constitutes fraud through active concealment and rendering his earlier true statement misleading by changed circumstances.
- (b) Rajiv's conduct does not constitute fraud as mere silence about defects is not fraudulent without a legal duty to disclose.
- (c) Rajiv's conduct constitutes innocent misrepresentation as his original statement was true when made, making the contract voidable without damages.
- (d) Rajiv's conduct does not constitute fraud as his statement about the inspection was accurate, and subsequent discoveries don't create disclosure obligations.

Section - D : Logical Reasoning

Passage:- 1 In Phaedrus, Socrates warns that writing, far from aiding understanding, may offer only the semblance of wisdom. He tells the myth of Theuth, the inventor of writing, who promises that his art will improve memory. The king replies that it will instead create forgetfulness, for learners will rely on external marks rather than their own recollection. Socrates' concern was not with writing as a tool, but with its effect on thought. By substituting reading for dialogue, he feared, people would mistake the familiarity of words for genuine knowledge. In our own time, this ancient anxiety has returned with new force. Artificial intelligence now generates arguments, opinions and even simulated oral advocacy that appear reasoned but are in fact products of linguistic prediction rather than understanding. Just as writing could record the appearance of knowledge without reproducing the act of knowing, AI can mimic legal reasoning without engaging in judgment or responsibility.

This concern is no longer abstract. In July 2025, Adam Unikowsky, a prominent US appellate lawyer, conducted a public experiment using Claude 4.0 Opus, a large language model developed by Anthropic. He supplied it with the complete record of *Williams v. Reed*, including briefs, opinions and hypothetical questions from oral argument, and asked it to respond as counsel would. With minimal prompting, the model generated oral advocacy that Unikowsky described as "outstanding." Using text-to-speech software such as ElevenLabs, the responses even acquired a human-like cadence and strategic rhythm. At one point, when asked a question about the Twenty-First Amendment, the system produced three coherent and distinct answers, a feat Unikowsky admitted he could not have achieved himself in six hours. He concluded that AI may soon extend beyond research or drafting to the domain of oral advocacy itself. What makes his account striking is its restraint. It is neither promotional nor speculative, but a factual report of an experiment in real conditions. Precisely because it lacks exaggeration, its implications are difficult to dismiss. In jurisdictions like India, where oral argument remains central to appellate and constitutional litigation, the idea that a machine might replicate not only the logic but also the tone, timing and responsiveness of argument raises a profound question: What remains uniquely human in the role of the advocate? If machines can now "speak" legal language fluently but without consciousness or accountability, what becomes of those who speak for the law?

At the appellate level, advocacy is not merely about finding answers but about reasoning through uncertainty. Lawyers operate in spaces where the law is unsettled, precedents conflict and judges' interventions reshape the argumentative landscape. This process is inherently recursive: advocates return to earlier points, reformulate positions and calibrate their tone to preserve credibility. Every such choice reflects memory, strategy and intuition - capacities that arise from human judgment, not computation.

Extracted with edits and revisions from: <https://www.barandbench.com/columns/automating-oral-argument-a-critique>

85. Which of the following, if true, would most challenge the author's claim that AI lacks the judgment required for appellate advocacy?

- (a) Judges frequently rely on pre-drafted memos when writing decisions without verifying every cited principle.
- (b) AI systems have begun adjusting arguments mid-response during simulations involving active questioning.
- (c) Appellate lawyers frequently construct arguments using standardized legal templates and case summaries.
- (d) Human advocates are often guided more by courtroom decorum than spontaneous intuitive legal strategy.

86. Which of the following would be most useful in evaluating the reliability of Unikowsky's claim that AI-generated advocacy was "outstanding"?

- (a) Whether unbiased legal experts judged the advocacy quality without knowing it was machine-generated.
- (b) Whether the AI maintained consistent logic when asked unpredictable legal questions during testing.
- (c) Whether another senior advocate performed a similar test and achieved comparable legal responses.
- (d) Whether Claude 4.0's arguments were objectively better than submissions by junior legal professionals.

87. Which of the following, if true, would most seriously weaken the author's claim that AI can only simulate, but never perform, legal reasoning?

- (a) Most AI-generated responses still collapse when exposed to questions requiring interpretive sensitivity.

- (b) Advanced models now adjust interpretations based on patterns found across conflicting legal precedents.
- (c) Many human lawyers rely on legal databases to frame arguments without engaging in reflective analysis.
- (d) Appellate judges continue to value human empathy as central to persuasive courtroom presentation.

88. If all claims in the passage are true, which of the following must necessarily follow from the author's argument?

- (a) The core of legal advocacy lies in judgment that adapts to uncertainty, not merely in structured articulation.
- (b) The introduction of AI into advocacy is bound to lead to loss of integrity in adversarial legal systems.
- (c) The complexity of legal reasoning demands more data processing than current AI models can handle.
- (d) Legal persuasion depends less on accuracy and more on tradition, tone, and ethical presentation.

89. Which of the following implicit assumptions underlies the author's criticism of AI's ability to act as a true legal advocate?

- (a) The authority of advocacy depends entirely on personal accountability that cannot be transferred to mechanical or artificial reasoning systems.
- (b) Legal persuasion derives its legitimacy from intuitive human insight rather than from statistical modeling and data-based argument construction.
- (c) The structure of appellate argumentation requires adaptive performance that cannot be simulated through computational precision or procedural logic.
- (d) Genuine understanding presupposes conscious awareness that cannot be achieved through algorithmic prediction and linguistic processing.

90. Which of the following conclusions is most consistent with the overall perspective offered by the author?

- (a) The development of AI in advocacy disrupts traditional lines between authentic reasoning and structural mimicry.
- (b) The rising influence of AI will require redefining the procedural rules that govern appellate courtrooms globally.
- (c) Human advocates will eventually be displaced unless they integrate algorithmic reasoning into their training.
- (d) The evolving relationship between law and technology makes traditional advocacy practices obsolete in litigation.

Passage:- 2 Cancer is one of the leading causes of death globally. Disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) is a broad indicator that combines the impact of premature mortality and the years of life lived with disability caused by cancer. It is important to understand cancer DALYs and observe trends in it, as this information can guide global cancer control initiatives and the prioritisation of healthcare resources. Here, an attempt has been made to address current worldwide patterns of cancer and DALYs, with a special emphasis on public health perspectives. Cancer affects millions each year, and places a heavy burden on families, communities, and health systems. Reporting only its incidence and mortality does not present a real picture of the cancer burden. Years lived in disability, years lost due to premature mortality, and years lived with decreased quality of life must also be considered. To quantify this total burden, the metric of DALYs is applied, which emphasises both years of life lost due to premature death and years of life lived with the disabling consequences of cancer in a collective rate. In a population where a disease/health condition is common, DALYs measure the total number of years of life lost due to premature mortality (YLLs) and years of healthy life lost due to disability (YLDs). DALYs are represented when both these matrices (YLL and YLD) are combined into a single metric. DALYs are an important tool: they provide a picture of the real impact of cancer, helping researchers and policymakers in the judicious use of resources and in the formulation of plans for the prevention, management, and survivorship of cancer.

Cancer is the second-leading cause of death and disability worldwide, after cardiovascular diseases. DALYs estimates of about 250 million were caused by cancer worldwide in 2019; this represents a significant loss of healthy life years as a result of both early death and disability caused by different types of cancer. The total number of cancer cases, deaths, and DALYs have increased dramatically, especially in low and middle-sociodemographic index (SDI) countries, despite some reduction and stabilisation in age-standardised cancer mortality and incidence rates in higher-income regions. About 97% of DALYs related to cancer are attributable to YLL from premature

death, while the remaining percentage comes from YLD. Lung, breast, colorectal, stomach, and liver cancers contribute the highest DALYs globally. There is a variation of the burden by region, where high SDI countries reflect higher YLD proportions indicating improved survival and subsequent disability. In contrast, low-income regions experience higher YLLs due to late diagnosis and limited treatment access. Data from the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) study and the Global Cancer Observatory show that worldwide, cancer DALYs have risen largely due to growing and ageing populations.

Extracted with edits and revisions from: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/how-dalys-can-help-define-the-real-burden-of-cancer-and-indicate-where-resources-should-go/article70189457.ece>

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

- (a) A decline in national population levels would directly reduce the cancer DALY burden over the next decade.
- (b) Regions with limited diagnostic tools often report more years of disability than years lost to early death.
- (c) Programmes that aim only at reducing death rates may miss concerns about patients' life quality after treatment.
- (d) Countries that show a stable cancer incidence rate may deprioritise prevention-focused investments soon.

92. Which of the following statements would the author most likely disagree with?

- (a) High DALY rates may arise even when healthcare systems are capable of prolonging patient survival effectively.
- (b) Improving national mortality rates should remain the most critical part of cancer policy and budgeting frameworks.
- (c) DALYs help decision-makers estimate the overall human cost of illness, beyond simple survival and fatality data.
- (d) Inclusion of quality-of-life metrics could make national strategies more responsive to cancer survivors' needs.

93. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the argument that DALYs offer a broader view of cancer's burden?

- (a) Survivors of major cancers frequently need continuous support due to physical complications that limit independence.
- (b) Cancer mortality reporting in many countries is delayed or inconsistent due to infrastructure and policy constraints.
- (c) Large hospitals in urban areas are now able to detect many early-stage cancers through newer diagnostic tools.
- (d) Health systems in many regions still concentrate spending on controlling diseases that spread more rapidly than cancer.

94. Based on the passage, which of the following would be the most appropriate course of action for global cancer policymakers?

- (a) Expand public cancer care to include survivor support services such as pain management, therapy, and reintegration.
- (b) Develop regional dashboards to track mortality trends and inform governments of early-stage disease distribution.
- (c) Allocate national funding primarily to early detection programmes that cover rural and underserved populations.
- (d) Reduce budgets for non-critical care and shift the funding focus toward population-wide cancer awareness drives.

95. Which of the following represents a flawed line of reasoning if used to argue against the application of DALYs in cancer research?

- (a) DALYs are limited in scope as they fail to capture the non-medical hardships faced by families of cancer patients.
- (b) Since the majority of cancer DALYs are due to early deaths, it is pointless to factor in disability-related data.
- (c) Cross-cultural variation in disability perceptions makes it difficult to apply a uniform DALY metric across regions.

(d) Estimating DALYs in countries with limited data may lead to policy errors due to lack of accurate information.

96. Which of the following is a likely outcome if cancer DALYs continue to rise in low and middle SDI countries?

- (a) Health systems will need to simultaneously address growing treatment demand and chronic conditions among survivors.
- (b) Awareness campaigns will result in fewer cancer deaths as communities become more health-conscious over time.
- (c) Global access to standard therapies like chemotherapy will improve as aid is redirected to non-communicable diseases.
- (d) Governments will reduce investments in terminal care as prevention efforts become more central to policy focus.

Passage:- 3 In October, the RBI's monetary policy committee voted to retain its neutral stance and keep interest rates unchanged. The decision was rather odd considering the significant moderation in inflation and the central bank's own forecasts pointing towards the growth momentum slowing down in the second half of this year and beyond. With the committee slated to hold its next meeting in a few weeks from now, there are several issues that warrant careful examination.

First, is there space for cutting interest rates further? Are the central bank's forecasts accurately gauging the price pressures in the economy? Second, to what extent should the fiscal impetus to private consumption – operationalised via cuts in personal income taxes and GST rates – be complemented with further monetary policy support? Third, is the Indian economy growing at its potential growth rate? What are the central bank's views? The answers to these questions should determine the path of interest rates – though, in the past, other considerations, such as defending the currency, have dominated. Let's begin with prices. As per the RBI's baseline projections, inflation is expected to edge upwards from 2.6 per cent in 2025-26 to 4.5 per cent in 2026-27. Considering that the repo rate stands at 5.5 per cent, on a forward-looking basis, this broadly translates to a real interest rate of 1 per cent. This suggests that there is no space to cut rates. But the question is whether the central bank is overestimating the price pressures in the economy? This wouldn't be the first time that it would be doing so. In October last year, the monetary policy committee had voted to keep the benchmark repo rate at 6.5 per cent. Retail inflation had risen to 5.5 per cent in September, and further to 6.2 per cent in October, above the upper threshold of the central bank's inflation targeting framework. The RBI had then forecasted inflation at 4.3 per cent in the first quarter of 2025-26, with full-year inflation at 4.1 per cent. This implied a real interest rate of slightly more than 2 per cent. Surely, such a tight policy was needed to bring inflation in line with the target. Wrong.

Headline inflation was then driven by high food inflation. But many did expect food prices to soften. In fact, the RBI also seemed to share that view, but strangely chose not to look through the spurt in vegetable prices, even though what matters for monetary policy is not inflation now, but a few quarters down the line.

Extracted with edits and revisions from: https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/interest-rates-rbi-10341688/?ref=top_opinion

97. What is the main argument advanced by the author regarding the RBI's interest rate decisions?

- (a) The RBI is attempting to maintain macroeconomic stability through conservative rate-setting despite visible disinflationary trends.
- (b) A failure to distinguish between transitory and structural inflationary signals has led to unnecessarily restrictive policy measures.
- (c) The central bank's inflation-targeting mandate compels it to act aggressively when price levels breach the upper tolerance limit.
- (d) Policy inertia and overreliance on backward-looking indicators have helped stabilize the rupee amid global uncertainty.

98. Which of the following statements would necessarily be false given the author's argument?

- (a) The RBI's current policy framework is anchored in near-term inflation volatility rather than medium-term expectations.

- (b) Core inflation trends remained aligned with the RBI's target even when food inflation breached the threshold.
- (c) Recent inflationary pressures were primarily the result of elevated wages in service-sector employment.
- (d) Monetary policy actions have historically reflected inflation forecasts rather than political considerations.

99. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the author's claim that the RBI is overestimating inflationary risks?

- (a) Multiple central banks in comparable economies have begun easing rates in response to similar inflationary patterns.
- (b) The RBI's inflation projections have frequently overpredicted actual price movements over the past few quarters.
- (c) Surveys indicate that consumer inflation expectations are largely driven by media coverage of food prices.
- (d) The central bank maintains a higher real interest rate to balance fiscal expansion through tax cuts.

100. All of the following can be inferred from the passage EXCEPT:

- (a) The RBI's monetary stance may not be fully consistent with its publicly stated inflation outlook.
- (b) Policymakers are potentially treating short-lived price increases as persistent inflationary trends.
- (c) The central bank has relied on data that may not reflect structural economic dynamics.
- (d) The RBI maintains policy rates above inflation solely to attract foreign capital inflows.

101. Which of the following best represents the paradox highlighted by the author in the passage?

- (a) The RBI maintained a restrictive policy despite forecasting inflation well within its own target range.
- (b) The central bank indicated inflationary pressure ahead while expecting growth to moderate sharply.
- (c) Monetary policy remained unchanged even though structural inflation risks had significantly declined.
- (d) The RBI projected disinflation but still justified its stance by citing concerns over price instability.

102. Which of the following most closely reflects the author's criticism of the RBI's policy approach?

- (a) The RBI's fear of currency volatility has overshadowed its commitment to a data-driven monetary framework.
- (b) An overemphasis on headline inflation has led to monetary responses that disregard cyclical patterns in growth.
- (c) Policy conservatism has resulted in excessive dependence on fiscal tools to manage aggregate demand.
- (d) Structural reforms are being delayed due to the central bank's reluctance to signal dovish intent in a volatile environment.

Passage:- 4 Study the following information carefully and answer the questions given beside.

Eight friends Narendra, Amit, Rahul, Nitin, Kanhaiya, Randeep, Sachin and Syed have their wedding anniversary in the different months of the year viz. May, July, September and November but not necessarily in the same order. They have anniversary on either 14 or 29 of the month. No two persons have the same anniversary date.

Narendra's anniversary is in the month which has 30 days but not on an odd numbered date. Only three persons have their anniversary between Narendra's and Amit's. Amit's anniversary is on an even numbered date. Kanhaiya and Nitin have their anniversary in one particular month that has 31 days. Nitin does not have his anniversary before Kanhaiya's. Besides, both of them did not have their anniversary in the month of May. Only one person has his anniversary between Randeep and Syed. Rahul does not have his anniversary on an even numbered date. Syed has his anniversary just after Sachin's.

103. Whose anniversary is on 29th of July?

- (a) Nitin (b) Randeep (c) Amit (d) Narendra

104. How many persons' anniversaries fall between Sachin's and Kanhaiya's?

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

105. Three of the following four are alike in a certain way and so form a group. Which one does not belong to that group?

- (a) Narendra (b) Randeep (c) Sachin (d) Rahul

106. Whose anniversary is falling earlier than that of anyone else in the group?

- (a) Nitin (b) Amit (c) Rahul (d) Syed

107. How many anniversary dates are falling between Amit's and Syed's?

- (a) 6 (b) 2 (c) 3 (d) 4

108. In which month does Randeep celebrate his anniversary?

- (a) May (b) July (c) September (d) November

Section - E : Quantitative Techniques

[Directions for Q.109-Q114]: At the Kochi Backwater Boat Race, four friends run a pop-up called “Lagoon Blends.” Rina handles tea, Om does coffee, Farhan manages lemonade, and Neelima oversees an herbal cooler.

For tea, Rina has three loose-leaf stocks priced at ₹1,200/kg (Darjeeling D), ₹800/kg (Assam A), and ₹600/kg (Nilgiri N). She wants a 30 kg “House Blend–T” priced at ₹900/kg. Later, due to demand, she plans a 20 kg small batch priced at ₹960/kg using only D and A. She also notes that not more than 10 kg of D can be used in any single batch because of limited tins.

Om roasts coffee using Arabica (₹1,100/kg) and Robusta (₹700/kg). For the morning crowd he needs a 25 kg “Café Mix–M” at ₹880/kg. By evening, he experiments with a chicory add-in (₹300/kg): a 15% chicory blend whose overall target price is ₹820/kg; the remaining 85% must be a coffee blend of Arabica and Robusta.

Farhan’s lemonade base is a sugar syrup at 60% sugar. He dilutes it with water to make a 12% sugar lemonade in a 40 L dispenser. Midday, he serves 8 L and immediately refills the same 8 L with pure water (one replacement). Later he repeats this serve-and-refill of 8 L once more. Neelima’s herbal cooler is a 30 L drum of extract at 25% herb. To meet a milder taste rule of 18% herb, she can only add plain water.

109. For the 20 kg small tea batch priced at ₹960/kg using only Darjeeling (₹1,200/kg) and Assam (₹800/kg), how many kilograms of Darjeeling must Rina use?

- (a) 6 kg (b) 10 kg (c) 8 kg (d) 12 kg

110. Neelima has 30 L of cooler at 25% herb. She wants 18% herb by adding only water. How much water must be added?

- (a) 11.67 L (b) 10.80 L (c) 12.50 L (d) 13.33 L

111. Om needs 25 kg of “Café Mix–M” at ₹880/kg from Arabica (₹1,100/kg) and Robusta (₹700/kg). How much Arabica does he use?

- (a) 10.00 kg (b) 12.50 kg (c) 13.75 kg (d) 11.25 kg

112. Farhan prepares 40 L of 12% lemonade from 60% syrup and water. At midday, he serves 8 L and refills 8 L water; later he repeats the same serve-and-refill once more. What is the final sugar percentage?

- (a) 8.00% (b) 7.68% (c) 7.55% (d) 7.28%

113. For the 30 kg “House Blend–T” at ₹900/kg using Darjeeling (₹1,200), Assam (₹800), and Nilgiri (₹600), Rina insists on using the maximum allowed 10 kg of Darjeeling. How many kilograms of Nilgiri must she use to hit the target price?

- (a) 4 kg (b) 6 kg (c) 5 kg (d) 8 kg

114. In the evening, Om makes a 20 kg coffee–chicory blend at ₹820/kg with 15% chicory (₹300/kg). The remaining 85% is coffee (Arabica ₹1,100/kg, Robusta ₹700/kg). Which tuple (Arabica kg, Robusta kg, Chicory kg) is correct?

- (a) (9, 8, 3) (b) (8, 9, 3) (c) (9.5, 7.5, 3) (d) (10, 7, 3)

[Directions for Q.115-Q120]: At the Kolkata Tram Art Festival, four friends run a pop-up called “Percent & Pencil.” Ananya brings 120 sketchbooks bought at ₹80 each (cost). She prints MRP ₹140 and offers a festival discount of 20% on MRP. On a rainy afternoon, 15 sketchbooks get slightly warped and are cleared at an extra 30% markdown on the already-discounted price. GST is 5% on the final selling price for sketchbooks. Ritesh stocks 300 gel pens at ₹12 each (cost) and sells them in packs of 3 with MRP ₹45 per pack and a 10% festival discount. He also runs a deal: “Buy 5 packs, get 1 pack free” (the free pack counts as a sale at ₹0 but still costs him). By closing time, customers have paid for 90 packs and claimed 15 free packs via the offer.

Kabya sells watercolor sets costing ₹150 each, MRP ₹240. For the first half of the day she applies successive discounts of 10% and then 5% on MRP and sells 80 sets. In the evening, the remaining 40 sets are sold without

discount but through an app that charges 12% commission on the selling price (commission is her expense). Assume no GST on watercolor sets for this event. Omar prints 500 collector postcards at ₹8 each (cost) and lists them at ₹15. He sells 350 at full price and the next 100 at a flat 30% markdown; the unsold 50 are donated (no revenue, no salvage).

Shared costs: stall rent ₹3,000 and decor ₹1,200. The friends agree to donate 10% of the net profit (after all expenses and app commissions) to a children's art fund and split the remaining profit in proportion to each person's revenue. They need to compute prices after discounts, effective losses from freebies/markdowns, individual revenues, total profit, donation, and each friend's final share.

115. For Ananya's sketchbooks (MRP ₹140) with a 20% festival discount and 5% GST on the discounted price, what is the final price paid per sketchbook?

- (a) ₹116.00 (b) ₹118.00 (c) ₹115.50 (d) ₹117.60

116. The 15 warped sketchbooks get an extra 30% markdown on Ananya's already-discounted price (from previous Q), and 5% GST applies on the final price. What is the final price per warped sketchbook?

- (a) ₹82.32 (b) ₹78.48 (c) ₹80.01 (d) ₹84.00

117. Ritesh sells gel pens in packs of 3 at MRP ₹45 per pack with a 10% festival discount. Customers pay for 90 packs and get 15 packs free (5+1 offer). What is his effective discount percentage from MRP per pack, considering the free packs?

- (a) 22.22% (b) 22.86% (c) 21.33% (d) 20.00%

118. Kabya sells 40 watercolor sets via an app at full MRP ₹240 each; the app charges 12% commission on the selling price (commission is her expense). What are her net proceeds from these 40 sets?

- (a) ₹9,216 (b) ₹8,000 (c) ₹8,448 (d) ₹8,969

119. Assume GST collected on sketchbooks is fully remitted and excluded from revenue.) Ananya sells 105 sketchbooks at the standard discounted price (₹112 before GST) and 15 warped at ₹78.40 (before GST). Cost = ₹80 each for all 120. What is her gross profit percentage on cost?

- (a) 34.75% (b) 31.50% (c) 36.25% (d) 28.75%

120. Kabya sells 80 sets at successive discounts of 10% and 5% on MRP ₹240, and 40 sets at full MRP via app with 12% commission. What is her overall profit percentage on total cost for the day? (Cost ₹150 per set for all 120.)

- (a) 36.55% (b) 40.00% (c) 35.33% (d) 38.13%

Rough Work
